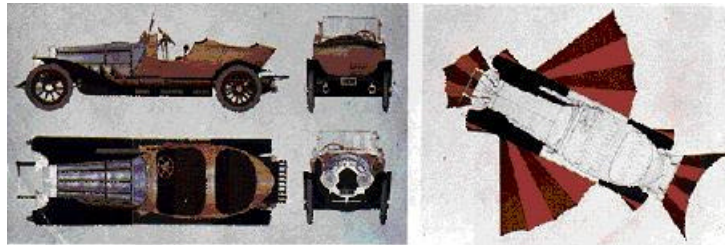


# CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

## *the car*

Production Designer Ken Adam stood firm in his belief that if the film was to be about a car, it had to be about just that and not a mock up. Along with Rowland Emmett, who had been assigned the task of creating a series of mad inventions to appear in the film, and the Ford racing team headed by Alan Mann, Adam set about creating CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG.



The final product weighed approximately 2 tons, was 17 feet long, and built on a custom made ladder frame chassis. NO detail was spared in her creation. Many traditional forms of car-building were re-employed, and modern technology stepped in to create a vehicle which was both accurate enough to fool veteran car experts when under the microscope of 70mm cinema cameras and hard-wearing enough to withstand everything from driving in sand to driving on cobbled streets and down stair-cases.

The wheels were moulded in alloy to replicate the timber wheels which would have been true to the period. The boat deck was of red and white cedar and built by boat-builders in Windsor, and the array of brass fittings were obtained from Edwardian wrecks. What couldn't be obtained was faithfully and accurately re-created. The alloy dashboard plate was from a British World War I fighter plane.

All of this was built around a modern Ford V6 engine with Automatic transmission.

Chitty rolled out of the workshop in June 1967 and was registered with the number plate GEN 11 given to her by Ian Fleming in his novel.

*(In the novel, the number plate GEN11 had significance in that if you read the number ones as "i's", it spelled out the latin word "genii" meaning magical person or being.)*

Because of the high level of detail on the vehicle and the rough treatment it was about to encounter

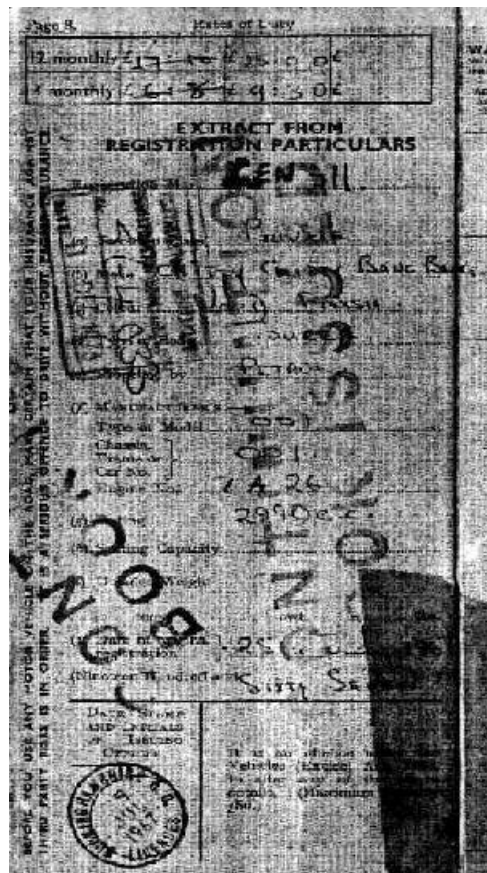
during film-making, a second "near-identical" vehicle was constructed as a stand-in for the more dangerous scenes and was also used for the "in studio" shots.

Another "no-brass / no-engine" dummy version was built to be dunked in sea-water, and another slightly different car was also built for trailer work and to be used as a stand in. Both of these are now on display in England.

Another light weight fibreglass shell was mounted on two "disguised" speedboats for sequences "at sea" and was actually seaworthy.

The other vehicles all bore GEN11 but this was purely cosmetic.

Only "the original" was registered with this plate and used in the road-driving sequences.



***PIERRE PICTON'S LOG BOOK for CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG "GEN 11"***

*Pierre Picton* first became involved with Chitty during filming in England in 1967/68. He was responsible for maintaining the car during production and for some "double" driving sequences. When filming was completed Pierre then transported and cared for Chitty as she toured the world promoting the film. Some years later, Pierre "acquired" both GEN11 and the second Chitty built for the film. Modifications were made to the second Chitty for her to be used in all types of shows including circus and ice-shows. The 'second' Chitty was later sold to Heathfield Wildlife Park and then to "The Rotunda Fun Park" in Folkestone before being bought by a private collector at auction in

1980.

GEN11 has remained in Pierre's ownership. She has appeared in countless charity events for the "Stars Organisation for Cerebral Palsy" in which Pierre is deeply involved. Her appearances in parades and car rallies still raise cheers, and her public appearances still draw huge crowds of admirers, both young and old - and she has driven Santa to many more functions than Rudolph! The film, now one of the biggest selling and "most pirated" videos ever released continues to spark the imaginations of children world-wide (and those of us reliving the joy it brought us as children).

**CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG is still the world's most easily recognised and famous car.**



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