

# London Evening Standard

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## Pity Sooty – back to work at the age of 65

WE'RE told we all have to work longer and forget about retirement, but this is ridiculous. Sooty is to return to British television in September, at the age of 65. Time has not been kind to the yellow bear: there was that acrimonious separation from Soo; the embarrassing time he was filmed in the Groucho, waving his wand and exhorting embarrassed onlookers to chant "Izzy wizzy, let's get busy"; the disastrous Ponzi scheme for which Sooty, the silent partner, took the rap when the criminal mastermind "clean" Sweep did a runner. As he wearily prepares to re-enact the same old slapstick routines, Sooty may gloomily reflect that Winnie-the-Pooh and Rupert, now 89 and 93 respectively, were still cranking out original content as recently as 2010. Paddington, a stripling at 55, has a new film out next year but his pension consists solely of a label marked: "Please look after this bear".