



# the avengers

starring

PATRICK MACNEE  
as John Steed

and

DIANA RIGG  
as Emma Peel

in

"THE MASTER MINDS"

by

ROBERT BANKS STEWART

In which Steed becomes a genius --  
and Emma loses her mind . . . . .

Cast also includes:

Sir Clive Todd . . . . . LAURENCE HARDY  
Holly Trent . . . . . PATRICIA HAINES  
Desmond Leeming . . . . . BERNARD ARCHARD  
Dr. Fergus Campbell . . . . . IAN McNAUGHTON  
Sir Jeremy . . . . . JOHN WENTWORTH  
Davinia Todd . . . . . GEORGINA WARD  
Major Plessy . . . . . MANNING WILSON

directed by PETER GRAHAM SCOTT  
produced by JULIAN WINTLE



# the avengers

Episode entitled:  
"THE MASTER MINDS"  
Synopsis

## "THE MASTER MINDS"

by

ROBERT BANKS STEWART

In which Steed becomes a genius --  
and Emma loses her mind....

- short synopsis -

When eminent and distinguished members of public service carry out treasonable acts alien to their nature, it is obvious their minds are being controlled. Steed and Emma find the answer when they join a club for intellectuals named Ransack.

- detailed synopsis -

A security guard surrounds eminent government minister Sir Clive Todd. Suspected of treason, he lies at his home badly wounded after his surprise role in a raid on top secret files. THE AVENGERS are called in, Steed making a search of the house, and Emma Peel acting as nurse in constant attendance on the barely-conscious Sir Clive.

From Sir Clive's daughter, Davinia, Steed learns that the man's close friend was a fellow M. P., Alan St. Johnstone, and that they were both members of Ransack, a club for intellectuals.

Steed goes to the House of Commons to interview St. Johnstone, but arrives too late, he finds that the M. P. - obviously a part of the conspiracy - has been shot dead.

When Sir Clive begins to show some response to questioning, Emma calls Steed urgently to his bedside, but they are foiled from making any further headway when Dr. Fergus Campbell administers a fatal injection to the patient.

Appearing to come out of a trance, Dr. Campbell proves as appalled by his murderous action as those around him. In his subsequent brain-searching, he reveals that he, too, is a member of the mysterious Ransack club.

Steed himself secures membership of Ransack through Desmond Leeming, an official of the club. He goes to the country boarding school where the club conducts special courses, and Emma arrives there, too, as a secretary.

contd.....

Conducting an archery class in the school grounds is Holly Trent, a sporty woman who speaks to Steed somewhat scornfully about Ransack and its members.

Hub of Ransack activities is the gymnasium, where the members exercise on the equipment and hone their minds at school desks with highly intellectual question papers. Steed manages to sustain a high I. Q. with Emma's discreet help.

By night, Ransack activities become extremely suspicious. Steed discovers that Emma plays a trance-like part in watching military training films and on going out on some form of combat expedition.

When Steed takes up this behaviour with Emma, she at first denies all knowledge of it, but then realises that she and the Ransack members were obviously victims of mass hypnosis, induced by a voice over the radio speakers in each bedroom.

The hypnosis theory also provides the answer to Sir Clive's treachery and his murder by the doctor. Steed had escaped hypnosis because the speaker in his room was disconnected.

Steed now begins to feign hypnosis and attend the indoctrinations, but the officials see through his hoax. They order his disposal and a seemingly trance-bound Emma volunteers for the job. However, when she reports Steed as dead, they realise her complicity and a fight breaks out.

The unharmed Steed springs to Emma's rescue and they combine forces in using all the gym equipment as weapons with which to defeat the Ransackers. At the climax of the fray, the mastermind-in-chief is revealed as woman archer Holly Trent. THE AVENGERS see that Holly and her deadly companions are induced to a sleep far deeper than hypnosis.