

CARRY ON CONSTABLE

1960

*Screenplay by Norman Hudis**Based on an idea by Brock Williams**Music Composed & Directed by Bruce Montgomery***CAST****CHARACTER**

Sidney James	Sergeant Frank Wilkins
Eric Barker	Inspector Mills
Kenneth Connor	Constable Charlie Constable
Charles Hawtrey	Special Constable Timothy Gorse
Kenneth Williams	Constable Stanley Benson
Leslie Phillips	Constable Tom Potter
Joan Sims	WPC Gloria Passworthy
Hattie Jacques	Sergeant Laura Moon
Shirley Eaton	Sally Barry
Cyril Chamberlain	Thurston
Joan Hickson	Mrs May
Irene Handl	Distraught Woman
Terence Longdon	Herbert Hall
Jill Adams	WPC Harrison
Freddie Mills	1st Crook
Brian Oulton	Store Manager
Victor Maddern	Criminal-looking Man
Joan Young	Suspect
Esma Cannon	Deaf Old Lady
Hilda Fenemore	Agitated Woman
Noel Dyson	Vague Woman
Tom Gill	1st Citizen
Anthony Sagar	2nd Citizen
Eric Corrie	3rd Citizen
Frank Forsyth	4th Citizen
John Antrobus	5th Citizen
Robin Ray	Assistant Manager
Michael Balfour	Matt
Diane Aubrey	Honorina
Ian Curry	Eric
Mary Law	1st Shop Assistant
Lucy Griffiths	Miss Horton
Peter Bennett	Passer-by
Jack Taylor	Cliff
Eric Boon	Shorty
Janetta Lake	Girl with Dog
Dorinda Stevens	Young Woman
Ken Kennedy	Wall-eyed Man

CREW

Production Manager	Frank Bevis
Art Director	Carmen Dillon
Director of Photography	Ted Scaife
Editor	John Shirley
Camera Operator	Alan Hume
Assistant Director	Peter Manley
Sound Editor	Leslie Wiggins
Sound Recordists	Robert T MacPhee & Bill Daniels
Continuity	Joan Davis
Make-up	George Blackler
Hairdresser	Stella Rivers
Dress Designer	Yvonne Caffin
Set Dresser	Vernon Dixon
Casting Director	Betty White
Producer	Peter Rogers
Director	Gerald Thomas

A Peter Rogers production.

Distributed by Anglo Amalgamated Film Distributors Ltd

PRODUCTION DETAILS:

Budget: £82,500

Filming: 9th November 1959 – 18th December 1959

Duration: 86m

Black & White

General Release: February 1960, Certificate A

TV Premiere: 24th June 1967, ITV (ABC Midland & North)

Home Video: 1988 (VHS), 2001 (DVD)

IN A NUTSHELL

“That hilarious Carry On shower in another riot of laughter”

The country is in the grip of a national flu epidemic. People everywhere are dropping like flies. Police Sergeant Wilkins is so short-staffed that he is forced to turn to raw recruits to police the area.

Help comes in the shape of three officers, fresh out of training school; Constable Charlie Constable (Kenneth Connor), Constable Stanley Benson (Kenneth Williams) and Constable Tom Potter (Leslie Phillips). Together with Special (very special) Constable Timothy Gorse (Charles Hawtrey), they patrol the streets bringing chaos where there was order, helping bank robbers and even indulging in a spot of accidental shoplifting. They may have the best of intentions, but the thin blue line looks decidedly shaky with these recruits on patrol.

REVIEW:

With Ted Ray now firmly back under contract to ABC, Rogers and Thomas had to find a new lead for their next Carry On and the craggy features of former Hancock botherer Sid James fitted the bill beautifully. But this is a very different Sid to the Carry On persona we've come to know and love. In Constable, and indeed in his next few Carry Ons, Sid is a fatherly, authoritarian figure. Left to handle the new recruits, he spends the film not leering and cackling but getting increasingly frustrated by the well-intentioned idiots under his command. As a foil for the rest of the team, Sid is perfectly cast.

Hawtrey, Williams, Connor and Phillips tread a beat that is all too familiar. There is little that is new in terms of the premise; bumbling fools thrust into a situation way above their capabilities – but the old Hudis magic is at work again. It's the banter, the set pieces and the hi-jinx that make Carry On Constable such a delight. We all know what we are going to get when we go to see a Carry On and audiences at the time did as well. But there's a definite evolution in the regular characters and their personas; Williams is more arch, louder and of course completely oblivious to his many faults, Hawtrey is a doe-eyed simpleton with not a bad word to say about anyone and Connor is a sexually frustrated bumbler.

Phillips takes the straight(er) role once again and plays the charmer we know and love. Everyone's growing into the personas with which they would later become so famous.

Constable also sees the Carry On team enjoy their first real taste of location filming and as they head into the streets of Ealing it's a genuine thrill to see them out and about in the "real" world. Treading the same streets as us doesn't make the Carry On team any more real. If anything it makes their antics seem even more surreal.

There is a lot going on in Carry On Constable. It is a film which covers an awful lot of ground, both in comedy and geographically. By now, there's a slightly more adult tone creeping into the films – the pursuit of sex is dealt with in not entirely innocent terms and it's dealt with quite a few times, albeit in a suggestive, cheeky way. Carry On Constable is a step onward from its predecessors. There's a great deal of confidence in the way the story is delivered in what is an accomplished, relaxed and tremendously fun – and funny – film.

VIEWING NOTES:

- *The title "Carry On Copper" was briefly considered as the title but it was pointed out to Peter Rogers that "Copper" could be considered a somewhat derisory name.*
- *The original outline submitted by Brock Williams for Constable became the basis for the Rogers/Thomas film, "The Big Job".*
- *For research purposes, Norman Hudis spent a week at a real police station, observing the real life antics of the Force for comic inspiration. Hudis found the process so depressing he reported back to Rogers that he'd rather forget the idea of a Police Carry On altogether.*
- *Once again, we hear the same theme music as was used in three previous three Carry On films. Bruce Montgomery was aiming for a more jazzy arrangement of the theme for this outing and struggling to get the right result, he turned to future Carry On composer Eric Rogers for help.*
- *Originally, the role of Sergeant Wilkins was intended for Ted Ray, who made such an impact in the previous film, Carry On Teacher. But with Ray under contract to ABC,*




Rogers was unable to use the actor in future projects and so a replacement was sought. Enter Sid James and the birth of a Carry On legend.








- *Carry On Constable was the first in the series to be given an A certificate, thanks in no small measure to the shower scene. The next time anyone tells you the Carry On films were sexist, remind them that the first nude scene in the series was a male one.*







CARRY ON COCK-UPS:



Continuity	2m 16s	Sid James is suddenly standing in a different position to the previous shot.
Continuity	15m 23s	Kenneth Williams is still walking the dog along South Ealing Road except he's further back down the same road than he was when he began. No wonder the dog bolts, it's probably fed up with going round the same block.
Continuity	15m 23s	There's a lone dog on the street behind Kenneth Williams which turns up again looking lost as he rounds the corner a few moments later.
Technical	18m 59s	The iron railings in a police station should be rather sturdier than the ones on display here. The banister wobbles alarmingly as Joan Sims turns to go back down.
Continuity	20m 17s	Take a look at the keys on the rack behind Leslie Phillips. When you see them a few moments later behind Kenneth Connor the large set is hanging on a different hook.
Technical	24m 30s	The chamber pot that Charles Hawtrey kicked getting out of bed won't stop rattling, so he ad-libs a "be quiet" at it.
Technical	25m 32s	You have to admire Charles Hawtrey's dedication to proper eyesight. Would you go into the shower wearing your glasses?
Continuity	38m 56s	The squad car, when driving is registered as 892 PPC. When parked, it's UUV 133.
Continuity	59m 27s	When Leslie Phillips runs up the drive he's holding the dog's lead in his left hand. When we see him enter the garden, it is in his right hand.
Continuity	1h 20m 26s	When Leslie Phillips falls from the landing down to the hall, you can see the mattress that has been put there to soften his fall.

LOCATIONS:

Time	Description	Address	Also seen in	Location Link
1m 31s	Police Station	Hanwell Library Cherington Road Ealing London W7 3HL		
4m 54s	Approaching the police station	Heading North at approx 3-27 South Ealing Road Ealing London W5 4QT		
5m 42s	Approaching police station	Then along the Avenue Ealing Approx 25 The Avenue Ealing London W13 8JR		
14m 00s	Walking the dog	North on the South Ealing Road Ealing London W5 4QT		
14m 08s	A distraught Irene Handl calls for help	10 Lothair Road Ealing London W5 4TA		
15m 48s	Kenneth chases the dog around the corner onto Lothair Road	Basement flat at 6A Lothair Road Ealing London W5 4TA		

22m 13s	Kenneth and Charles on patrol	Along Manor Road to the corner of Drayton Road Ealing London W13 0HY		
33m 27s	Police parade	West, along Pinewood Green and past 92 Pinewood Green Iver Heath Bucks SL0 0QH	Carry On Cabby Carry On Camping Carry On Behind	
34m 58s	Charles is stationed	Corner of Drayton Ave and Manor Road Ealing London W13 0JA		
35m 20s	Kenneth Connor's patrol begins	71-77 South Ealing Road Ealing London W5 4QB		
36m 11s	Kenneth is left outside the Drayton Road Post Office	He follows Victor Maddern East up Manor Road Ealing London W13 0HY		
38m 59s	Sid is picked by the squad car	Corner of Alacross Rd and Lothair Rd Ealing London W5 4HT		
39m 13s	Kenneth Connor hears a "murder"	39 The Avenue Ealing London W13 8JR		

41m 14s	Esma Cannon crosses the road	West Ealing Railway Station Drayton Green Rd London W13 0NQ	
48m 35s	Fluffy the cat goes missing	St. Mary's Church 135 Church Road Hanwell, London W7 3QP	
59m 17s	Leslie takes the dog for a walk to the boss' house	104 Pinewood Green Iver Heath Bucks SL0 0QH	
1h 02m 17s	Kenneth Connor and Joan Sims walk along Manor Road, Ealing - beside the railway tracks.	Manor Road, Ealing London W13 0HY The footbridge has disappeared behind the Access Self Storage depot on the Manor Road side but the bridge can be accessed via a replacement bridge to the rear of the building.	
1h 04m 37s	FH Rowse, where Kenneth and Charles drag up	96 Broadway, West Ealing London W13 0SY They exit via the side entrance on Green Man Lane and head back towards the Broadway	
1h 09m 35s	Walking along the alleyway behind Church Gardens, an abandoned van is discovered	Entrance to Church Gardens, Ealing Approx 11 Church Place Ealing London W5 4HN	

1h 10m 04s		The wage snatch van is discovered outside the Rose & Crown pub Ealing London W5 4HN		
1h 16m 57s	The baddies' lair	Oakhurst House St Stephen's Road Ealing, London W13 8JB The old house was demolished in 1963 and on the location now stands the White Ledges Housing development		

CARRY ON ABROAD:

Watch out for the Cops – *Denmark*

Watch out for the Police – *Finland*

These Sturdy Policemen – *Germany*

Go on, Policemen – *Hungary*

Four Agents of Disorder – *South America*

CARRY ON COLLECTING:

- Die-cast 1:60 scale Morris Police van featuring Carry On Constable poster art by Lledo, 1998, as part of their “Days Gone” range.
- Postcard featuring UK One Sheet poster released in 1998 by The London Postcard Company as part of their “British Classics Series 1” collection.

SOUNDTRACK:

Main title theme available on “Carry on”

Various Artists, CD, Silva Screen 2005

Themes, cues and dialog taken from the original film soundtracks

DVD:

Carry On Constable

Warner Home Entertainment, 2001

PAL, Region 2 (Europe, Middle East & Japan), Black & White

The Ultimate Carry On (Carry On Sergeant – Carry On Screaming!)

Warner Home Video, 2001

PAL, Region 2 (Europe, Middle East & Japan), Colour, Black & White

DeAgostini Carry On DVD partwork

DeAgostini/Carlton, 2003

PAL, Region 2 (Europe, Middle East & Japan), Colour, Black & White

Carry On – The Ultimate Collection

ITV Studios Home Entertainment, 2006

PAL, Region 2 (Europe, Middle East & Japan), Colour, Black & White

Special features as for individual ITV/Carlton/Optimum releases

Carry On Constable

Optimum Home Releasing, 2007

PAL, Region 2 (Europe, Middle East & Japan), Black & White

Special Features: Commentary (Leslie Phillips), Stills, Trivia, Trailer

Carry On Collection Vol.1 (Sergeant / Teacher / Nurse / Constable)

Optimum Home Releasing, 2008

PAL, Region 2 (Europe, Middle East & Japan), Black & White

Special features as for individual ITV/Carlton/Optimum releases

Carry On – The Ultimate Collection

ITV Studios Home Entertainment, 2008

PAL, Region 2 (Europe, Middle East & Japan), Colour, Black & White

Special features as for individual ITV/Carlton/Optimum releases

VHS:

Carry On Constable

Warner Home Video, 1988

PAL, Black & White

Carry On Constable / Carry On Jack

Warner Home Video, 1993

PAL, Black & White

Carry On Constable

Warner Home Video, 1997

PAL, Black & White

Carry On Constable / Carry On Jack

Warner Home Video, 2001

PAL, Black & White

DeAgostini Carry On VHS part work

DeAgostini/Carlton, 2003

PAL, Colour, Black & White