

ENTERTAINMENT
Test The Nation – The National IQ Test

In one of its most ambitious projects to date, the BBC is giving viewers the chance to discover their IQ. *Test The Nation – The National IQ Test* will be the biggest survey ever conducted to determine just how clever the nation is. Every viewer in the country will be able to join this live national event by watching the show, logging onto the internet at www.bbc.co.uk/testthenation, and taking part through interactive TV.

Over the course of one evening, this live programme asks viewers at home and a studio audience – including celebrities and six defined demographic groups – to complete 70 National IQ Test questions. In a matter of hours, results from across the nation could prove or disprove existing stereotypes and reveal whether housewives are smarter than politicians, taxi drivers are cleverer than judges and models more intelligent than managers.

Viewers taking part by filling in scorecards, logging onto BBCi and through interactive TV, will find out their own personal IQ results. Families, friends and work colleagues will be able to compare scores and see how they fare against each other and against a 300-strong studio audience made up of six defined groups, among them identical twins and students.

They, along with the nation, will complete The National IQ Test, which has been specially constructed and verified by Dr Colin Cooper of the British Psychological Society.

Test The Nation is a Talent Television production for BBC ONE. It is produced by Nichola Hegarty and directed by Simon Staffurth. The executive producers are Jon Beazley (BBC) and John Kaye (Talent Television).

Alistair McGowan's Big Impression

Master of mimicry Alistair McGowan returns with a new series, aided and abetted by Ronni Ancona.

The dextrous duo whip through the world of showbiz and celebrity to bring viewers their unique interpretations of the lives of the rich and famous. Favourite *EastEnders* faces, *Big Brother* lovebirds Helen and Paul and the unforgettable Richard and Judy make regular appearances, while Posh and Becks leave the luxury of Beckingham Palace to host daytime TV.

Newsroom tensions between Huw Edwards and Jenny Bond reach new heights, but love is in the air for comedian Alan Davies, who falls in love with black-and-white screen legend Bette Davis.

New faces include the riotous Ruby Wax and quiz show *Queen of Mean*, Anne Robinson, who are just two of the stars joining Louis Theroux in *Louis Potter And The Philosopher's Stone*.

Rigsby and Miss (Catherine Zeta) Jones are reunited in a revamped version of *Rising Damp*, and Alistair and Ronni pay a visit to the home of Neil and Christine Hamilton.

Some of Hollywood's hottest names, including Tom Cruise and Penelope Cruz, get an Alistair and Ronni makeover, and the two impressionists become good *Friends* with Phoebe and Ross.

Alistair McGowan's Big Impression is a Vera production, produced by Charlie Hanson and directed by Gareth Carrivick.

Alistair McGowan will also be portraying famous football faces and members of the Royal Family in a special one-off programme to celebrate the World Cup and the Queen's Golden Jubilee this summer on BBC ONE.

The Eurovision Song Contest 2002

The biggest international singing event of the year, the *Eurovision Song Contest 2002*, returns to BBC ONE on Saturday 25 May from Tallinn, Estonia. Terry Wogan guides viewers through the proceedings with his usual witty commentary, as the UK unites behind this year's entry, *Come Back*, performed by Top 10 *Pop Idol* finalist Jessica Garlick. Over 100,000 votes were cast in this year's *Song For Europe*, and the winning entry was written by Birmingham airline pilot Martyn Baylay.

To help celebrate the occasion, Angus Deayton takes a wry look back at the illustrious history of the world's most notorious music competition in BBC ONE's *Not Another Eurovision* (details below). BBC TWO also goes Eurovision crazy with a *Never Mind The Buzzcocks Eurovision Special*, featuring special guests Terry Wogan, Johnny Logan, Cheryl Baker and Sonia.

And as the nation is gripped by Eurovision fever, BBC CHOICE's Christopher Price presents *Liquid Eurovision* live each day in the week before the competition. In each programme, Christopher previews six songs and brings viewers updates on all the latest Eurovision news, live from the Estonian capital.

The Eurovision Song Contest 2002 is produced by Dominic Smith, with executive producer Kevin Bishop. A BBC production for BBC ONE.

Not Another Eurovision

The Eurovision Song Contest has been described as "beyond cool, beyond style and often beyond belief". Since 1956, when hosts Switzerland stole the show, millions have tuned in to watch it. Angus Deayton asks why, as he takes a look at the sometimes painful, often peculiar and frequently hilarious pratfalls that have brought so much joy to audiences across Europe – often for all the wrong reasons.

Eurovision is a competition for song-writers but, as Angus points out, it is also a contest in which countries try to "out camp" each other. Sparkling costumes, dazzling smiles, dodgy hair and never-seen-before and never-to-be-seen-again dance moves are de rigeur in this fantastic musical feast. Where else could you witness a man blowing down a hosepipe or trying to make music with a watering can?

Of course not everyone shares Angus's view. "Eurovision, despite its naffness, does believe itself to be a classy affair," the presenter says. It is certainly true that the host country usually pulls out all the stops to produce a spectacular show. Sadly, however, the highly polished event often slips into a kitsch and funny affair as the presenters cling desperately to their dignity.

With clips from many of the countries involved, including Iceland, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom, *Not Another Eurovision* titters at titles such as *Bra Vibrationer* and laughs at lyrics including "Music hangs in the air, like a really special smell".

With a wry smile, Angus describes the three types of Euro song: first, the songs with clever wordplay; then the songs with an understated lullaby; and finally those that have a message – i.e. get another lyricist.

And Eurovision wouldn't be the same without the seemingly endless hours of voting. Tactics and politics often play their part as neighbouring nations surprise no one with their favouritism. As Angus says, "Greece could bang a coal scuttle with a stick and still get 12 points from Cyprus."

With famous faces including Lulu, Celine Dion, Julios Iglasias and Sir Cliff Richard, and locations including Dublin, Brighton and Birmingham, who could resist this celebration of corny lyrics and cheesy tunes?

A BBC production for BBC ONE. Samantha Peters is the producer and the executive producer is Caroline Wright.

The FA Cup Classic

Russell Watson, Faye Tozer (formerly of Steps), Lesley Garrett, Willard White, a1, Bond and other stars team up with presenters Stephanie Hughes and Steve Rider for a one-off spectacular concert, sponsored by AXA, which kicks off the FA Cup Final weekend in Cardiff.

Stars from the worlds of classical and pop music and an audience of approximately 15,000 people in the exciting outdoor atmosphere of the CRFC Cardiff Arms Park, join viewers at home for an enthralling evening's entertainment. The BBC's Stephanie Hughes hosts the evening alongside Steve Rider, both of whom are no strangers to presenting music and sports events on a grand scale.

Up-to-date information about the concert, including news on confirmed artists, can be found on BBCi at www.bbc.co.uk/facupclassic.

French And Saunders Special

Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders return to BBC ONE with a one-off special, after a break of two years.

The new show includes the comedy duo's take on the Bafta Award-winning film *Lord Of The Rings – The Fellowship Of The Ring*, and appearances by old favourites such as the Star Pets Couple and the Aussie Prop Makers, who featured in the *Titanic* special.

French and Saunders's past exploits include their own interpretations of films such as *The Silence Of The Lambs*, *Thelma And Louise*, *Star Wars – The Phantom Menace* and an historically inaccurate version of *Titanic*. They have also appeared in their own versions of *Noel's House Party* and *Baywatch*, and burst onto the fashion scene in *The House Of Elliot*. The pair have also demonstrated their musical talents with hilarious spoofs of The Corrs, Shakespears Sister and Björk.

A BBC production for BBC ONE. The producer is Anil Gupta; executive producer is Jon Plowman.

The House That Jack Built

Adam Faith stars as Jack Squire, a wealthy, self-made property developer in *The House That Jack Built*.

Jack is a man who puts his family above everything else and who will stop at nothing to build the dynasty he's always dreamed of. He lives with his wife, Maxine (Gillian Tylforth), youngest son, JJ (Luke De Woolfson), and daughter, Lisa (Kellie Bright), in great style, as befits "Hertfordshire's first family". And at home, Jack knows best – though his "benevolent dictatorship" isn't always appreciated.

Roger, the Squires' eldest son (Richard Lumsden), is employed in the family business. He is desperate to please his dad, yet wants to be his own person. His wife, Vicky (Carli Norris), rarely sees eye to eye with her father-in-law, though a past encounter suggests a very different story.

JJ is Jack's biggest disappointment. He is more interested in cars and pulling girls than taking his dad's business seriously. But Lisa, his spoilt sister, is the apple of Jack's eye. If she gets her way – which she usually does – she'll be heiress to the Squire fortune, but her methods are hardly praiseworthy.

The House That Jack Built is an Alomo production, a Fremantle Media company, for BBC ONE. Written by Gary Lawson and John Phelps (*Goodnight Sweetheart*) and produced by Tony Charles, the director is Nic Phillips, the supervising producers are Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, and the executive producer is Claire Hinson.

Jim Davidson Meets The Troops

The Argentinean invasion of the Falkland Islands in April 1982 sparked a war with Britain which cost more than 1,000 lives.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the conflict, Jim Davidson visits the island to talk to the residents about how their lives have changed. He meets British troops who are stationed there now and those who fought in the war two decades ago.

A BBC production for BBC ONE. The executive producer is Kevin Bishop.

My Hero

Health food shop owner George Sunday (alias world-famous superhero, Thermoman) returns to save the world in a brand-new series of the romantic comedy.

Thermoman's (Ardal O'Hanlon) mission to save the world from destruction on a regular basis is still getting in the way of his Earthly romance with dedicated, no-nonsense nurse Janet (Emily Joyce).

Day by day, the couple have to overcome the conflicts that arise from Thermoman's double life. George has to make impossible choices such as deciding between staying for lunch with Janet's parents or flying off to save humankind from disaster.

And now life is even more complicated. Janet and George have a "Thermo Tot" to look after. But who will the little boy take after? Janet is in no doubt whatsoever.

A Big Bear Films production for BBC ONE. The producer is Marcus Mortimer.

Ted And Alice

Dawn French and Stephen Tompkinson star in *Ted And Alice*, a new romantic comedy drama written by Nick Vivian.

Ted (Stephen Tompkinson) is an alien who has come to Earth to find love – and where better to begin his search than the Lake District, an area rich

in romantic heritage and full of tranquil lakes ideal for hiding a spaceship. Ted is an outcast on his own planet, where the inhabitants have evolved into hermaphrodites. He is one of the rare single-sex aliens condemned to a life in search of contact.

Alice (Dawn French) works in the local tourist office with her friend, Jo (Katy Kavanagh, *Bob And Rose*, *The Cops*). She is the long-suffering girlfriend of Barry (Owen Teale, *Catherine Cookson's 15 Streets*, *Ballykissangel*), the village bobby, who alternates between dumping his washing on Alice's doorstep and disappearing on illicit jaunts with his friends.

Worlds collide when Ted and Alice meet but all is not as it seems in the picturesque lakeside village, where sinister activities threaten to tear them apart.

The series also stars David Walliams (*attachments*, *Rock Profiles*), Eleanor Bron (*Dr Who*, *The Little Princess*), David Troughton (*Underworld*, *A Very Peculiar Practice*) and Peter Serafinowicz (*World Of Pub*, *Spaced*).

Ted And Alice is a Granada production for BBC ONE. It is produced by Jacinta Peel (*Bernard And The Genie*, *The Hello Girls*) and directed by Steve Bendelack (*The League Of Gentlemen*, *The Royle Family*). It is written by Nick Vivian (*Hunting Venus*) and the executive producers are Jon Plowman (BBC) and Sita Williams (Granada).

TV To Go

In a world full of hi-tech, labour-saving devices and convenience foods, where people can dress down, chill out and do everything online, life should be so much easier ... shouldn't it?

TV To Go returns with a new series of comedy sketches taking a cynical swipe at the madness of modern living.

Pauline McLynn (*Father Ted*), Hugh Dennis (*My Hero*), Debra Stephenson (*Bad Girls*), Mackenzie Crook (*The Office*) and Mina Anwar (*The Thin Blue Line*) zip through one-off gags and fast-paced sketches quicker than a high-speed modem.

The House Husbands return to compare their latest household high-performance gadgets. Hi-tech obsessive compulsive DVD Man is back, along with new character Yoga Fascist – the most terrifying yoga teacher in the world. And there are some useful lessons in deconstructing complex coffee talk in *How To Speak Starbucks*.

Produced by Gareth Edwards and directed by Ben Fuller, the executive producer is BBC Head of Comedy Entertainment Jon Plowman.

The Waiting Game

Ruby Wax returns as host for the second series of *The Waiting Game*, in which three couples – who could be lovers, siblings, good friends or even exes – challenge each other in a general knowledge quiz for a potential prize fund of £30,000.

The show is also a battle of nerves: the longer contestants wait before hitting the buzzer, the more they stand to win. The danger is that if they wait too long, their opponents could steal the prize.

But *The Waiting Game* not only tests contestants' general knowledge, it can also make or break relationships. When one player buzzes, it's their partner who must answer – but the pair cannot see each other or confer.

After two rounds in which two couples are eliminated and the partners with control of the buzzers alternate, round three is the ultimate test of the finalists' relationship. Working as a perfect team – but without conferring and separated by a wall – their challenge is to answer six questions in one minute. If they fail to answer six or run out of time, they win nothing.

They need to be quick but the longer they wait, the more money they win: up to £5,000 if they wait the full 10 seconds. Both players can buzz in this round and answer a question but they could scupper their partner's plan. One player

may buzz and pass to save time, for example, whilst the other knows the answer and may have been waiting in order to bank the full £5,000.

The contestants – and the studio audience – also face a grilling from the irrepressible Ruby as she guides them through the game and encourages them, as only she can, to express their views about each other.

A Hat Trick production for BBC ONE. It is produced by Amanda Wilson and the executive producers are Jimmy Mulville and Denise O'Donoghue.