

# Sir Norman Wisdom O.B.E.



Norman's career has spanned the whole gamut of showbiz, from theatre (five long-running shows at the London Palladium) to radio, films, ice shows, circus, cabaret and television.

His earlier appearances on TV included *The Norman Wisdom Show* and *Wit and Wisdom, This Is Your Life* and the very memorable 1961 *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* with Bruce Forsyth. His BBC pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* in 1964 was watched by over twenty million viewers - an amazing record.

In 1972 he returned to the small screen in *Nobody's Norman Wisdom* for ATV, followed by three series of *A Little Bit of Wisdom*.

In 1976 his show was the BBC's entry in the Knokke TV Festival in Belgium. It was an unqualified success, winning first place.

Norman returned to London's West End in 1979 in his one-man show *A World of Wisdom* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and followed this with the highly acclaimed play *Going Gently* on BBC TV in 1981, which gave Norman a dramatic role as a patient dying of cancer. He made a guest appearance in *Bergerac* as a safe-breaker, and more recently has been seen on television in *Time of Your Life*, *Around with Alliss*, *The Bob Monkhouse Christmas Show*, *A Frame*

with Davis, Dalziel and Pascoe, *Casualty*, *The Last Detective*, *Last of the Summer Wine*, *Between the Sheets...* and now, *Coronation Street*.

On his concert tour of the UK in the autumn of 1985 he was hugely acclaimed by packed houses, and within a week of completing his 1986 summer season in Margate, he travelled to Australia again to appear in theatre and cabaret.

During the Christmas of 1987/88 he broke box office records for his pantomime season at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, and was re-booked to appear in his own 1988 summer show at the Winter Gardens Theatre, Margate, another venue where he broke boxoffice records. This was followed by a record-breaking pantomime at Dartford's Orchard Theatre.

Since then he's appeared in nine further theatre tours, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Stage Comedy, appeared in a nationwide campaign for British Telecom, a star rated commercial for Lyons Maryland Maxims, appeared with Wogan and Jonathan Ross, and starred in his first thriller for cinema screens entitled *Double X* and his own radio show called *Robbing Hood*.

With more TV appearances and a couple of films in the pipeline, there's no stopping this Knight of Laughter.