

COMEDIANS IN CARS GETTING COFFEE



..... and all that

Catching Healeys in the Media - Movies, TV, Video, Internet

What strange ways we choose to fill our spare time!. I don't know what made me think of it. I had heard that there was a web site somewhere (www.IMCDB.org) which identifies makes and models of cars used in films and TV programmes?. I couldn't resist.

How many times have Healeys been used in Films, on TV and more recently, in digital media. Quite a lot - actually.

A 1954 Healey Abbott was featured in an episode of *The Inspector Alleyn Mysteries*, in the early 1990's. A shot of a Silverstone was used in the 2002 rallying documentary entitled "The evolution of the drift angle - 50 years of Rally" and, in 1964 a Healey Abbott was used in the film "Lost Stolen Damaged" (a public information film, about thefts and damage on the railways, made for the British Transport Police) but, to be honest, if you blinked, you would have missed it.



"Falling from the Sky: Flight 174", a 1995 US made disaster movie, which starred William Devane, featured a 1953 100/4. Fortunately, it is not the car which falls. A 1953 100/4 also helps a runaway bride and an eccentric vagrant on a journey through 1960's pop culture, sex and politics, in the bizarre 1968 Italian comedy film *L'urlo* - "The Howl". The 1964 French film, "Monsieur", features a 100/4, alongside its hero, a recently widowed wealthy banker, as he chooses to change his life, and his identity. British crime thriller, "Escape by Night" (Clash by Night in the USA), a 1964 film, had a 100/4 used by its lead character, Martin Lord, played by Terence Longdon, who also starred as George (the house surgeon) in the classic *Doctor at Large*(1957).

An OEWhite over Red 100M was used in an episode of the TV serial, *Marple*, called "The Secret of Chimneys", as well as in *Perry Mason*. A

modified 100/4 with garish wheels, a 3000 Mk2 windscreen, some awful after market wing mirrors and a strangely shaped bonnet-top air intake, was used in the 1971 Swedish comedy drama, *Applekriget* (*The Apple War*). The film set about highlighting the march of Globalisation and the attempts of locals to prevent the development of a gigantic amusement park, on their door step.

One of the best examples, which I have come across, though, is a 100/6, which was featured extensively, in an episode of the hit 1964 USTV situation comedy series "Gomer Pyle - USMC" - NO!, I had not heard of it either. The series features, as it's eponymous central character, a "fish out of water" fillings station attendant, who joins the marines. The series ran for 150 episodes. The episode in question, which you can easily find on the internet, is episode 113, entitled "The Case of the Marine

The Apple War - 1971



Bandit" and features a beautiful young blond, with a beautiful young Healey, which has broken down at the roadside - or is everything, perhaps, not quite as it seems? Search youtube for "Gomer Pyle USMC 113 The case of the Marine Bandit" and you'll find it easily.

100/6s were also found in 1960's films such as Teresa, Wild Ones on Wheels and Experiment in Terror, as well as in an episode of the Classic "Department S" and in Episode 1 of the 1968 TV series "Invisible Man".

Steve Martin drove a 1959 3000 in the 1991 Comedy "Father of the Bride", whilst a short film, sponsored by the American Union Pacific railroad, used a Healey 3000 in it's illustration of a warning for young drivers to be careful at railway crossings.

Harry Belafonte's production company used a 1959 3000 extensively in the bank heist drama "Odds Against Tomorrow", in which Belafonte also starred. The film is noted for two facts. Firstly, the writer was Abraham Polonsky, who was blacklisted at the time and had to use a nom de plume - John O Killens (his credit was not recognised until 1996). Secondly, although the film carried a brightly coloured poster, it was one of the last films shot to be in Black and White.



Gomer Pyle - USMC - 1964

Odds against Tomorrow - 1959

In 2012, Jerry Sienfeld introduced Ricky Gervais to an Ice Blue 1967 Austin Healey 3000, in a series one episode of his internet based series - "Comedians in Cars getting Coffee" The episode entitled is s, slightly disturbingly, entitled "Mad Man in a Death Machine". It was a sort of mixture of chat show and car show. Search for it, if you like Gervais as well as Healeys - you'll find it easily enough. Gervais, on first getting into the car, points at the walnut veneer glove box and says "There's no way there is an air bag in there". Sienfeld replies "there is, but you have to blow it up". Well - I liked it - although it is not all together certain that Ricky Gervais did. he seemed to spend most of his time, in the car, holding on to the dash top, with both hands. Another episode apparently featured a Mk1 Sprite.

A 3000 was also used, as a centre piece, in Janet Jackson's video for the 1994 single "You Want this", the seventh single from her 1993 Album "Janet" and none of us can forget the sight of the green 3000 roaring across the desert in the Tears for

Fears, March 1985 video for "Everybody wants to Rule the World". Those were the days.

The Italian 1963 Drama "La Noia" (The Empty Canvas) featured a 1959 3000 throughout the film and indeed, one was also used in the 2007 film "Transformers".

Encouragingly, and perhaps not too surprisingly, 3000's feature in "The Worlds Greatest Rally cars" produced in 2000, as well as being seen in The Saint, The Protectors, Boon, Heartbeat (which has also used many Sprites), Lewis and in the 1964 film of "The Pleasure Seekers". One was even used in the video for One Direction's, Night Changes.

In all, according to the Internet Movie Cars Database website (what a way to spend an evening, when your other half is watching something on the TV that you don't like), there have been some 279 films and / or TV shows which have featured Healeys and Big Healeys (not to mention another 166 where Sprites were used).

So, there's your answer - 445.....unless, of course, you know better.

