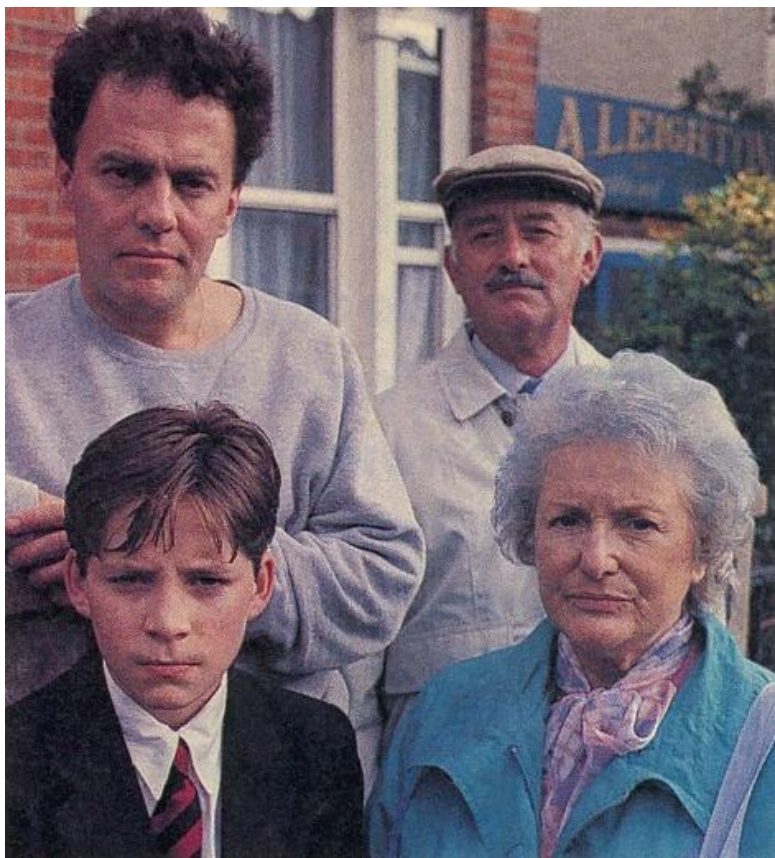


K graphic

Dodgem

UK TV serial : 1991 : dir. : BBC : 6 x 30 min
prod: : scr: Bernard Ashley : dir.ph.:
[Sean Maguire](#)
Lucy Speed; John Telfer; Trevor Peacock; Tim Wylton; Alan Thompson; Doreen Andrew;
Lisa Bowerman; Roland Oliver; Kerry Raynor; Tobias Best; Erin Geraghty; James Marcus;
Richard Bonneville; Stewart Harwood; Kate McLoughlin; David Hampshire; Graeme Briggs

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ € Z ☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2403a	2½	2	3	-	- - - - -	No	unseen



A bereavement in the family

Source: Radio Times

Radio Times review:

"For a chap whose latest role involves his mother dying and his father sinking into an apparently hopeless depression, Sean Maguire is feeling pretty chirpy. "I knew the 'Dodgem' book, so I was really pleased about the TV series" says Sean Maguire, 14, whose previous role was as 'Tegs' in "Grange Hill". "Simon Leighton, my character, has a lot of responsibility placed on him and does much

better than you think a 13-year old would do. Lots of kids at school have problems, but this shows that there are always ways through. It's a great story." "Dodgem"'s author, Bernard Ashley, who adapted his book for the TV series, denies setting out to teach lessons, despite the fact that he's head teacher of a south London primary school. "I write for entertainment and there's plenty of excitement and adventure in realism" he says."



Sean Maguire radiating level-headedness and competence

Source: Radio Times

"Life looks bleak for 13-year old Simon Leighton following the death of his mother. But nobody can get in his way when he decides to help his grief-stricken father in this new children's adventure, written by Bernard Ashley, whose previous children's dramas for BBC TV include **"The Country Boy"**. Simon is played by Sean Maguire - "Tegs" from **"Grange Hill"** - shown here *[overleaf]* with John Telfer - Detective Constable Willy Pettit in **"Bergerac"** - as his father, and Alan Thompson and Doreen Andrew as his grandparents."

"A children's drama in six episodes, by Bernard Ashley.

1 : Simon Leighton is in trouble with the authorities because of his continual truancy. But he stays at home for a purpose.

Why is Simon Leighton (Sean Maguire) staying away from school?

5 : Simon and Rose have escaped from the assessment centre and are now on the road to start a new life with the travelling fairground."

What's On TV note:

"Drama series.

- Simon now knows the truth about his mother's death.

- Simon has got a sprained ankle, but Rose isn't going to let a little thing like that interfere with their plan to escape from Darenth Lodge."



Source: Radio Times

Episode 5 Cast:

Simon Leighton.....	Sean Maguire
Rose Penfold.....	Lucy Speed
Alex Leighton.....	John Telfer
Charlie Penfold.....	Trevor Peacock
Tucker.....	James Marcus
Nick.....	Graeme Briggs
Linda Leighton.....	Erin Geraghty
Georgie Jones.....	David Hampshire

Seemingly a story with a positive message about the emotional strength of kids under domestic crisis. How far it goes beyond reassuring young viewers on the subject of death in the family to broader questions of independence and self-reliance it's not possible to say. If the story has him, in effect, running away to join a circus then perhaps it isn't as well grounded in reality as the initial synopsis suggests.

Sean Maguire was one of the few alumni of the "**Grange Hill**" classrooms - 88 to 90 - to continue in television after leaving the soap. He has appeared in the series "**Growing Pains**", "**Bonjour La Classe**" and more recently "**Dangerfield**", and in the feature "**WATERLANDS**" with Jeremy Irons.

See subject index under **CIRCUS / CLOWNS / FAIRGROUNDS, DEATH, GRANDPARENTS, ORPHANS / ADOPTION / CHILDREN'S HOMES, RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS, SCHOOL** and **SERIALISATIONS**.