

Citizen Smith (BBC 1977 = 1980)

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The 1970s UK sitcom “Citizen Smith,” created by John Sullivan, is a comedy that centers around the character Wolfie Smith, played by Robert Lindsay. The show aired on the BBC from 1977 to 1980 and spanned four series.

The basis of “Citizen Smith” revolves around the life and adventures of Wolfie Smith, a self-proclaimed “urban guerrilla” and the leader of a fictional revolutionary socialist group called the Tooting Popular Front. Wolfie is an idealistic young man living in the Tooting area of South London, who dreams of overthrowing the capitalist system and establishing a socialist utopia. However, his grandiose plans are often thwarted by his lack of competence, the apathy of his fellow “comrades,” and various humorous mishaps.

The show satirizes political activism and the countercultural movements of the 1970s, blending social commentary with humor. Wolfie’s revolutionary fervor and frequent blunders provide a comedic exploration of the gap between youthful idealism and practical reality. “Citizen Smith” reflects the political climate of the time, characterized by debates over socialism, capitalism, and the role of government, while also delivering a character-driven narrative that emphasizes the personal quirks and relationships of its cast.