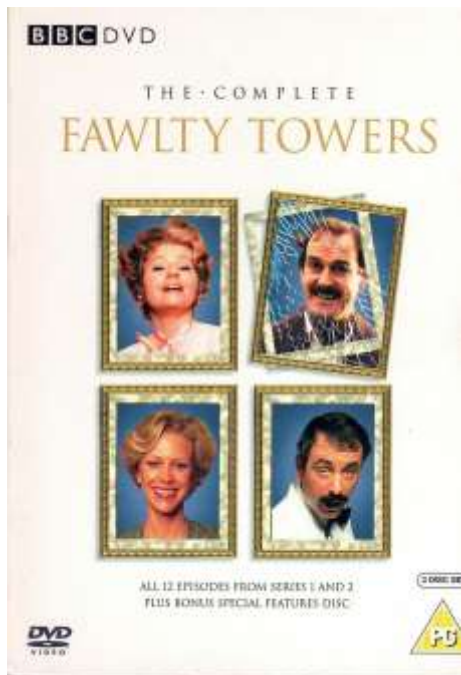


The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **Faulty Towers** — The Complete Series 3 set



Library Image

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ISBN: 5014503179427

Information

Release Title: Faulty Towers – 19th September 1975 (United Kingdom)

From: John Cleese and Connie Booth

AKA:

Release date:

Origin: United Kingdom,

Genre: Comedy

Disc Nos. - 1

Certification: PG

Duration: 6h 14m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English...

Filming Locations:

Sound mix: Dolby Digital, Dual Mono

Colour: PAL

Aspect Ratio: 4:3

Fawlty Towers	
<p>The "Fawlty Towers" sign in the background image varied (usually as an anagram) between episodes</p>	
Genre	Sitcom Farce ^[1]
Created by	John Cleese Connie Booth
Written by	John Cleese Connie Booth
Directed by	John Howard Davies Bob Spiers
Starring	John Cleese Prunella Scales Andrew Sachs Connie Booth Ballard Berkeley Brian Hall Renee Roberts Gilly Flower
Theme music composer	Dennis Wilson
Opening theme	"Fawlty Towers"
Ending theme	"Fawlty Towers"
Country of origin	United Kingdom
Original language	English
No. of series	2
No. of episodes	12 (list of episodes)
Production	
Producers	John Howard Davies Douglas Argent
Editors	Susan Imrie Bob Rymer Bill Harris
Running time	30–35 minutes
Production company	BBC
Release	
Original network	BBC Two
Picture format	576i (4:3 PAL)
Audio format	Mono
Original release	Original series: 19 September 1975 – 25 October 1979

Storyline

The series focuses on the exploits and misadventures of short-fused hotelier Basil Fawlty and his acerbic wife Sybil, as well as their employees: waiter Manuel, Polly Sherman, and, in the second series, chef Terry. The episodes typically revolve around Basil's efforts to "raise the tone" of his hotel and his increasing frustration at numerous complications and mistakes, both his own and those of others, which prevent him from doing so.

Much of the humour comes from Basil's overly aggressive manner, engaging in angry but witty arguments with guests, staff and, in particular, Sybil, whom he addresses (in a faux-romantic way) with insults such as "that golfing puff adder", "my little piranha fish" and "my little nest of vipers". Despite this, Basil frequently feels intimidated, Sybil being able to cow him at any time, usually with a short, sharp cry of "Basil!" At the end of some episodes, Basil succeeds in annoying (or at least bemusing) the guests and frequently gets his comeuppance.

The plots occasionally are intricate and always farcical, involving coincidences, misunderstandings, cross-purposes and meetings both missed and accidental. The innuendo of the bedroom farce is sometimes present (often to the disgust of the socially conservative Basil) but it is his eccentricity, not his lust, that drives the plots. The events test to the breaking point what little patience Basil has, sometimes causing him to have a near breakdown by the end of the episode.

The guests at the hotel typically are comic foils to Basil's anger and outbursts. Guest characters in each episode provide different characteristics (working class, promiscuous, foreign) that he cannot stand. Requests both reasonable and impossible test his temper. Even the afflicted annoy him, as for example in the episode "Communication Problems", revolving around the havoc caused by the frequent misunderstandings between the staff and the hard-of-hearing Mrs. Richards. Near the end, Basil pretends to faint just at the mention of her name. This episode is typical of the show's careful weaving of humorous situations through comedy cross-talk. The show also uses mild black humour at times, notably when Basil is forced to hide a dead body and in his comments about Sybil ("Did you ever see that film, *How to Murder Your Wife?* ... Awfully good. I saw it six times.") and to Mrs Richards, ("May I suggest that you consider moving to a hotel closer to the sea? Or preferably in it.").

Basil's physical outbursts are primarily directed at Manuel, an emotional but largely innocent Spaniard whose confused English vocabulary causes him to make elementary mistakes. At times, Basil beats Manuel with a frying pan and smacks his forehead with a spoon. The violence towards Manuel caused rare negative criticism of the show. Sybil and Polly, on the other hand, are more patient and understanding toward Manuel; everyone's usual excuse for his behaviour to guests is, "He's from Barcelona"; Manuel even once used the excuse for himself.

Basil longs for a touch of class, sometimes playing recordings of classical music. In the first episode he is playing music by Brahms when Sybil remarks, after pestering him asking to do different tasks: "You could have them both done by now if you hadn't spent the whole morning skulking in there listening to that racket." Basil replies, with exasperation, "Racket?? That's Brahms! Brahms' Third Racket!" Basil often displays blatant snobbishness as he attempts to climb the social ladder, frequently expressing disdain for the "riff-raff", "cretins" and "yobbos" that he believes regularly populate his hotel. His desperation is readily apparent as he makes increasingly hopeless manoeuvres and painful faux pas in trying to curry favour with those he perceives as having superior social status. Yet he finds himself forced to serve those individuals that are "beneath" him. As such, Basil's efforts tend to be counter-productive, with guests leaving the hotel in disgust and his marriage (and sanity) stretching to breaking point.

Cast (Main Casting)

John Cleese	Basil Fawlty
Prunella Scales	Sybil Fawlty
Andrew Sachs	Manuel
Connie Booth	Polly Sherman
Ballard Berkeley	Major Gowen
Brian Hall	Terry Hughes
Renee Roberts	Miss Gatsby
Gilly Flower	Miss Tibbs

Note: with Cameo Guests

Parents Guide
Certification PG

