



DRAMA

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS 2005



ARCHANGEL

British-born actor Daniel Craig stars in a major adaptation of Robert Harris's compelling best-seller, Archangel.

Adapted by award-winning writers Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (Auf Wiedersehen, Pet) and filmed entirely on location in Moscow and Latvia, Archangel follows Oxford historian Fluke Kelso (Craig) on a dangerous and thrilling race to uncover the dark mystery behind the alleged secret diaries of Josef Stalin.

Set in contemporary Moscow and the frozen northern town of Archangel, the drama revisits the stark landscape of Communist Russia and takes place over four days in Kelso's life. His fateful meeting with a former Stalinist bodyguard of the NKVD secret police leads to the uncovering of one of the world's most dangerous and best-kept secrets. He is led unwittingly through murder and intrigue towards Josef Stalin's secret legacy – a legacy that could change the face of Russian history for ever.

Daniel Craig starred in the BBC's Our Friends In The North as well as the feature films Road To Perdition, The Mother, Sylvia, Layer Cake and the forthcoming Enduring Love. Robert Harris is the author of Pompeii, Enigma and Fatherland.

Drama publicity

LIFE ISN'T ALL HA HA HEE HEE

Childhood friends Tania, Sunita and Chila are now in their thirties and at a crossroads in life but their friendship still holds them together. Tania is the ambitious career girl who left her family and her “community” behind; Sunita dropped out of university to marry her sweetheart but feels trapped by two kids and an unfulfilling job; while Chila is getting married to Deepak, the man of her dreams. But is he the man of Tania’s dreams too?

Adapted from Meera Syal’s acclaimed novel, Life Isn’t All Ha Ha Hee Hee stars Laila Rouass, Meera Syal, Ayesha Dharker, Sanjeev Bhaskar and Ace Bhatti.

Drama publicity



FINGERSMITH

Imelda Staunton, Rupert Evans, Charles Dance, Sally Hawkins and Elaine Cassidy star in Peter Ransley’s adaptation of Sarah Waters Booker-nominated novel, Fingersmith.

Set in 19th-century London, Fingersmith (the Victorian slang for pickpocket) is the story of a con-man, Rivers, who embarks on the most ambitious scam of his career. Passing himself off as a gentleman, Rivers gains employment with Mr Lilly, while befriendng his young niece Maud, who stands to inherit a fortune when she marries. However, Maud’s maid has recently left her service and, without a chaperone, Rivers’ access to her is limited.

Rivers’ elaborate scheme is to seduce Maud into eloping with him and, once married, to commit her to an asylum while taking her fortune for himself. To achieve this he enlists the help of Sue. An orphan brought up by Mrs Sucksby in a world of petty thievery and charlatans, Sue is a “fingersmith with a heart of gold”.

The promise of a share in Maud’s fortune is enough to persuade her to join in with Rivers’ deception – and before long she is appointed as Maud’s new maid.

Rupert Evans plays Rivers, Charles Dance plays Mr Lilly, Elaine Cassidy plays Maud, Sally Hawkins plays Sue and Imelda Staunton plays Mrs Sucksby.

TH





FAITH

Christine Tremarco, Maxine Peake, Adrian Bower, Jamie Draven, Jason Flemyng and Clive Russell star in Faith – William Ivory’s moving and passionate story of two sisters’ struggle for survival during the year-long conflict between the Thatcher government and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which began in March 1984.

Michelle is married to Gary, a young miner who comes out on strike as soon as the dispute begins, and Linda’s husband Paul is a local policeman; two sisters on either side of the community divide.

As the weeks turn to months and bitterness and hardship become the norm, everyday life begins to change. While Michelle suddenly finds herself wanting to get more involved in the miners’ struggle, Gary begins to wonder whether he has the same passion as those with whom he stands on the picket line. Paul becomes more and more voluble in his opposition to the strike and Linda looks around her at the women of her community who have suddenly found a voice and independence. The scene is set for political and personal conflicts which will change their lives for ever.

Christine Tremarco plays Michelle, Jamie Draven plays Gary, Maxine Peake plays Linda and Adrian Bower plays Paul.

Drama publicity

DOCTOR WHO

Acclaimed actor Christopher Eccleston plays Doctor Who in a new series for BBC One next year. Billie Piper, who made her acting debut in the critically-acclaimed Canterbury Tales – The Miller’s Tale, stars alongside Eccleston as the Doctor’s companion, Rose Tyler.

Travelling through time and space, the Doctor and Rose come face to face with a number of new and exciting monsters – as well as battling with the Doctor’s arch-enemy, the Daleks.

The series, which promises to surprise and entertain a new generation, also features Penelope Wilton, Noel Clarke, Annette Badland, Camille Coduri and John Barrowman, Bruno Langley and celebrated theatre, film and television actor Simon Callow.

Filming in Cardiff until 2005 for transmission on BBC One, Doctor Who is written by Russell T Davies, Steven Moffat, Mark Gatiss, Paul Cornell and Robert Shearman.

AF/MO



THE AFTERNOON PLAY

A third series of the highly acclaimed, award-winning plays comes to BBC One Daytime.

The five self-contained dramas offer variety, quality and great entertainment to brighten the cold winter afternoons, from contemporary Shakespearian drama *The Hitch* to a story of escape, idealism and practicality in *The Good Citizen*; from very dark humour in *The Trouble With George* by Matthew Parkhill to a story of grief, childhood and magical realism in *The Singing Cactus*; and an Asian "meet the parents" in *Reverse Psychology*, written by Harwant Bain of BBC Three's *Grease Monkeys* fame.

The plays have again attracted a wealth of high calibre and popular talent including Lisa Faulkner, Samantha Janus, Jason Merrells, Claire Goose, Hugh Quarshie and Koel Purie.

CP

DOWN TO EARTH

Ricky Tomlinson and Denise Welch are back as the fun-loving northern duo Tony and Jackie Murphy in the rural drama *Down To Earth*.

Tony has been released from prison and the comedic pair buy *Silverdale* when it falls into receivership following the departure of Frankie and Matt Brewer.

The peace and quiet of the village is soon shattered by the arrival of new pub landlord Nick Christy (played by newcomer Rob Collier). He quickly sets hearts a-flutter amongst the female contingent, but it soon becomes obvious that he is attracted to Kerry Jamil (Shelley Conn), a beautiful yet inexperienced vet. However, his boyish charm and constant flirting soon rub her up the wrong way.

Down To Earth also stars Zara Dawson and Melanie Kilburn.

CP



THE MURDER ROOM

A gruesome murder sets Commander Adam Dalgliesh on a trail to the House of Lords as Martin Shaw returns as the taciturn detective and poet.

The Murder Room is classic PD James – a family at war, a secret society for sexual favours that involves lords of the realm, and a murder case which mimics the crimes from the *Murder Room*, a chilling exhibition in the Dupayne family museum, dedicated to the most gruesome real-life murders between the two world wars.

When the lease on the museum comes up for renewal, the three Dupayne family siblings have to sign it, according to their father's will, or it will be closed. Adopted brother Neville refuses and he becomes the first murder victim to die in a grisly killing that is a replica of one of the exhibits in the *Murder Room*.

Janie Dee (Emma Lavenham), Michael Maloney (Neville Dupayne), Samantha Bond (Caroline Dupayne), Sian Phillips (Marie Strickland), Kerry Fox (Murial Godby) and Jack Shepherd (James Calder-Hale) also star.

FP





CHERISHED

Sarah Lancashire and Timothy Spall star in the true story of Angela Cannings, the mother wrongfully convicted of killing two of her babies.

Angela spent two years in prison battling for justice before her conviction was quashed, creating a landmark in legal history and resulting in a change of the law. A review into other possible miscarriages of justice is ongoing.

Developed in close collaboration with BBC Current Affairs and Angela and Terry Cannings, *Cherished* is a powerful, moving story which tells of the devastating impact of the case on the family.

Reeling from the incredible anguish of losing her third child, Angela found herself under suspicion of murder. She was forced to move out of the family home and access to her daughter, Jade, was severely limited. Branded a child killer, she was attacked in prison and husband Terry had to leave his job and sell their home to prevent Jade being taken into care.

Angela was eventually released following new evidence of a genetic predisposition to cot death in her family which came to light following a BBC documentary on her case.

JDR

SEA OF SOULS

Exploring the strange and unexplained, Dawn Steele and Iain Robertson join Bill Paterson to make up the new parapsychology team in the second series of *Sea Of Souls*.

Monaghan's two new assistants – PhD student and single mother Justine McManus and research fellow Craig Stevenson – are drawn into a world of restless poltergeists, deathly premonitions and psychic healers. From the natural to the supernatural, the normal to the paranormal, the *Sea Of Souls* team attempts to explain the inexplicable.

Bill Paterson plays Monaghan, Dawn Steele plays Justine McManus and Iain Robertson plays Craig Stevenson. The six-episode series, featuring three two-part storylines, also stars Nigel Terry, James Fleet, Barbara Flynn, Colin Salmon and John Hannah.

JW4

BEATEN

Robson Green stars in a powerful film for BBC Daytime about love struggling for survival in a climate of fear and violence.

Michael is a Newcastle docker, and a man haunted by a tormented past and childhood betrayal. When violence erupts in his home, Michael's whole family fights to stop their world from crumbling. Michael goes on the run with Jamie, his young son, and his wife, Stephanie, finds her own painful childhood history repeating itself. The family are reunited in an emotional conflagration that reveals both the power of a child's love and the clarity of his vision.

AA