

= Green Wing =

Green Wing is an award @-@ winning British sitcom set in the fictional East Hampton Hospital . It was created by the same team behind the sketch show Smack the Pony , led by Victoria Pile , and stars Tamsin Greig , Stephen Mangan and Julian Rhind @-@ Tutt .

Although set in a hospital , it uses no medical storylines ; the action is produced by a series of soap opera @-@ style twists and turns in the personal lives of the characters . They proceed through a series of often absurd sketch @-@ like scenes , or by sequences where the film is slowed down or sped up , often emphasizing the body language of the characters . The show had eight writers . Two series were made by the Talkback Thames production company for Channel 4 .

The series ran between 3 September 2004 and 19 May 2006 . An episode was filmed with the second series , which was shown as a 90 minute long special on 4 January 2007 in the UK , but was shown in Australia and Belgium on 29 December 2006 .

Separate from the series , a sketch was made for Comic Relief and screened on 11 March 2005 . Another was performed live at The Secret Policeman 's Ball on 14 October 2006 .

= = Synopsis = =

Green Wing 's plot revolves around the lives of the staff of the East Hampton Hospital Trust , a fictional NHS hospital with staff ranging from the slightly unusual to the completely surreal .

The series begins with a new arrival , surgical registrar Caroline Todd (Tamsin Greig) . Caroline suffers from constant embarrassment and bad luck , stumbling from one crisis to the next due to a mixture of her own neurosis , impulsiveness , and general misfortune . Caroline works alongside two other doctors : Guy Secretan (Stephen Mangan) , an arrogant , half @-@ Swiss , womanizing anaesthetist , and " Mac " Macartney (Julian Rhind @-@ Tutt) , a suave , desirably fashionable surgeon . It is not long before Caroline begins to develop feelings for both of them , though she is unsure as to which of the two she truly loves . Throughout the series , it becomes clear that Mac is her true love , but a range of misadventures prevent their relationship from flourishing . Other people Caroline meets include Martin Dear (Karl Theobald) , a friendly house officer who is constantly failing his exams . He is unloved by his mother and is often bullied by Guy . Martin soon develops feelings for Caroline , and begins to fall in love with her . There is also Angela Hunter (Sarah Alexander) , a seemingly @-@ perfect , but irritating , senior registrar in paediatrics . Whilst Angela appears to mean well , Caroline cannot stand her and despite her best efforts to avoid Angela , she ends up as Caroline 's lodger .

Caroline 's main rival for Mac 's affections is Sue White (Michelle Gomez) , the Scottish staff liaison officer employed to listen and respond to the problems of East Hampton 's staff . However , Sue is perhaps the least suited person for the job ; she is mean @-@ spirited , insensitive , unsympathetic , controlling and vain . Her office is a place where the impossible tends to happen , and anyone who enters is normally treated with a mixture of verbal abuse and psychological torture , so she can get back to doing nothing , or thinking about how to upset the next visitor . The only person she treats with any affection is Mac , whom she loves to the point of madness , but Mac , like almost everyone else , tries his best to avoid her . Anyone who attempts to get involved with Mac is treated with contempt and hatred by Sue , in particular Caroline , whom Sue attempts several times to murder .

Perhaps the most eccentric member of staff is Alan Statham (Mark Heap) , an overbearing , stuttering and eccentric consultant radiologist , whose everyday actions regularly border on insanity . He is desperately and hopelessly in love with Joanna Clore (Pippa Haywood) , the 48 @-@ year @-@ old head of human resources with an increasingly sardonic attitude . Their relationship is an open secret , with student doctor Boyce (Oliver Chris) , often using it as a weapon against them , bullying Alan constantly . Joanna 's human resources staff also use it against her , in particular Kim Alabaster (Sally Bretton) , who has a bad attitude towards most of the people she meets , and Naughty Rachel (Katie Lyons) , who earned her nickname due to her love of sex . The other HR staff include Harriet Schulenburg (Olivia Colman) , an overworked mother of four trapped in an

unhappy marriage , and Karen Ball (Lucinda Raikes) , who divides her time between doing much of the office 's work , trying to attract Martin 's affections , and being bullied by Kim and Rachel .

= = Creation = =

= = = Writers and crew = = =

Green Wing was devised , created and produced by Victoria Pile . She was also the casting director , one of the writers and was involved in the editing , filming and post @-@ production . She described Green Wing as " a sketch @-@ meets @-@ comedy @-@ drama @-@ meets @-@ soap " , and a continuation of her previous show , Smack the Pony , where Green Wing 's crew also worked . Unusually for a British sitcom , which normally have only one or two writers , the show had eight writers : Pile , her husband Robert Harley , Gary Howe , Stuart Kenworthy , Oriane Messina , Richard Preddy , Fay Rusling and James Henry .

Pile and her co @-@ writers initially used battery packs to represent characters , moving them around on her desk to develop scenarios for the show . The decision to make the characters doctors came later . Pile recalls that she mentioned to Peter Fincham that a hospital setting would work well and that he subsequently reported that Channel 4 were enthusiastic about a hospital location , which settled the matter . Even later still , a plot was developed and wall charts were used to mark up story arcs .

The show was directed and edited (along with Pile) by Tristram Shapeero and Dominic Brigstocke . Sketches were sped up or slowed down to create comic effect , often using body language to create humour . Editing was also used due to the amount of corpsing that occurred during the filming of the show . Tamsin Greig was said to corpse frequently , and episodes were written to minimize the contact between the characters of Caroline Todd and Alan Statham because Greig found it difficult not to laugh when acting alongside Mark Heap . The music , which plays prominently in the show , was written by Jonathan Whitehead (under the name " Trellis ") and won him an RTS Craft & Design Award .

= = = Production = = =

Following her success with Smack the Pony , Channel 4 gave Pile a fairly free hand with her next project . Their only requirement was that it should have enough of a narrative thread to make it more of a sitcom than a sketch show .

The show had a half @-@ hour pilot made in 2002 that was never aired . Scenes from the pilot were used in the first episode , " Caroline 's First Day " , and can be spotted due to the characters ' appearance , most notably Rhind @-@ Tutt 's haircut . The pilot allowed the writers to experiment , such as using different filming techniques . In the pilot , Doon Mackichan played Joanna Clore and was meant to play her in the original series , but left when she became pregnant .

Although each script is fully written , the actors are allowed to improvise their own jokes , frequently adding to what has already been written . Normally workshops are used to allow actors to improvise their own material . One example of improvised material was Stephen Mangan 's idea of Guy falling in love with Caroline . Rusling , Howe , Messina and Harley all have had speaking parts in the show , most notably Harley playing Charles Robertson , the hospital 's CEO . The show 's crew also make appearances in the show as extras . For example , Pile 's former assistant Phil Secretan (whom Guy is named after) appears at the end of a scene in the first episode . Henry appears in the background during Martin 's exam in the episode , " Tests " .

The filming was done at two hospitals , the Northwick Park Hospital in Middlesex and the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke . This presented a problem because the show had to work around the real @-@ life hospital , with its actual doctors , patients and emergency situations . In one scene in the final episode in series one , Guy (Mangan) was hitting squash balls behind him , and nearly hit a patient . However , some scenes , such as those in Sue 's and Alan 's offices , were

filmed in a studio .

Green Wing 's title is said to have come from a small plastic green man with wings that was in executive producer Peter Fincham 's top pocket , and fell on Pile 's desk . Fincham claimed it was not his , so Pile kept it . This plastic man appears at the end of the credits on every show .

= = = Unused storylines = = =

Green Wing had some plot lines that were never used . Unused storylines included Alan having an eighty @-@ year @-@ old wife and step @-@ grandchildren as old as him , and Guy suffering from impotence . Pile originally wanted the show to cover the entire hospital , not just doctors , but also porters , car park attendants and kitchen staff . However , she eventually decided that they had enough material with the eight main doctors and human resources workers .

Two endings were created for the special . The alternative ending is included on the DVD release of Green Wing , along with deleted scenes from the episode . The alternative ending was planned to be used if a third series was going to be commissioned , as this ending was much more ambiguous . It is known that the actors wanted the alternative ending , but after some debate , it was not shown .

= = Series summaries = =

= = = Series 1 = = =

Caroline arrives at East Hampton for her first day of work , where she begins work with Guy and Mac . She soon develops feelings for both of them , first believing that she loves Guy , but then ? after a day out with him ? realising that it is Mac she truly loves . At the same time , Martin begins to fall in love with her , and Angela becomes Caroline 's lodger . Elsewhere in the hospital , Alan and Joanna try to hide their relationship from the rest of the staff , unsuccessfully . Then Joanna becomes attracted to Lyndon Jones (Paterson Joseph) , the hospital 's head of I.T. , with Alan becoming jealous of Lyndon .

Sue becomes jealous of Caroline as she starts to fall for Mac , and does her best to try to stop her , even to the point of attempted murder . However , Caroline is having problems in the form of Mac 's current girlfriend , Emily . Martin is having problems with his exams , as well as avoiding letting anyone know that Joanna is his mother . Boyce is busy mocking Alan and having a relationship with Kim . With Alan and Joanna 's relationship falling apart , Alan becomes a Christian , but this is mainly due to the attractive chaplain . Lyndon soon tells Joanna that he finds her disturbing , and Joanna then puts an end to Alan 's new @-@ found Christian beliefs .

Mac decides to move to Sheffield to get a better job , taking Emily with him . Before he leaves , Mac bets Guy that he cannot sleep with Joanna . Guy accepts the bet and takes her home . However , Martin has discovered some shocking news and tries his best to stop them having sex , but is distracted by Karen 's affections . Caroline does her best to break up the relationship between Mac and Emily , but it is Emily who breaks up with Mac . Caroline accused Emily of being a fake but was proved wrong . Mac found this amusing and so Emily dumps him . Mac then tells Caroline that he felt three things when she had accused his then girlfriend : he was impressed and amused , but instead of saying the third thing he kisses her .

After Guy and Joanna have sex , Martin arrives to tell them that Joanna is Guy 's mother . She met Guy 's father whilst she was an exchange student in Switzerland . Guy then stabs a syringe full of Botox into Martin 's legs as an act of revenge . Martin is taken into an ambulance , and Caroline helps Joanna , but Guy punches Mac in a drunken rage and steals the ambulance . Mac tries to stop him and gets on the ambulance , which drives away . Guy drives the ambulance to Wales , with Mac and the paralysed Martin with him . Whilst Mac tries to phone the police , Guy drives into a field and almost goes over a cliff . The first series ends with Guy , Mac and Martin teetering on the edge ? a literal cliffhanger ? while ending up in a discussion about which of The Three Musketeers they are most like .

= = = Comic Relief sketch (2005) = = =

Mac fends off Sue 's advances by saying he will only allow her to touch his arse if she can raise £ 10 @, @ 000 for Comic Relief . Sue then proceeds to try to ask Martin , Joanna , Guy and Alan for the money , which she eventually manages to raise , though Mac runs off before she can get hold of him .

= = = Series 2 = = =

Eight weeks after the incident with the ambulance , Mac is in a coma and Guy has been suspended from his job . Caroline is spending too much time with Mac , in Sue 's opinion , and tries to stop her from seeing him . During his coma , Sue steals some of Mac 's semen to make herself pregnant . Mac then comes out of his coma , but is suffering from memory loss and cannot remember his new @-@ found love for Caroline . Angela soon leaves the hospital in order to take a career in television . With Angela gone , Guy becomes Caroline 's new lodger .

Alan and Joanna are still having problems , though Martin and Karen seem to be getting along well . Martin then decides to leave Karen , and Joanna then tries to pull Lyndon again . However , Lyndon avoids this by saying he is dating Harriet . After a date , Harriet feels uncomfortable with the relationship and leaves him , but soon her husband Ian dumps her for having the affair .

Just when Caroline thinks she has managed to win Mac back , his former girlfriend Holly (Sally Phillips) returns to the hospital , to replace Angela . Things become even worse when it is discovered that she never had the abortion that was the cause of Mac and Holly 's breakup years ago , and that Mac has a son . Caroline distances herself from Mac , and Guy starts to fall in love with her . Caroline however seems to have feelings for Jake Leaf (Darren Boyd) , a complementary therapist . Guy takes actions into his own hands and throws a Swiss army knife into Jake 's head . Sue then discovers that Holly is lying , that Mac is not her son 's father after all . Holly leaves the hospital . Caroline dumps Jake and then tries to impress Mac again .

When Alan becomes unusually happy after winning an internet caption competition , Joanna plans to make him upset again . Using her dwarf cousin (Big Mick) , she plans to scare him . The plan backfires when Alan is so scared , he beats Joanna 's cousin to death with a stuffed heron . Alan and Joanna throw the body into the incinerator , but become paranoid that they will be discovered . Alan however learns from Boyce that the death is being viewed as a suicide , so Alan and Joanna go on a rampage , thinking themselves above the law .

After the death of a patient known as " Yo @-@ yo Man " who offers them wise advice , Guy , Mac and Martin all decide to propose to Caroline . She rejects Martin , considers the offer from Guy , and Mac appears to be unable to form a proposal . Caroline then learns that Mac wants to meet her at the train station , but when she arrives , it is Guy who turns up . Mac is still at the hospital , where he learns that he is going to die . Caroline then accepts Guy 's proposal of marriage . Meanwhile , in the HR department , Karen is sitting on a windowsill , due to her fear of Clangers . Whilst sitting there , Rachel opens the window behind her , and causes Karen to fall out . However , no one seems to notice .

The police arrive at the hospital . Alan and Joanna believe that they will be arrested , and with Boyce 's help escape from the hospital . Alan and Joanna then escape in a camper van , with Alan becoming increasingly unstable . When it is discovered that Martin is riding in the back , Alan then drives into a field , and nearly drives the camper van over the same cliff that Martin was teetering over at the end of the first series .

= = = Secret Policeman 's Ball sketch (2006) = = =

A sketch was performed for Amnesty International 's Secret Policeman 's Ball , with performances from Tamsin Greig , Stephen Mangan , Julian Rhind @-@ Tutt and Michelle Gomez . Mangan and Rhind @-@ Tutt appeared in two sketches .

When the announcer at the ball asks if there is a doctor in the house , Mac puts his hand up , to Caroline 's embarrassment . Things get more embarrassing when Guy also volunteers , and asks why Caroline is sitting next to Mac when she is Guy 's fiancée . A unconscious patient lies on an operating table . Guy touches her breasts , takes pictures of her naked body under the blanket , and kisses her . Caroline alleges that the patient is transgender , which repels Guy . Sue White then appears in a tutu , claiming that the patient is stalking Mac , and repeating the assertion that the patient is transgender .

= = = Special = = =

The episode begins with the funeral of Angela , who departed the show during the second series , after being killed by a moose , at least according to Guy . Mac , after a month 's leave , discovers what has happened between Caroline and Guy , and although hurt , makes no attempt to interfere . Guy , on learning of Mac 's terminal illness , tells Caroline to marry Mac instead of him .

Meanwhile , Alan and Joanna are still on the run , rescued by Martin who calls the AA . Whilst on their journey , they accidentally kill three more people , a mechanic , a shop assistant and a policeman . Soon , they decide that , with no transport , money or employment , the only option is suicide . They are last seen , naked , walking hand @-@ in @-@ hand towards the sea . Meanwhile , Karen returns to work after her fall , but has changed drastically . She has become more confident and has developed better dress sense . Boyce ends up missing Alan , after his replacement turns out to be even more horrible . With Joanna gone , the office girls start to run riot , as in The Lord of the Flies . They form their own tribe and become hostile to anyone who enters the department .

Mac and Caroline finally marry , despite Mac 's terminal illness (the exact nature of which is never disclosed , although Mac does tell Guy that its name has an " a " and an " e " in it) . Sue gets over her obsession with Mac and finds love with a new man , who reciprocates her feelings . The episode concludes with Caroline being carried into the air by a mass of helium filled balloons at the wedding reception , although on the DVD boxset extras it shows an alternate ending where Guy and Mac grab onto Caroline 's ankles and are taken to the sky with her ; this alternative ending ends with Mac saying , " Caroline , there 's something I 've been meaning to tell you . "

= = Signature jokes = =

Green Wing contains running jokes . These include Guyball , a sport invented by Guy when he was at public school , with somewhat confusing rules . The basic object of the game is to throw a ball into a " Topmiler " , a basket attached to a helmet . This game was even played at the Wingin ' It Green Wing Convention .

Another signature joke is the frequent visits by main characters to Sue White 's office , in which these characters expect Sue to act as some kind of psychiatric counsellor to them , only to be thwarted by Sue 's ever more peculiar behaviour .

Also , Guy often says things that are inappropriate and sexually inappropriate and after noticing the reaction from the person to whom he is speaking , follows his comment with " ... let me finish " and a clarification . After trying to teach Martin this method in the very first episode , Guy also regularly attempts to pick up women throughout the two series by talking on his phone and saying " I 'll see you in Zurich " , in an attempt to sound " jet @-@ setty " .

Another Green Wing series of running jokes is about hair . One of the more notable was various cracks about Mac 's untidy hair , with Sue lending him a hair tie and hair clips before he goes in for an interview . Another was the character Karen getting her hair trapped in a printer in the first episode . Mac was often referred to as a Ginger by the other characters . Guy 's hair becomes gradually curlier as the series goes on and Rachel dyes her hair from blonde to brunette after the first series . Other recurring jokes include Boyce 's practical jokes , the bizarre games played by the human resources staff and surgery scenes where Caroline , Guy and Mac mess around while performing operations .

= = Cast = =

= = = Main characters = = =

Sarah Alexander - Angela Hunter
Sally Bretton - Kim Alabaster
Oliver Chris - Boyce
Olivia Colman - Harriet Schulenburg
Tamsin Greig - Caroline Todd
Michelle Gomez - Sue White
Pippa Haywood - Joanna Clore
Mark Heap - Alan Statham
Katie Lyons - Naughty Rachel
Stephen Mangan - Guy Secretan
Lucinda Raikes - Karen Ball
Julian Rhind @-@ Tutt - " Mac " Macartney
Karl Theobald - Martin Dear

= = = Recurring characters = = =

Darren Boyd - Jake Leaf
Keir Charles - Oliver
Daisy Haggard - Emmy
Paterson Joseph - Lyndon Jones
Sally Phillips - Holly Hawkes

= = Critical reaction = =

The show has received generally very positive reviews . The Evening Standard said that it was " a comedy as physically adroit as it was verbally sharp " , and The Guardian said that " Channel 4 ? s hospital sitcom is the most innovative comedy since , well , The Office . " In a review of television in 2006 , Kathryn Flett in The Observer voted it one of the top ten TV programmes of the year . In Broadcast magazine , the second series was voted joint @-@ second best comedy series in 2006 . In South Africa , where Green Wing is broadcast on BBC Prime , The Sunday Times of South Africa voted the show the best DStv programme of 2007 . Composer Daniel Pemberton wrote that the soundtrack to Green Wing was , " One of the most innovative TV soundtracks in recent years . " Famous fans of Green Wing include novelist Ian Rankin and comedian Catherine Tate .

Criticisms of Green Wing include the lazzis methods of filming and the overall length of the episodes , claiming that hour @-@ long episodes are too long . The show won the 2005 and 2006 Comedy Tumbleweed Awards for " Worst Camerawork " . Some were also critical of what was seen as a decline in quality when the second series began . Cathy Pryor in The Independent on Sunday said that , " Sadly , though , since I 'm something of a fan , I have to report that the first episode of the second series is , disappointingly , rather flat . To be fair , there were a couple of laugh @-@ out @-@ loud moments - Dr Statham banging his head and falling down being one of them - but the whole [thing] didn 't quite gel . Or should that be coagulate ? I 'll stop making bad jokes now since I 'm still not as funny as anyone in the show . But I sincerely hope that the opener is a one- off and not a sign that Green Wing is going down the pan . "

Similar comments were made by A. A. Gill . When the first series was broadcast , he praised the cast and characters , but commented negatively on the filming style and dramatic qualities . He also said :

" ... it was one of the most freshly funny and crisply innovative comedies for years . The humour was all based in the character , not the situation . The story lines were negligible ; there were no

catch phrases ; it was surreal in a way we hadn't seen since Monty Python ; and the cast were actors being funny from inside a characterization , not stand @-@ up comics bolting a cartoon persona onto the back of gags . "

Subsequently , Gill attacked the first episode of series two , in particular the use of a dream sequence at the beginning of the episode . He wrote ,

" Now , every 11 @-@ year @-@ old knows dream sequences are the lowest form of plotting solution , lower than unexplained superpowers such as the ability to stop time or become invisible ; even lower than a magic get @-@ better potion . Within two minutes , Green Wing had destroyed itself , lost its assured grip on the cliff of comedy and tumbled into the abyss of embarrassing overacting , formless gurning and pointless repetition . What had once looked Dada @-@ ishly brilliant now looked like stoned improv from a show @-@ off 's drama school . The lack of plot and coherent narrative that previously had been a blessed freedom was revealed to be a formless free @-@ for @-@ all , brilliant performances as silly mannerisms . Nothing I 've seen this year has disappointed me as sharply as the second series of Green Wing . As Tom Paine so poignantly pointed out , only a step separates the sublime from the ridiculous . "

The rest of the series received some praise and , in a 2009 article , Gill - writing about the current comedy output at the time - said : " Show me a funny indigenous comedy series ; show me one that has been made in the past five years , other than Green Wing . "

= = Media = =

= = = DVDs = = =

= = = Books = = =

The first series scripts were released as Green Wing : The Complete First Series Scripts in paperback on 22 October 2006 (ISBN 1 @-@ 84576 @-@ 421 @-@ 8) , by Titan Books . The book contains bonus material made exclusively for the book and previously unseen photos .

= = = Soundtrack = = =

The soundtrack , entitled Green Wing : Original Television Soundtrack by Trellis was released by Silva Screen on 8 October 2007 . It contains 23 tracks of the best of Jonathan Whitehead 's Original Music created for the show .

= = = Online viewing = = =

On 7 May 2009 , the first series became available on Hulu . Both series are now available on Hulu and Hulu Plus . It is also available (both complete series) on Channel 4 on Demand and on the LoveFilm instant streaming service run by Amazon in the United Kingdom .

= = Awards and nominations = =

Green Wing won the first BAFTA Pioneer Audience Award in 2005 . This is the only BAFTA award that is voted on by the general public . Pippa Haywood won the 2005 Rose d 'Or for " Best Female Comedy Performance " . Tamsin Greig won an award at the RTS Awards in 2005 for " Best Comedy Performance " . Jonathan Whitehead won " Best Original Score " at the RTS Craft & Design Awards 2005 .

Green Wing has also won a number of times in The Comedy.co.uk Awards , including the " Comedy Of The Year " award in 2006 .

= = Possible spin @-@ off = =

The cast , crew and writers of Green Wing have shown no interest in creating a third series because of scheduling difficulties due to new projects being undertaken by the creators and talkbackTHAMES not having a big enough budget . However , creator Victoria Pile mentioned in an interview in the Radio Times that she may do a spin @-@ off , saying , " I 'm hoping to do another Channel 4 comedy imminently , possibly starring some of the same cast . Hopefully , it will be some kind of spin @-@ off from Green Wing . "

In 2009 , Pile and most of the writing team behind Green Wing created a sitcom pilot set in a university entitled Campus , which features similar concepts to Green Wing , including improvisation . The motto of the university is " with wings " , a reference to the show . The pilot was broadcast as part of Channel 4 's Comedy Showcase . A full series began in 2011 , but was cancelled after one series .

= = Impact = =

A cocktail called the Green Wing was served at the 2005 BAFTAs . It is made using vodka , cloudy apple juice , elderflower cordial and sparkling mineral water .

A Green Wing convention called " Wingin ' It " was organised to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital , and took place on 13 January 2007 at the Brook Green Hotel , Hammersmith . A DVD of the convention is to be released .

There was a special appearance by Green Wing cast at the British Film Institute , on 17 January 2007 . Pile , Greig , Mangan and Rhind @-@ Tutt appeared . Some of the other writers , as well as Theobald and Heap , were in the audience . The event was hosted by John Lloyd . Green Wing appeared in an episode of the BBC documentary series Imagine , entitled A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Studio . Some of the funeral scenes from the special were shown , and the presenter of the show , Alan Yentob , appeared as one of the mourners .