

# CONTENTS

PASSING THE AUDITION:  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 6

## **1 IN WHICH THE PYTHONS MEET THE PYTHONS 10**

Terry Jones slags off the others 11

Michael Palin blows the gaff  
on the Pythons 14

Eric Idle bares his soul  
about the rest 18

John Cleese talks about  
himself in relation to the others 22

Graham Chapman speaks  
from beyond the void 26

Terry Gilliam pisses  
on the Pythons 29

## **2 IN WHICH WE ARE BORN 32**

Eric Idle 33

Michael Palin 41

John Cleese 60

Terry Jones 67

Graham Chapman 78

Terry Gilliam 87

## **3 IN WHICH WE PRETEND TO GROW UP 95**

Universities 96

Life before the Circus 133

## **4 'IT'S...' 186**

Monty Python's Flying Circus 187

And Now For Something  
Completely Different 270

'The giant had been stung!' 279

## **5 IN WHICH WE ALL BECOME STARLETS 306**

Monty Python  
and the Holy Grail 307

Life of Brian 349

The Bowl of Life 388

## **6 THE MEANING OF DEATH 411**

## **7 ... AND BEYOND 419**

A BRIEF CAST OF CHARACTERS 438

MONTY PYTHON: A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME 443

INDEX 446

PICTURE CREDITS 462

NOTES FOR THE CHAPMAN SOURCES 463