

*ITMA (It's That Man Again)*¹

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ITMA is more popularly known by its initials than by its full name (which was a newspaper headline device referring to Adolf Hitler). *ITMA* is the ancestor of BBC comedy as we know it – certainly it was the direct antecedent of *Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh* and *The Goon Show* and all that followed them. The history of *ITMA* began in 1938 with the desire of the BBC to create a show similar to the wildly popular *Burns and Allen Show* in America. It became the comedic mainstay of the Home Front during the war with an estimated 40% of the population listening. Its story line changed as the circumstances of World War Two did.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Description</i>
12,26-Jul-1939; 09,23-Aug-1939	Four shows centered on a pirate radio ship
19-Sep-1939	21 shows. Plot changed to Minister of Aggravation and Mysteries at the Office of Twerps.
20-Jun-1941	Six shows. <i>It's that Sand Again</i> focused on Foaming at the Mouth, a seaside resort.
26-Sep-1941	32 shows. Fourth Series. <i>ITMA</i> but still at Foaming at the Mouth.
September 1942	Fifth Series. Foaming at the Mouth has a war factory. Colonel Chinstrap appears.
	Sixth Series. The war factory is now a spa, holiday camp and hotel.
October 1943	Seventh Series. Tommy Handley as Squire of Much Fiddling.
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Post-war 1945	Tommy Handley as Governor of Tomtopia
September 1946	Castle Weehouse in Scotland. Government adviser of Industrial and Scientific Affairs
	Twelfth Series. Handley at Henry Hall, a tramps guesthouse.

More than 300 shows were produced. The last show was broadcast 6 January 1949. Tommy Handley died three days later on 9 January 1949.

- Cast:
- Announcer:
- Musicians:
- Writers:
- Producers:

<i>Series Episode</i>	<i>Recording Date</i>	<i>Broadcast Date</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Recording Location</i>
		06-Jan-1944		CE	
		13-Jan-1944		CE	
		10-May-1945	Special VE Day Edition	CE	
		29-Apr-1948		CE	
		06-May-1948		CE	

¹ Some of the material for this catalogue is derived from <http://www.britishcomedy.org.uk/comedy/itma.htm>.