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DANNY KAYE'S ROYAL SHOW

Undismayed by a non-stop November drizzle, enthusiastic thousands crowd all approaches to London's Palladium, expectantly awaiting the show of the year - the Royal Command Performance. Not standing a chance of getting in themselves, they suffer slight discomforts gladly, just to watch the celebrated arrive. Swaying backwards and forwards, the crowd bulges ominously as a sleek black car brings along the star of the night - the man thousands had waited six hours to see - Danny Kaye.

His overgrown curls hidden below a large sun hat, Danny hurries away and the crowd surges forward to acclaim the King and Queen arriving with Princess Margaret and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Splendour and gaiety, not seen since before the war make this the theatre's night of nights. Forty million people wanted to see or hear it. A hundred thousand applied for tickets. Only two thousand were lucky. Brooklyn's wonder boy had stopped a film and flown 6,000 miles to attend, bringing with him his wife, who in the foyer is presented to the King and Queen.

With artistes giving their services free and proceeds going to charity, a celebrity-packed audience pays nearly £20,000 to watch the show.

One of the highlights comes when the Crazy Gang presents a rocking horse to Prince Philip - for future use in the nursery. But acknowledged as the star of the evening is the carrot-headed comedian from Brooklyn. Convulsing an audience, who cheer him to the echo, the Royal Show okays Danny - the Wonder Man.