

Diaries 1969-1979: The Python Years (Michael Palin Diaries)

By Michael Palin

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The amazingly insightful, funny and brilliant record of Michael Palin's prime years as a member of the famed comedic group, Monty Python.

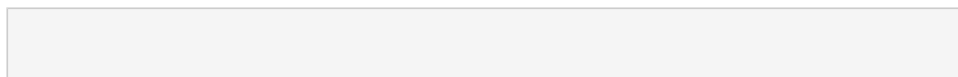
Michael Palin has kept a diary since newly married in the late 1960s. This volume of his diaries reveals how Python emerged and triumphed, how he, John Cleese, Graham Chapman, the two Terrys---Jones and Gilliam---and Eric Idle came together and changed the face of British comedy.

But this is but only part of Palin's story. Here is his growing family, his home in a north London Victorian terrace, which grows as he buys the house next door and then a second at the bottom of the garden; here, too, is his solo effort---as an actor, in *Three Men in a Boat*, his writing endeavours (often in partnership with Terry Jones) that produces *Ripping Yarns* and even a pantomime.

Meanwhile Monty Python refuses to go away: the hugely successful movies that follow the TV (his account of the making of both *The Holy Grail* and the *Life of Brian* movies are page-turners), the at times extraordinary goings-on of the many powerful personalities who coalesced to form the Python team, the fight to prevent an American TV network from bleeping out the best jokes on U.S. transmission, and much more---all this makes for funny and riveting reading.

The birth and childhood of his three children, his father's growing disability, learning to cope as a young man with celebrity, his friendship with George Harrison, and all the trials of a peripatetic life are also essential ingredients of these diaries. A perceptive and funny chronicle, the diaries are a rich portrait of a fascinating period.

"A wealth of fascinating stuff about Monty Python."
---*The Independent* (UK)



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As one of the six Pythons to have assembled back in the late 1960s, Palin provides insights into the group's dynamics during the decade that brought the Monty Python troupe to international acclaim. This abridgment can be satiating and frustrating, often simultaneously. At face value, it provides many behind-the-scenes moments and explores how and why the comedy troupe went about its business. Yet the mere knowledge that it's an abridgment will have listeners yearning to hear more—especially Python-quoting fans. The short, occasionally abrupt entries feel authentic, as journal entries can often be a mere few sentences. But listeners may constantly question how much has been trimmed. Occasionally, the journal entries read as a mere chronological list of events. As narrator, Palin proves adept at adding life and emotion in his mild-mannered voice to the more pedantic lulls in the audiobook. But given the audiobook's shortcomings, a bonus interview or some other material might have improved the overall enjoyment for listeners.

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Review

'Palin's calm manner and writing style, as ever, make the journey an exceptional one.' -- Natalie Bushe THE HERALD 'As you would expect from this most engaging of writers and broadcasters, the diaries are funny, honest and perceptive. Even better, the audio version is read by Palin himself.' -- Simon Evans PARK & HOLIDAY HOMES Read by the author, these memoirs of the PYTHON years are riveting... Palin brings to bear an affectionate but accurate eye. We experience the insecurities of John Cleese, Graham Chapman's drunken grandeur, the pleasure of George Harrison's company, the obstinacy of Woody Allen, and the wackiness of Shelley Duvall, along with glimpses of Palin's family joys and sadnesses.' -- Betty Tadman THE SCOTSMAN '3 out of 4 stars' -- Stefaan Werbrouck FOCUS KNACK 'There's something about Michael Palin's voice which is perfect for audiobooks... a fascinating account of the Monty Python years from the inside... the time just flies by... Fabulous stuff from Gospel Oak's most popular globetrotter.' -- David Crozier HAM & HIGH

About the Author

MICHAEL PALIN is a comedian, novelist, actor, playwright, and founding member of Monty Python. He is the author of the novel *Hemingway's Chair* as well as several books on the history of Monty Python, including *The Pythons*, and numerous travel guides, including *Brazil* and *Sahara*. He also happens to be one of the funniest people on the planet. He lives in London, England.

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