

WEDNESDAY tv

BBC 2

9.0 pm M*A*S*H

starring Alan Alda as Hawkeye Mike Farrell as B. J. Hunnicutt with Harry Morgan as Col Potter Gary Burghoff as Radar Loretta Swit as Hotlips David Ogden Stiers as Major Charles Winchester and Carmen Mathews as Col Lillian Rayburn Lil

... causes a bit of bother when she visits the 4077th, because Col Potter likes her - and Radar doesn't.

Written by SHELDON BULL Directed by BURT METCALFE Theme music on Comedy Themes, (record REC 387, cassette ZCR 387) from record shops

9.25 The Lad Himself

written and performed by Peter Corey

'It was never a good idea to go and see Hancock in his dressing-room before transmission. During rehearsals he would be fine; and then there would be an hour's break, and it would be best to keep away. He'd be very, very nervous; he'd be so tense that your presence would be unwelcome.'

(RAY GALTON)

2 June 1961: It is the half-hour preceding the recording of *The Blood Donor*, Britain's best-loved comedian is alone in his room.

Senior cameraman JIM ATKINSON Lighting JOHN GREEN Designer BARRIE DOBBINS Producer JOHN NORTON Director ALISTAIR CLARK

10.0 A Change of Sex

♀ An *Inside Story* series George - The Big Decision Although he is male, George Roberts' natural urge is to function as a female. His condition is defined as transsexual. When shown last year this documentary followed George's sex-change attempt; now this week we discover what eventually happened.

Early in 1979 George put into effect a decision that had been maturing in his mind since he was a teenager - to become a woman in the fullest sense possible. It is a decision for which George will pay dearly - socially, financially and physically, as electrolysis and massive doses of hormones transform his body. Meanwhile, in the first stage of his journey across the sexes, George attempts to become a National Health patient and 'comes out' fully by giving his clothing to charity and taking the name Julia.

Photography MIKE SOUTON Sound ALAN COOPER, BOB JAMES Film editor DAVID GLADWELL Executive producer ROGER MILLS Director DAVID PEARSON (Programme 2 tomorrow at 9.35 pm)

10.55-11.45

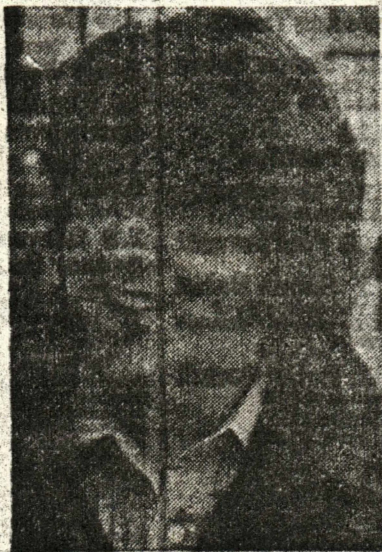
Newsnight

Including news, weather forecast and sports results



10.0 pm A Change of Sex. In the first of three nightly programmes, George Roberts begins the long struggle to become a female. Julia Grant tells RADIO TIMES how she achieved a new life

If my story helps people understand transsexuals better, then it is worthwhile. There may be 10,000 of us in Britain, many leading terribly trapped lives, unable to confide in neighbours, employers, even family. When, 20 years ago, the April Ashley case brought the sex-change operation to light, many male transsexuals began living as women and taking hormones in the hope of receiving surgery. About 100 operations are now carried out annually, we think, but I've known patients attend the same NHS clinic for 13 years without the promise of a bed.



'Strange that you can fight for your country at 16, vote at 18, but even at 21 you can't decide what to do with your own body. Fortunately I'm a very strong-willed person; but it's still not been an easy process. Private sexual re-alignment surgery alone cost me £3,500. The GLC had to rehouse me four times because of local harassment - bottles thrown at the windows, a petrol bomb through the letter-box. But the morning after my seven-and-a-half-hour operation, I put on my make-up and back-combed my hair feeling born again. I've found self-respect; I looked a decidedly working-class boy, but I'm a much classier woman. Before, the identity crisis was always uppermost in my mind - now, my energy's been freed. I've started writing: two plays, a novel and a published autobiography. I'm campaigning to have my birth certificate altered and appealing to the Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg for the right to marry.'



George Roberts, pictured above early in 1979, and (left) a photograph after the transformation to Julia Grant

Interview by Madeline Kaghan/Picture David Carr