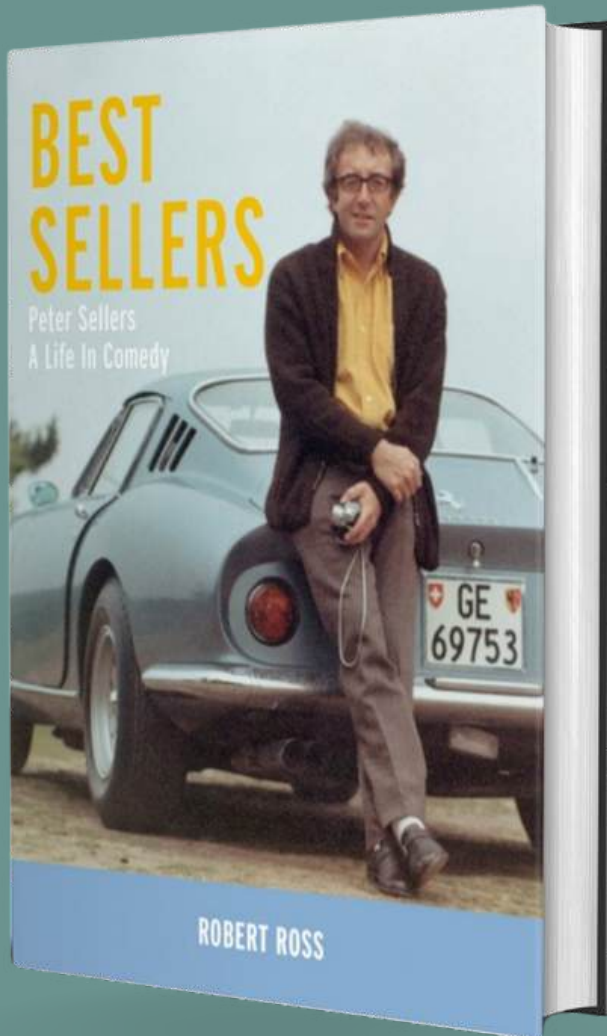




Robert Ross

Best Sellers: Peter Sellers

A Life in Comedy

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BIOGRAPHY

About Robert Ross

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Robert Ross is the **leading authority** on **British Comedy**. Beginning with The Carry On Companion, in 1996, he has written a library of books including in depth celebrations; The Monty Python Encyclopedia, The Goodies Rule OK, Forgotten Heroes of Comedy, Official BBC tributes to Fawlty Towers, Last of the Summer Wine and Steptoe & Son, and acclaimed biographies dedicated to Marty Feldman and Sid James. Most recently, Robert

was the co-author of The Carry On Girls which was named as **Book of the Week** in the Daily Mail in January 2024. He is a frequent face on television, appearing on such diverse programmes as the **BBC News**, **Blue Peter**, Ronnie Corbett: His 30 Funniest Moments, Sir Bruce Forsyth: Mr. Entertainment, Richard & Judy, When Classic Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong, The Barbara Windsor Story, and Norman Wisdom: His Story. Robert is the founder and chair of **Write On Comedy**. He is thrilled to be able to finally pay tribute to Peter Sellers, **a comedy hero** for as long as he can remember.

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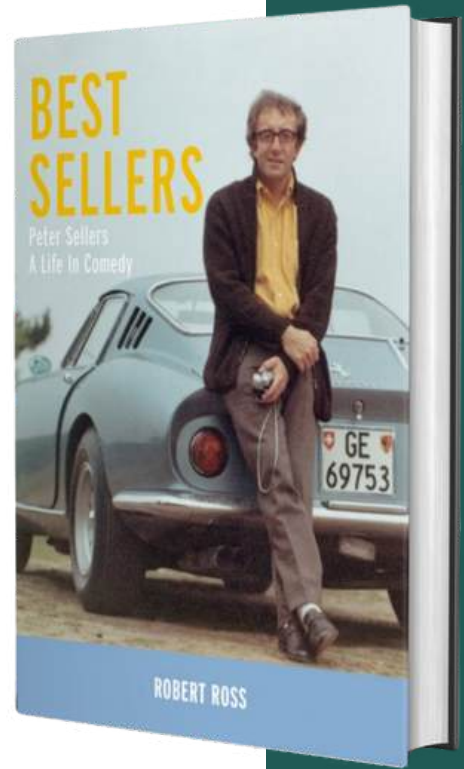
About the Book

Best Sellers; Peter Sellers A Life in Comedy

As creative force of The Goon Show, Spike Milligan was the architect of the lunatic style of humour that permeates the best-loved performances of Peter Sellers; a friend and colleague who Milligan considered: “one of the true comedy greats of the 20th century. He can hold his head up with the very best.” And it is the comic genius of Peter Sellers that is the driving passion of this book. A labour of love by Robert Ross, Britain’s Comedy Historian, in which the well-documented wealth, wives, and weirdness of Peter’s personal life is referenced only when it fully impacts his happiest place: as an interpretive, dedicated, truthful actor.

Whether it is Doctor Strangelove; Inspector Clouseau; or Chance the Gardener, Sellers had the conviction and the control to become his characters.

It’s a legacy of laughter which still holds the world bewitched and enthralled; a legacy here put into historical and comical context.



Title: Best Sellers –
Peter Sellers - A Life in Comedy

Author: Robert Ross

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Press Information

Peter Sellers; Podcast



Best Sellers; Author Interview - Click to view

THE MARKET

DNBF Biography: arts and entertainment
ATMC Film, television, radio genres: Comedy and
humour

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Press Headlines

PETER WAS HAMPSHIRE-BORN AND, DESPITE HIS INTERNATIONAL FAME, ALWAYS RETURNED HOME, AND WAS FIERCELY PROUD OF HIS YORKSHIRE ROOTS, FROM HIS FATHER BILL.

FOR THE THIRTY YEARS PETER WAS IN THE PUBLIC EYE, HIS COMEDY REFLECTED THE COCK-EYED VIEW OF THE UNIVERSE THAT SPIKE MILLIGAN CREATED IN THE GOON SHOW.

AN OBSESSIVE COLLECTOR OF CARS AND CAMERAS, ONE OF PETER'S BURNING PASSIONS WAS RECORDING EQUIPMENT. A LOVE OF WEIRD NOISES RADIATES THROUGH ALL HIS RECORDS.

Press Headlines

DURING HIS MID-SWINGING SIXTIES JET SET LIFE IN COMEDY PETER PLAYED FRENCH, GERMAN, INDIAN, ITALIAN, SPANISH, AND EVEN ENGLISH!

DESPITE BEING SECOND CHOICE - AFTER PETER USTINOV DROPPED OUT - AND A SECONDARY CHARACTER TO THE PLOT OF THE PINK PANTHER, CLOUSEAU REMAINS HIS BEST-LOVED ROLE.

THREE OF PETER'S FOUR WIVES WERE ACTRESSES, ALL OF WHOM PERFORMED COMEDY OPPOSITE HIM, ALTHOUGH HIS VERY LAST LEADING LADY WAS HELEN MIRREN.

Press Questions

Why did you write this book?

After years of Peter's personal life being discussed I wanted to re-evaluate his work and put him back on the Comedy pedestal where he belongs.

The book deals with Peter's working life but if the wives, wealth and weirdness effected his work then I examine this.

Can you recommend some films for someone who isn't familiar with Peter Sellers?

Aside from the Pink Panther films, which is usually everyone's first experience of Peter's work; a fun romp from his British era is the prison comedy *Two-Way Stretch*. In addition, *Dr Strangelove* is still a timely satire of world destruction. Finally, *Being There* because at the end of Peter's life he achieved what he considered to be his greatest performance.

Did you discover anything you didn't know about Peter Sellers?

There is a few revelations within the book which I will not divulge at this stage, but they change the history of the man we know. I simply found renewed and increased admiration for Peter as I re-watched his work again.

Why are we still so fascinated with Peter Sellers?

As we approach his centenary in September 2025, I think despite his claim that he had no real personality, Peter Sellers continues to shine through with the comedy he has left behind; right from the beginning of his career as a Goon to the various performances which still set the bar high, with many comedy actors citing Peter as their inspiration.

Celebrity Testimonials



Valerie Leon



Robert Ross is so knowledgeable on all the different aspects of comedy

"Robert Ross is an excellent choice to be asked to write a book on Peter Sellers. Having worked with Peter on *Revenge Of The Pink Panther*, I for one shall look forward to reading it !!!"



Bill Oddie



"Robert is a fine writer, an invaluable comedy historian and an all round good chap".



Danny Baker



"Nobody does it better than Robert Ross!"



Jeffrey Holland



Another definitive work from Robert Ross, undoubtedly our greatest comedy historian!

"His prolific output knows no bounds! What he doesn't know about the life and work of my great idol Peter Sellers is not worth knowing! Thanks Rob!"



Barry Cryer



"He's got an encyclopaedic knowledge that I admire very much."