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Screen-Matched Brains Puppet Ω

Thunderbirds (T.V. Series, 1965-1966)/ Thunderbirds Are Go (1966)/Thunderbird 6 (1968)

A screen-matched Brains puppet from Gerry and Sylvia Anderson's sci-fi adventure series Thunderbirds, the 1966 film Thunderbirds Are Go, and the 1968 film Thunderbird 6. The puppet's hairline matches the style seen at the beginning of Thunderbird 6, when Brains suggests that the airship is a revolutionary aircraft, causing much laughter from the executives at New World Aircraft Corporation.

Tracy Island's resident scientist and engineer was the genius behind all of International Rescue's Thunderbird vehicles. Brains is one of the series' most recognisable characters, with his distinctive glasses and nervous manner. However, unlike many of the other characters, he often demonstrated that problem-solving and innovation were equally as important as physical strength and bravery.

This puppet's head, hands, body, legs, internal operating mechanisms and glasses are all original to the production. The head was sculpted by Century 21 staff puppeteer Mary Turner during the series' last phase of production. The back of the head is held in place by magnets and can be removed, revealing the solenoid and eye mechanisms within. The mouth mechanism flap is still functional and hinges to reveal the character's teeth. The interior body is labelled "Brains A Stage 2 1966". Both the removable head section and the costume are labelled "J4". The puppet is dressed as seen in the opening scene of Thunderbird 6. While it was created for the original series (as indicated by the internal labelling), it was revamped for Thunderbird 6, with a repainted, darker skin tone and a new wig.

Complete Thunderbirds puppets of this quality rarely come to market. This is one of five puppets that were used for promotional appearances through 1968 and '69 to promote Thunderbird 6. The first published article relating to it appeared in Supermarionation is Go! Magazine Issue 1 (April 1981). The puppet has been exhibited on many occasions, most notably at: Anderthon II Convention 1987 (25 January 1987, Sydney); various Nine Network Australia "Thunderbirds" cross-promotions and campaigns (1989-2001); the Back To The '60s Exhibition (May 1991, Adelaide Myer Centre); Nestlé Australia's Thunderbirds cross-promotions and campaigns (1996); The Great Thunderbirds Exhibition (24-31 July 1998, Melbourne); and the Powerhouse Museum's On The Box exhibition (2004-2006, Sydney Ultimo).

The puppet is displayed on a custom-made display stand and has undergone minor, sympathetic restoration. It is accompanied by documents detailing the chain of provenance. Dimensions (displayed): 18 cm x 18 cm x 53 cm (7" x 7" x 20.75")

Estimate: £100,000 - 200,000

The interior body is labelled "Brains A Stage 2 1966"



Scan here to see a full rotation of this lot



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