

Unseen video of 'Thunderbirds' TV show found

10th October 2024



There is good news for fans of the 1960s TV show 'Thunderbirds'. Twenty-two cans of film of the classic show have been found at a house in a town near London, England. The house

was owned by a former editor of Thunderbirds who passed away recently. The old video footage was given to the television production company Century 21 Films. This company created special 50th anniversary Thunderbirds shows in 2015. Century 21 spokesperson Stephen La Riviere said the newly found film contains unseen material from the 1960s. Mr Riviere said his company would restore the old films using digital technology. He hopes people can see the new footage in time for the 60th anniversary next year.

Thunderbirds was an instant hit in the 1960s. It is now a cult classic. The show was created by husband and wife team Gerry and Sylvia Anderson. They used a filming technique called Supermarionation to make the TV shows. This used puppets to create lifelike situations. The Andersons also used special effects and models of futuristic buildings and towns. Thunderbirds was filmed between 1964 and 1966. There were two series, which had 32 fifty-minute episodes. The show was set in the 2060s. It was about the adventures of a life-saving organization called International Rescue. The show is famous for its iconic music and its Thunderbirds spacecraft and machines.

Sources: bbc.com / radiotimes.com / wikipedia.org

Writing

Old TV shows are better than new TV shows. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

good news / fan / the 1960s / film / TV company / digital technology / anniversary / Thunderbirds / cult / classic / husband and wife / technique / special effects / music

True / False

- 1) Two cans of film were discovered with new episodes of 'Thunderbirds'. T / F
- 2) Cans of film for the 'Thunderbirds' TV show were found in a film studio. T / F
- 3) The 50th anniversary of 'Thunderbirds' was in 2015. T / F
- 4) People might be able to see new material of 'Thunderbirds' next year. T / F
- 5) 'Thunderbirds' was created by a married couple. T / F
- 6) There were no actors in the TV show 'Thunderbirds'. T / F
- 7) There are fifty 32-minute episodes of 'Thunderbirds'. T / F
- 8) 'Thunderbirds' is famous for its calming music. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. fans | a. realistic |
| 2. former | b. repair |
| 3. passed away | c. commemoration |
| 4. restore | d. exploits |
| 5. anniversary | e. shows |
| 6. hit | f. previous |
| 7. lifelike | g. well known |
| 8. episodes | h. enthusiasts |
| 9. adventures | i. success |
| 10. famous | j. died |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What classic shows do you know of?
- c) What do you think of TV shows that use puppets?
- d) How much do you like science fiction?
- e) What will TV shows be like in the future?
- f) What will life be like in the 1960s?
- g) What shows have the best music?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the TV company?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. There is good news for fans | a. unseen material |
| 2. a former editor | b. classic |
| 3. the newly found film contains | c. anniversary next year |
| 4. restore the old films using | d. lifelike situations |
| 5. in time for the 60th | e. of Thunderbirds |
| 6. Thunderbirds was an instant hit | f. for its iconic music |
| 7. It is now a cult | g. of the 1960s TV show |
| 8. This used puppets to create | h. in the 2060s |
| 9. The show was set | i. digital technology |
| 10. The show is famous | j. in the 1960s |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the 1960s?
- What do you know about the TV show 'Thunderbirds'?
- What are your favourite TV shows?
- What TV shows did you like when you were a child?
- What do you think of old TV shows?
- What old TV shows would you like to see again?
- Are TV shows or movies best?
- Are old TV shows better than new ones?

Spelling

- film of the scalcis show
- owned by a former oietdr
- passed away rtcneeyl
- unseen mlaraiet from the 1960s
- people can see the new ooefatg
- in time for the 60th rnarvyesina
- Thunderbirds was an istnnta hit in the 1960s
- It is now a cult ilasccs
- They used a filming eechitqun
- This used puppets to create ifikllee situations
- models of trsuicufit buildings
- famous for its cciiion music

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. f	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. a	8. e	9. d	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Cooking

You think cooking shows are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their shows. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these shows (and why): comedy, music or sports.

Role B – Comedy

You think comedy shows are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their shows. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these shows (and why): cooking, music or sports.

Role C – Music

You think music shows are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their shows. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these shows (and why): comedy, cooking or sports.

Role D – Sports

You think sports shows are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their shows. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these shows (and why): comedy, music or cooking.

Speaking – TV Shows

Rank these with your partner. Put the best genres at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| • Cooking | • News |
| • Comedy | • Sport |
| • Fantasy | • Documentary |
| • Music | • Science fiction |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.