

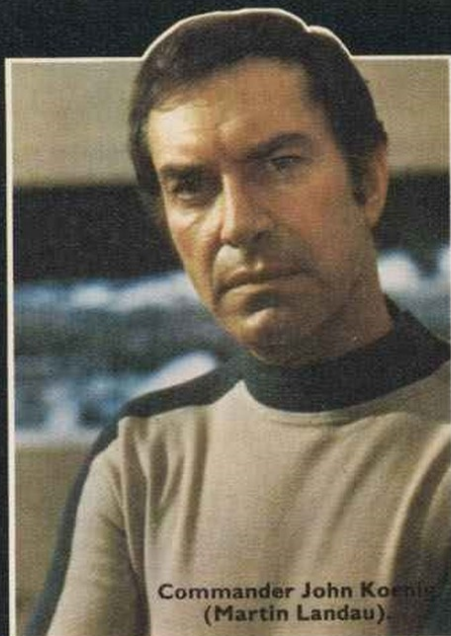
Look-in

Television Annual

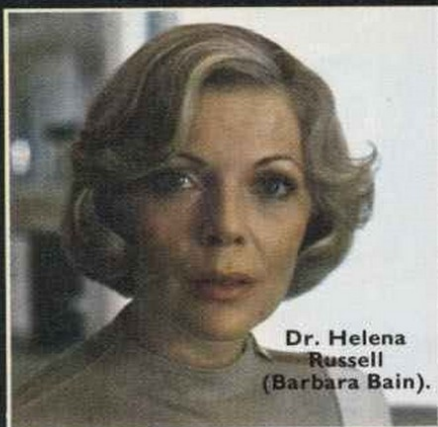
ALL YOUR TV FAVOURITES
IN PICTURE STORIES ★ FEATURES
PIN-UPS ★ PUZZLES ★ CARTOONS



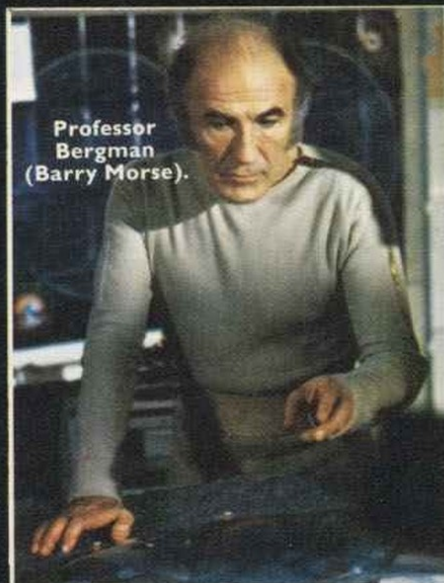
POP
ACTION
SPORT
HUMOUR
all inside!



Commander John Koenig
(Martin Landau).



Dr. Helena
Russell
(Barbara Bain).



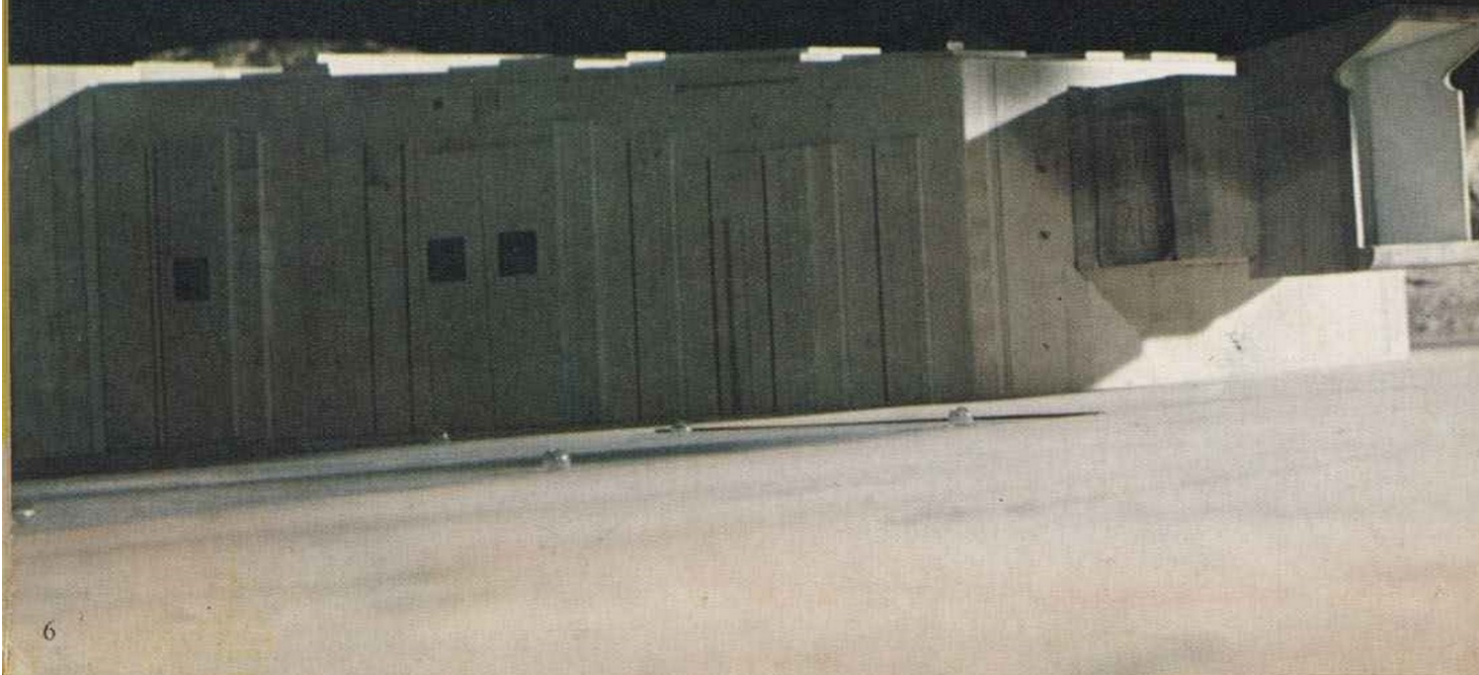
Professor
Bergman
(Barry Morse).

OUT OF THIS WORLD

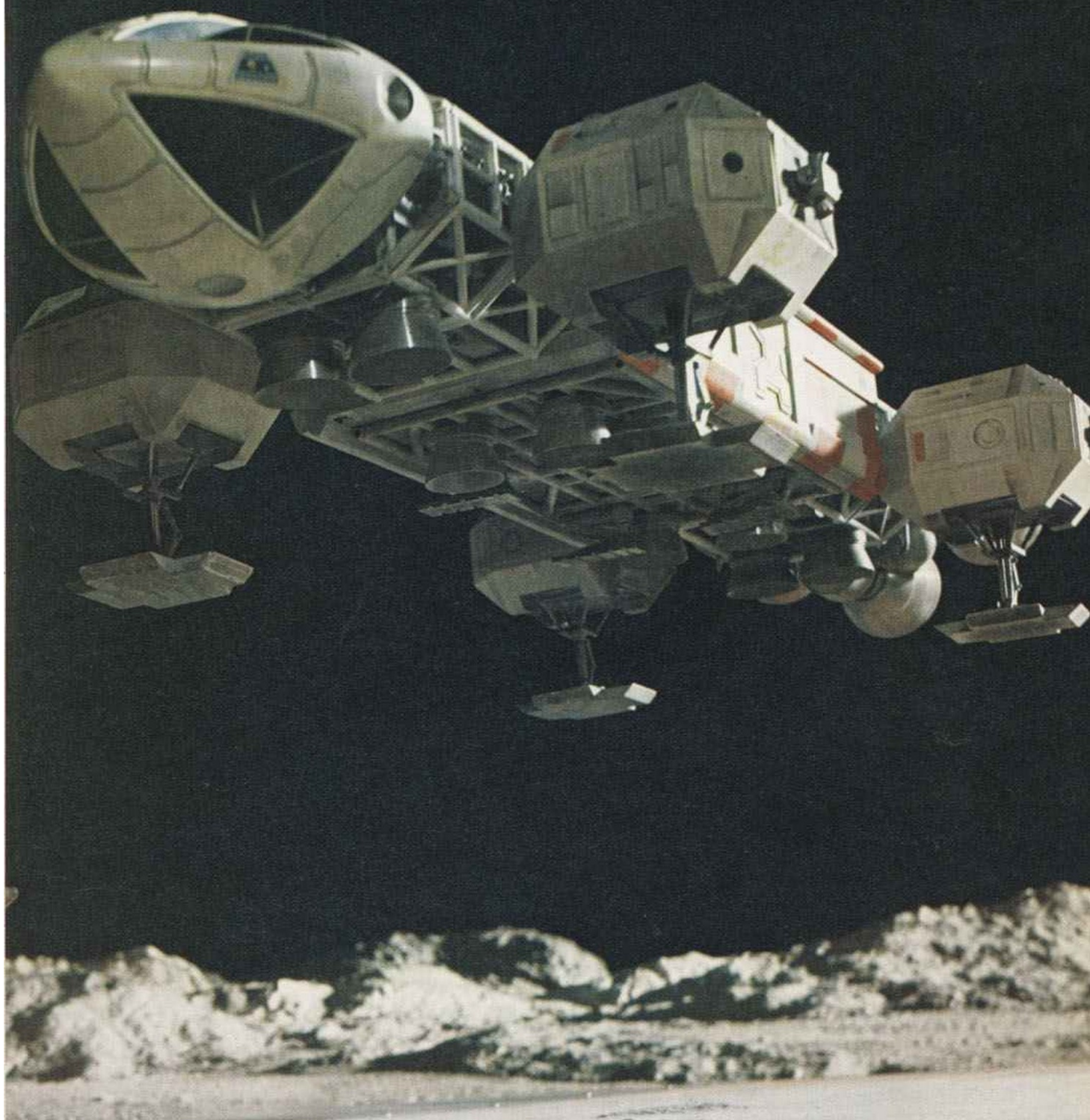
That's the year's TV adventure...

UNLESS you've spent the whole of 1975 sailing single-handed round the world, or trying to dig a new branch of the London Underground to Australia, you can hardly have missed the barrage of science fiction series currently on your screen.

Appearing in "Space 1999"—Christopher Lee as an alien from another planet.



The "Eagle" transporter—
the space capsule used by
the "heroes" in "Space 1999"



Without a doubt, the one which most completely grasped the viewing public's imagination was **Planet of the Apes**. The series was a follow-up to the phenomenally successful "Ape" films which began with *The Planet of the Apes*, made in 1968. Both the films and the series had the same basic plot: "What would happen if apes ruled the world

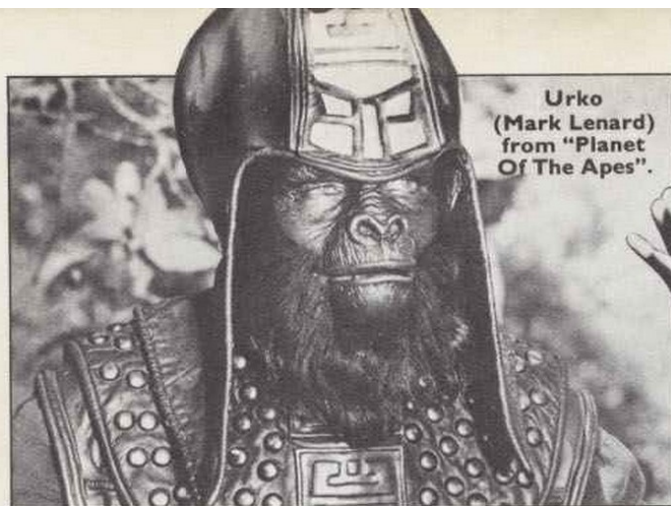
instead of humans?"

Added to this ape-dominated planet were two astronauts, Viridon and Burke, whose spaceship had gone through a time warp. The result was two pretty mixed-up humans trying to get back to good *old* Earth where the apes stayed in their cages and didn't answer back.

Along the way our two human

friends teamed up with a broad-minded chimpanzee named Galen and together our three heroes roamed the planet trying to keep one step ahead of the dreaded Urko (the ape equivalent of a baddie) and his band of not-too-friendly law-enforcing gorillas.

Did Viridon and Burke ever get back to Earth? Well, the



Urko
(Mark Lenard)
from "Planet
Of The Apes".



The amazing Sky
(played by Marc Harrison).

➡ only people who know that are the show's scriptwriters. The programme began to lose viewers in America, and because of the immense cost of making each episode, up to £200,000, it was scrapped after 15 of the planned 24 episodes.

When it comes to television science fiction series the old adage is more than true—money is the root of all evil. But the latest show to reach the screens seems to have had no shortage of hard cash. **Space 1999** cost in the region of £3 million to make. The main reason for the high cost was the incredible special effects incorporated in the programme.

Set in the not-too-distant future, it tells the chillingly believable story of what happens after 20 years of dumping nuclear waste on the Moon and overlooking the dangers of the waste's magnetic output. After a massive explosion, half of the Moon disintegrates and the other half is thrown into orbit—all contact with Earth broken. On board, so to speak, are 300 members of a scientific mis-

sion, Moon Base Alpha, and they have the unenviable task of starting a completely new civilisation. Imagine some of the practical and human problems, and you have the plot for the different episodes.

"Space 1999" differs from a lot of its competitors because it has no superhumans, and any extra ability the people possess is only a logical extension of present scientific knowledge.

From the same production team, Sylvia and Gerry Anderson, and also with a lot of its roots planted firmly on the Moon, is **U.F.O.** (For the uninitiated it stands for Unidentified Flying Object). This series also has a certain realistic ring to it. In fact, before he started making it, Gerry Anderson interviewed quite a few of the thousands of people who claimed to have seen U.F.O.s.

Set in the year 1980, (it's getting closer) "U.F.O." centres around an organisation called the Supreme Headquarters Alien Defence Organisation (S.H.A.D.O. for short) set up to combat invasion from space. S.H.A.D.O. is housed beneath a film studio on Earth, but the main operations centre is on the Moon. Based there are a team of rocket-driven interceptors which actually combat the spinning U.F.O.s, before they can enter the Earth's atmosphere. Occasionally they do break through and that's when the fun starts.

It's easy to understand why the series has caused an increase in the number of reported U.F.O. sightings since it started in 1972.

Another series set in the near future is **The Six Million Dollar Man**. It tells the story of astronaut Steve Austin, who is severely injured while testing a special new spacecraft. Instead of being left crippled, he is rebuilt

using a combination of the sciences of biology and cybernetics (communication by electric circuits). With his specially reconstructed body he now has extraordinary physical powers enabling him to run at 60 miles an hour, smash through steel doors and see far into the distance with his telescopic eye.

What the programme sets out to explain is that Austin isn't a robot. In fact he retains all of his human characteristics and looks a bit surprised himself at some of his newly acquired abilities! With transplant surgery becoming more and more advanced, perhaps the days of a *real* Steve Austin aren't so far away after all. . . .

Now for two home grown series, originally aimed at the teenage end of the market, but which have gained a lot of fans among the "oldies".

From Harlech Television comes **Sky**. Written by the same scriptwriters as "Arthur of the Britons", Bob Baker and Dave Martin, "Sky" is the name of a young boy from



A scene from
"Space 1999".



Commander Straker (Ed Bishop)
facing trouble from
a member of S.H.A.D.O.
(Michael Billington) in "U.F.O."



Planet of the Apes

Alan Virdon (Ron Harper)

Galen (Roddy McDowell)

Pete Burke (James Naughton)