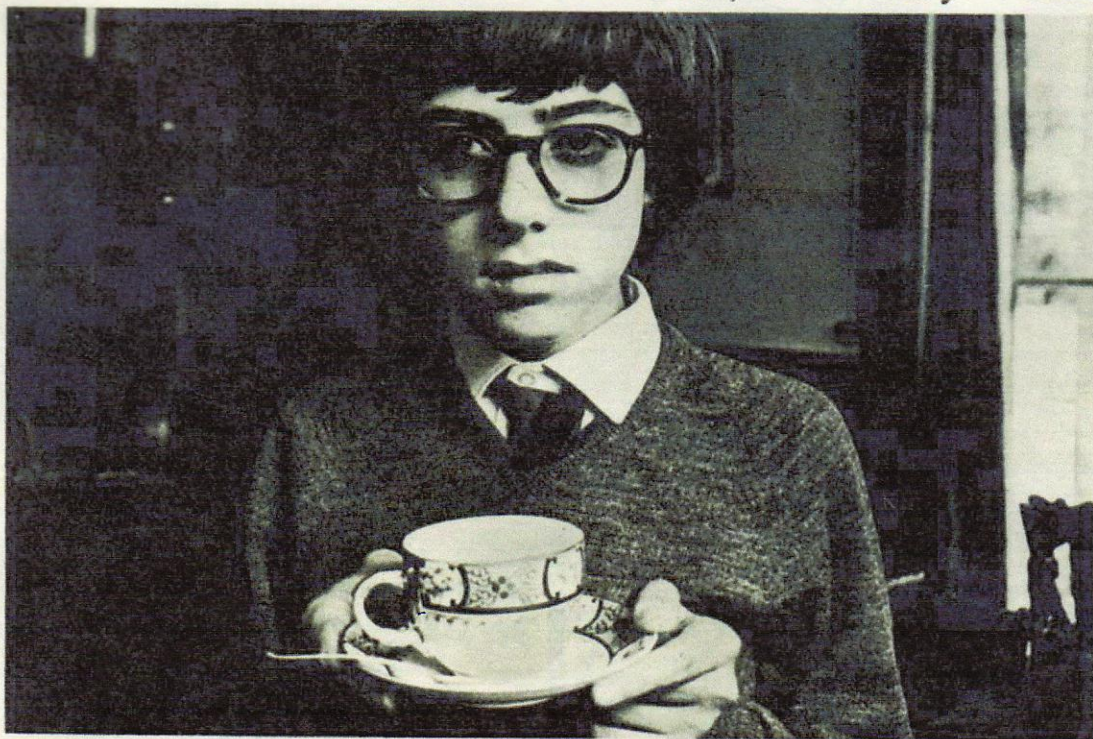


A Magician's Mate!

An interview with *Catweazle's* co-star, actor Gary Warren.



WHEN YOU'RE A PLAYMATE OF THAT WHISKERY 11th-CENTURY WIZARD CATWEAZLE, A LITTLE BIT OF THE MAGIC SEEMS TO RUB OFF. Just ask sixteen-year-old actor Gary Warren, who appears with him in the current series as Cedric.

For instance, you would think you would need a spot of old time sorcery to be allowed to leave grammar school at thirteen. Or to have the grounds of a stately home in Hertfordshire turned into your own private learn-to-drive course. But it has happened for Gary.

"I always wanted to be an actor," he said. "And I was lucky enough to land a small part as Pinocchio in the ITV programme *Disney Wonderland* when I was twelve. But it meant I had to have two days off school every week for rehearsals. Then I started getting parts in plays and in *Z-Cars* which meant I was getting about four full weeks off each term.



In the film *THE RAILWAY CHILDREN*, adapted from the book by E. Nesbit, Gary stars as Peter. Recognise the porter? It's Bernard Cribbins.

"The headmaster of my grammar school in St. John's Wood, London, wasn't very keen on my missing out so much schooling. So I left school officially to go to the Aida Foster Stage School, where I could combine general education with dance and stage training."

Gary graduated two years ago, and has hardly stopped acting since. He's been a consistent wage earner since he was twelve, and most of his pocket-money is spent on pop records. He has a collection of well over one-hundred albums at his home at Neasden, North London.

He's also a soccer fan and supports Queens Park Rangers. "I've only missed one home game this season," he said. "And when you're on call at the studios as much as I am, it isn't always easy to dodge away to watch football."

Working in *Catweazle* alone meant Gary only had one day off (officially) in fourteen weeks—and he has also been busy in the film *The Railway Children*.

Small for his age—he's exactly five foot tall—Gary gets a lot of parts playing boys younger than himself. "I don't mind as long as the script is good," he said. "You don't feel sappy if you can believe in the words you are saying." And he doesn't expect special treatment from his friends because he appears regularly on television and in films. "They don't keep on about it," he said. "I'm just one of the boys."

Gary has no serious girl-friends and travels about, like anyone else, on the bus and tube. "But I'm looking forward to being able to have my own car, when I'm old enough to apply for a provisional licence in July," he said.

"I've managed to get in quite a lot of practice. The cast in *Catweazle* were super; they allowed me to use their cars in the grounds of the stately Collingford home in Hertfordshire."