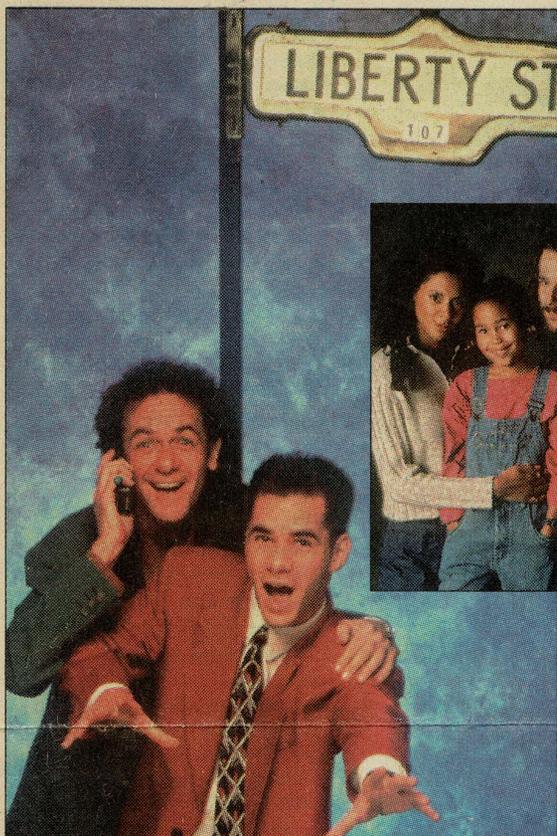


# TV Worth Watching



Jim Bawden previews the week



**Liberty St.** regulars Reiner Schwartz and Pat Mastroianni; inset, Kimberly Huie, Melissa Daniel and Joel Bissonette



**Wed. 8:30 p.m. on ch.5**

## Liberty St.

*Liberty St.* is a spinoff from *Degrassi*, sort of, but most resemblances to the original are purely coincidental. Gone are some of the engaging stars of the series (including Gordon Michael Woolvett and Stacie Mistysyn), replaced by other twentysomethings.

Pat Mastroianni from the old *Degrassi High* is a new landlord taking over a dilapidated building filled with up and comers. The first episode wobbles badly, but by the second half hour the series is beginning to find itself. Some of the characters who stick out include feisty bike courier Marsha

(Marcia Laskowski) and her gay biker pal Nathan (Billy Merasty). There's Mastroianni's uncle played by Reiner Schwartz and ex-con Mack (Joel Bissonette), who is desperately trying to go

straight after being convicted for drug possession.

In short this is not *Melrose Place*, where supposedly struggling young people wear the latest designer clothes and have just strolled from makeup and hairdressing. The emphasis is on grit and what it feels like to be young. There are a lot of bumps in the plot but creator Linda Schuyler has been this way before and just may be able to pull it off — she has a way of making her actors appear totally natural. The apartment building, the Epitome, is a fascinating character in itself.

**Sun., 10 p.m. ch. 17**

## Masterpiece Theatre

Pelham Granville Wodehouse is back in fashion these days. He's "P.G." to most of us, the prolific author of the *Jeeves and Wooster*

novels and it's been 20 years since he died, aged 93. A new batch of five *Jeeves and Wooster* stories honor that remarkable life starting this week on *Masterpiece Theatre*. Stephen Fry is nothing short of magnificent as the gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves, and Hugh Laurie returns as the amiably bird-brained Bertie Wooster.

A spot of tea, anyone? A crumpet? The comical misadventures are firmly fixed in the interwar years when the English aristocracy was on a downward slide toward oblivion but still maintained a facade. Gentlemen bachelors like Bertie still had their manservants lay out clothes, pack for vacations at Antibes, attend garden parties and go to the races. But work? Horrors!

Surely it is the language that still amuses. A lady's laugh is "Like a cavalry charge clattering over a tin bridge." I grin every time I hear Bertie saying, "Still here, old fruit?" There are those who mistakenly believe Bertie is more interesting than



**Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry** in *Masterpiece Theatre's Jeeves and Wooster Stories*

*Jeeves*. Fry, however, plays Jeeves as more than a standard foil. He is tall and sombre whereas Laurie is pop-eyed and a silly ass.

Nothing really happens in their first new adventure which finds them at the seaside. Aunt Agatha (Mary Wimbush) is still trying to get Bertie married and is keen on a rector's sister who turns out to be a diamond thief. And there's Bertie's friend Biffy Biffen (Philip Shelley) who cannot remember the name of the show-girl he's keen on. When he spots her in the chorus of *Woof, Woof* he climbs right up onstage to propose. Bertie's good soul and Jeeves's deliberateness make the most wonderful of travelling companions.

**Sun., 9 p.m. on F**

## The Fun And Feel Of The Fifties

What fun was there in the Fifties? The Korean War? The detonation of the first H bomb? The McCarthy scare? This documentary, the first part of a two-hour study, may be mistitled. It certainly



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