



BBC
ONE

AUTUMN 2005 HIGHLIGHTS



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THE VIRGIN QUEEN

Anne Marie Duff stars as *The Virgin Queen* in a new drama for BBC One about the life of one of Britain's greatest monarchs, Elizabeth I.

Paula Milne's powerfully authored drama about the long and eventful life of England's iconic Queen is currently filming against a backdrop of some of Britain's most beautiful houses and landscapes. *The Virgin Queen* explores the full sweep of Elizabeth's life: from her days of fear as a potential victim of her sister's terror, through her great love affair with Robert Dudley, into her years of triumph over the Armada, and finally her old age and her last, enigmatic relationship with her young protégé, the Earl of Essex.

The cast also includes: Joanne Whalley as Queen Mary, Dexter Fletcher as the Earl of Sussex, Tara Fitzgerald as Kat Ashley, Sienna Guillory as Lettice Knowles, Tom Hardy as Robert Dudley, Ian Hart as William Cecil, Robert Pugh as Lord Chancellor Gardiner, Kevin McKidd as the Duke of Norfolk, Hans Matheson as the Earl of Essex, Emilia Fox as Amy Dudley, Ben Daniels as Francis Walsingham, Ewen Bremner as Sir James Melville and Bryan Dick as Thomas Wyatt.

AF



EGYPT

In a major new landmark series, BBC One dramatises the story of the people who first uncovered Ancient Egypt for the modern world. *Egypt* tells of the intrepid adventurers, archaeologists and explorers who travelled through Egypt in the 19th and 20th centuries, igniting a fascination with Egypt that has been burning ever since.

The ancient and modern are woven together in this spectacular series. The first story tells of the adventures of Howard Carter, who was responsible for finding the tomb of Tutankhamun, the boy king who died mysteriously at the age of 18. Another story is about “The Great Belzoni” a jack-of-all-trades and die-hard adventurer, and Ramesses II, possibly the greatest Pharaoh of them all, who ruled Egypt for over 60 years. And finally, the series uncovers Jean- Francois Champollion’s struggle to understand and save a lost civilisation; the young French genius cracked the code of the hieroglyphs and brought back the knowledge of an ancient and mysterious faith that had been lost to the world for 3,000 years.

Filmed on location in Egypt, the series also focuses on the story of the Ancient Egyptians, whose secrets and belongings the adventurers were so desperate to uncover.

RI/EF

DID YOU KNOW..?

Hieroglyphic script remained a mystery for an incredible 1400 years. Champollion, the Frenchman who eventually cracked hieroglyphs, could speak seven languages at the age of 13; including Latin, Greek and Hebrew!

At the precise moment of Lord Carnarvon’s death, the lights blacked out across Cairo and his beloved dog howled and dropped down dead. It was thought to be the work of the ‘curse’ of Tutankhamun.

Two unborn baby girls were found in Tutankhamun’s tomb. They had been mummified and placed in tiny coffins. The hair, eyelashes and eyeballs were still preserved. They are thought to be the offspring of Tutankhamun and his wife, who miscarried at five and seven months.

Early Egyptologists camped in empty tombs whilst excavating the Valley of the Kings. Belzoni actually burned old mummy wrappings to keep warm!

Lord Carnarvon – Howard Carter’s sponsor and friend – died from an infected mosquito bite on his cheek. When the gold death mask of Tutankhamun was lifted, he too had a lesion on his cheek.

Prudish Victorian Egyptologists deliberately destroyed the rude parts of paintings on temple walls to avoid them corrupting others



GREEN GREEN GRASS

Only Fools And Horses' favourites Boycie and Marlene start a fresh life in Shropshire in John Sullivan's new sitcom.

Boycie (John Chaliss) is on the run from the infamous Driscolls so he ups sticks with his reluctant wife, Marlene (Sue Holderness), and recalcitrant son, Tyler (Jack Doolan), to a secluded farm in the country.

Looking for peace and a quiet life, Boycie is horrified to discover that the farm comes with three employees; but he's not as horrified as Marlene when they convince him that he'd make the perfect gentleman farmer. And then he buys a bull ...

A word from the writer:

John Sullivan says: "When I was writing *Only Fools*, I often used to wonder what Boycie and Marlene were like when they were at home together, alone. And now I've had the chance to find out!

"They're like lots of married couples – constantly bickering and trying to hide their little secrets but, deep down, they love each other.

"Inevitably, Boycie is better suited to the country as being a gentleman farmer appeals to his ego, and he's not afraid to try anything once, but Marlene finds the transition more difficult. Stiletos weren't made for traipsing across fields!"

FW



THE STORY OF ONE

Terry Jones takes viewers on a numerical mystery tour in *The Story Of One*, as he retraces the rise of the number one and its extended family.

Numbers have elevated us to our greatest achievements and, as Terry Jones relishes showing, at times they have inspired our greatest stupidities. From the Greek terror of infinity to the time the Catholic Church tried to ban zero, this programme revels in the exotica of numbers and leaves a Python's-eye view of a profoundly overlooked branch of history.

It's a surprising story that starts in a world of cavemen where man first scratched a mark into a baboon's bone 20,000 years ago. Scientists have found that these simple marks were regular and numerically ordered and must have been used for counting.

One took on a three-dimensional form when, 6,000 years ago, the people of Sumer in the Middle East represented it as a "token". This transformation went hand in hand with the beginning of arithmetics. The people could now not only add the number one but could also subtract with these tokens.

It had a measured existence in Egypt, where they used it to count distance. They took the length of a man's forearm to his fingertips and announced this as one cubit. In Greece, one brought much excitement when they realised that numbers were intrinsic to musical harmony. But in Rome, one's magical existence was reduced to a more orderly and sensible role as it brought structure to the Romans' armies.

One has travelled extensively and lived a full life that has seen it crash headlong through the most fabulous civilisations in the ancient world, side-step the Dark Age, stir up the Renaissance, and, finally, explode into the information age.

RI/EF



ROLF ON ART – THE BIG EVENTS

Two of the world's greatest paintings will soon become even bigger, with the help of Rolf Harris and hundreds of artists from across the UK. BBC One stages two unique public art events, inviting everyone to get involved.

Mona Lisa will bring her enigmatic smile to Edinburgh and *Henry VIII* will command an imposing view over London's Trafalgar Square when artists of all ages and abilities come together to recreate the masterpieces on a giant scale.

Rolf and his team have just one day to finish their versions of Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Holbein's *Henry VIII*. Viewers can follow their progress live to see whether Rolf succeeds in his biggest challenge yet.

DC

THE STORY OF GOD

Professor Robert Winston presents a definitive documentary series on the history of mankind's quest to understand the nature of God.

The Story Of God is a marathon journey across continents, cultures and eras exploring religious beliefs from their earliest incarnations, through to the development of today's major world religions and the status of religious faith in a scientific age.

As a man of science and of faith, and as a rationalist and believer, Lord Winston leads viewers on a personal journey as he seeks out the story of God. Travelling extensively across the globe from Iran to Rome, Egypt to Jerusalem and from Saudi Arabia to America, he visits some breathtaking places in his bid to uncover the building blocks of faith.

CR

DID YOU KNOW..?

Seven people in every thousand in England and Wales gave their religion as "Jedi" in the 2001 Census. A campaign on the internet claimed – wrongly – that Jedi, the belief system at the heart of the *Star Wars* films, would receive official government recognition as a religion if enough people quoted it on their Census forms.

According to a survey conducted by BBC One's *Heaven And Earth Show* in 2001, almost half (46 per cent) of the population believe that the Bible has the most positive influence on people of any publication and three in ten people (29 per cent) think this of the Highway Code.

In 2004, another survey for the BBC programme *What The World Thinks Of God* found that more than a quarter of Britons thought the world would be more peaceful with nobody believing in God, but very few people in other countries agreed.

The Census also showed that more than seven out of 10 people said that their religion was Christianity. After Christianity, Islam was the most common faith with nearly three per cent describing their religion as Muslim (1.6 million). Overall, 15 per cent of the British population reported having no religion.

In 2000, the BBC commissioned the largest-ever survey on beliefs and attitudes for the *Soul Of Britain* series and found that only 26 per cent of us now believe in a personal God. On the other hand, 69 per cent think we have a soul, and 25 per cent believe in reincarnation.

MESSIAH

Red Metcalf and his team are up against time when a suspected serial killer embarks on a gruesome murder spree in this gripping series of *Messiah*.

As the body count continues to rise, Red becomes increasingly agitated as the killer tantalisingly remains one step ahead. His desperate quest to unravel the clues left at each scene leave him frustrated and despairing as each murder becomes ever more horrific.

Ken Stott is Red Metcalf and Neil Dudgeon, Maxine Peake, Helen McCrory and Hugo Speer co-star.

UM



SPOOKS

A high-octane two-part feature-length special launches the return of critically acclaimed Bafta, RTS and TRIC award-winning *Spooks* for a new season this autumn on BBC One.

MI5's crack team of spies was left reeling after the shocking death of Danny at the hands of hostage-takers as the last series concluded. Now Adam (Rupert Penry-Jones), Harry (Peter Firth), Ruth (Nicola Walker), Fiona (Olga Sosnovska) and rising star Zafar (Raza Jaffrey) set out to become even stronger in their battle to safeguard the nation.

The fourth series opens with an action-packed special which leaves MI5 with only 48 hours to prevent a catastrophe. Adam faces one of the most difficult choices of his career: in order to save a hospital from devastation, will he be forced to let a brave and innocent young woman die?

The special, directed by Antonia Bird, introduces Anna Chancellor as Juliet Shaw, National Security Co-ordinator and Harry's nemesis – and also a figure from his past; and also guest stars Martine McCutcheon in her first UK TV role since leaving *EastEnders*. Guest artists starring in the series include Rupert Graves, Jimi Mistry, George Baker and David Threlfall, and there are return appearances from Hugh Simon and Rory Macgregor.

JP





(c) Getty images

AT 12.59AM ON BOXING DAY 2004, A MASSIVE DEEP-SEAQUAKE STRUCK JUST OFF THE COAST OF INDONESIA, SPARKING A TIDAL WAVE OF MONSTROUS PROPORTIONS. WITHIN SEVEN HOURS, THE TSUNAMI HAD BATTERED INDONESIA, THAILAND, SRI LANKA, INDIA AND THE MALDIVES, BEFORE FINALLY WORKING OUT ITS MOMENTUM IN EAST AFRICA. OVER 220,000 PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES AND THE WORLD WAS CHANGED FOR EVER.

7 HOURS ON BOXING DAY

7 Hours On Boxing Day marks the first anniversary of the tsunami and tells the most compelling human stories in the countries worst affected. These inspiring and heartbreaking accounts are combined with footage of the wave itself, a disturbing testimony to the ferocious and awesome power of nature.

JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF THE TSUNAMI

In an attempt to understand the devastating wave that shocked the world on Boxing Day 2004, *Journey To The Heart Of The Tsunami* accompanies an expedition of top scientists as they explore the seabed site of the catastrophe.

Sending cameras deep into the abyss to witness first hand the collision between the Earth's crustal plates, the film not only provides dramatic footage of the epicentre that triggered the tsunami, but also reports on the scientific research gathered at the site. These findings will be hugely beneficial to the understanding of such phenomena and could even help provide accurate warnings of when and where the next tsunami may hit.

KC

LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH

Just when you thought there was no more of the natural world left to film, Sir David Attenborough returns to TV screens in a landmark new series revealing that he has yet to film most of the animals in the world.

Although they are all around, these creatures' lives often go virtually unnoticed. Now, using the latest technology, BBC One takes viewers into their world to discover the amazing stories of the most successful creatures on Earth: the invertebrates. Cameras capture not just bugs, beetles, spiders and scorpions, but also the most amazing butterflies, dragonflies and a host of incredible creatures never before seen on television.

The invertebrate world is one of magnificent spectacles. David takes viewers to Taiwan to see swarming purple Crow

butterflies, to Africa to witness an army of Matabele ants raid a termite colony, and to North America in time for the great emergence of 17 year cicadas. It's a series of incredible colour and beauty such as iridescent butterflies and rainbow spider webs.

Just over 400 million years ago, creatures left the seas to move on to what was then a barren and lifeless land. Since that first foothold, the invertebrates have dominated every part of the Earth and the air with their numbers and diversity. For every human, there are 200 million of them. Night vision cameras, thermal cameras and tiny lenses allow Attenborough to investigate behaviour that is normally invisible to the human eye and reveal breathtaking stories, many of which are new to science.

Life In The Undergrowth has been a passionate project for Sir David Attenborough and a series that he has wanted to make for a long time: "The tiny creatures of the undergrowth were the first creatures of any kind to colonise the land.

They established the foundations of the land's ecosystems and were able to transcend the limitations of their small size by banding together in huge communities of millions. If we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well. But if the invertebrates were to disappear, the land's ecosystems would collapse.

Wherever we go on land, these small creatures are within a few inches of our feet – often disregarded. We would do very well to remember them."

Invertebrates have always dominated "our" world. Now, for the first time, we can enter theirs.

DC

BBC ONE IS CRAWLING WITH INSIGHTS INTO INSECTS THIS AUTUMN – HERE ARE SOME BIG FACTS ABOUT TINY CREATURES....

ABOUT 35,000 SPECIES OF SPIDERS ARE KNOWN AND MORE ARE BEING DISCOVERED EVERY DAY

THE SMALLEST FLYING INSECT IS THE FAIRY WASP WITH A LENGTH OF ONLY 0.2MM. IT FLIES UNDERWATER, AS THE SERIES WILL SHOW

DRAGONFLIES ARE THE FASTEST FLYING INSECT IN THE WORLD, ATTAINING SPEEDS OF UP TO 36MPH – NO WONDER THEY WERE SO DIFFICULT TO FILM!

IN AN OLD FIELD IN SOUTH WALES, RESEARCHERS RECENTLY FOUND APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION SPIDERS PER ACRE (2.5 MILLION PER HECTARE)

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SPIDER IS THE GOLIATH BIRD-EATING SPIDER WITH A BODY LENGTH OF 3.5 INCHES, A LEG SPAN OF 11 INCHES, FANGS MEASURING ONE INCH LONG AND A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 4.3OZ

THE LARGEST BEETLE IS NOW KNOWN TO BE THE TITAN BEETLE FROM THE AMAZON BASIN. IT IS UP TO 7 INCHES (18 CM) LONG AND WILL APPEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME ON TELEVISION IN THIS SERIES

FOR EVERY POUND OF PEOPLE ON EARTH THERE ARE 300 POUNDS OF INSECTS

TERMITES INVENTED AIR CONDITIONING FOR THEIR MOUNDS MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO. *LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH* GOES INSIDE A MOUND TO SEE HOW IT WORKS



STRICTLY COME DANCING

The glitz and glamour of the ballroom is back this autumn as *Strictly Come Dancing* returns to Saturday nights on BBC One.

With two more couples than the second series, 12 new celebrity dancers will compete against each other over the weeks in a range of ballroom styles – from the waltz to the foxtrot, and the jive to the rumba.

Each celebrity is paired with a professional dance partner who puts them through their paces during daily rehearsals and prepares them for a live Saturday-night performance. Each week, the couples face both a vote by the panel of expert judges and by the general public, with the lowest-scoring couple knocked out of the competition.

Strictly Come Dancing has won a number of awards including *Broadcast* award for Best New Programme; TRIC award for TV Entertainment Programme; RTS award for Entertainment programme; Broadcasting Press Guild Awards for Best Entertainment programme and Best Performer for Bruce Forsyth; and a Festival Rose d'Or award for Variety programme.

Following its success on BBC One, the format for *Strictly Come Dancing* has been a hit across the world, from Austria to Australia, and from Russia to the USA – 11 countries in total.

In the United States, the ABC version of the show – *Dancing With The Stars* – has topped the Wednesday-night ratings with over 13 million viewers tuning into the first show. The Australian version for Channel 7 was one of the most successful shows for the channel in its history.

JM

CHILDREN IN NEED

Broadcasting live from Television Centre, the BBC Children In Need appeal once again entertains the nation. After a hugely successful 25th birthday in 2004, raising a total, to date, of over £35m, it's time to look to the future.

Some new faces are set to join in the evening when stars of stage and screen gather to perform their most spectacular musical hits, or perhaps reveal their hidden talents. BBC Local Radio and Television also join in the fun on the night with star-studded events in the regions.

Every single penny donated to the charity goes directly to an organisation that helps children in the UK – none is ever used for other costs.

GM

CARRIE & BARRY

Neil Morrissey, Claire Rushbrook, Mark Williams and Michelle Gomez star in Simon Nye's comedy *Carrie & Barry*, which returns for a brand-new series this autumn.

It's a time of great change: Barry has lost his taxi licence, which throws the cat among the pigeons as he sets out to find another source of income and generally reinvent himself while keeping his spirits up. Meanwhile, Carrie discovers that she is adopted and decides to track down her real mother. Barry's daughter, Sinead, becomes a traffic warden and has a whirlwind romance with a man Barry hates. Adrian, now Sinead's fiancé, is Barry's new tenant...

AN

BLEAK HOUSE

Gillian Anderson, Denis Lawson, Charles Dance, Alistair McGowan, Pauline Collins and Johnny Vegas lead a star cast in a groundbreaking adaptation of Dickens's *Bleak House* written by Andrew Davies.

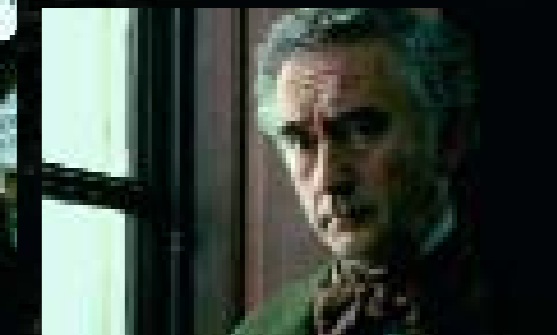
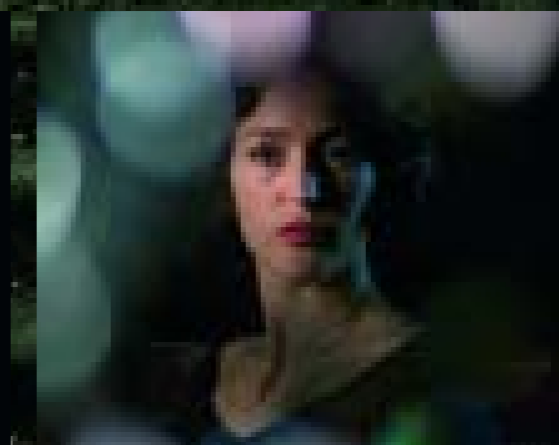
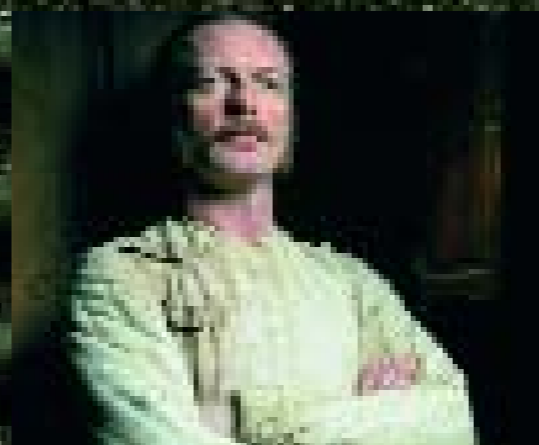
The skilfully crafted thriller and passionate indictment of the legal system is one of Dickens's most celebrated achievements. Dickens wrote *Bleak House* as a monthly serial for popular consumption, complete with cliff-hanger endings that left his audience fervent for the next instalment.

Davies's adaptation is told in a series of half-hour episodes to be shown twice weekly using the pace, multiple storylines and cliff-hanger endings more usually associated with popular drama. This never-been-done-before adaptation of a timeless tale gives a fuller rendering of the book that is not normally achievable in a classic adaptation.

The story revolves around orphan Esther Summerson (Anna Maxwell Martin), companion to Ada and Richard, the Jarndyce wards of court, whose connection to the aloof yet beautiful Lady Dedlock (Gillian Anderson) may bring ruin to both her and Jarndyce (Denis Lawson).

Charles Dance is the merciless lawyer Tulkinghorn, who seeks to uncover Lady Dedlock's, dark secret. Johnny Vegas plays Krook, the drunken, sly shop owner/landlord; Alistair McGowan plays Jarndyce's lawyer, Kenge; and Timothy West is Sir Leicester Dedlock. Alun Armstrong, Hugo Speers, Liza Tarbuck, Charlie Brooks, Matthew Kelly, Richard Harrington, Nathaniel Parker, Warren Clarke, Anne Reid, Richard Griffiths, Phil Davis and rising stars Carey Mulligan and Patrick Kennedy also star.

CP/MO





MONARCH OF THE GLEN

New beginnings and happy endings come calling as feel-good drama *Monarch Of The Glen* experiences its final Highland fling.

The seventh, and final, series sees the MacDonald family face the ultimate battle – to ensure the Glenbogle estate survives in an ever-changing world. As well as *Monarch* favourites Susan Hampshire, Lloyd Owen, Sandy Morton, Tom Baker, Rae Hendrie and Martin Compston, this series sees the arrival of Kirsty Mitchell as feisty shepherdess Iona MacLean and Kellyanne Farqhar as Amy, the laird's god-daughter.

Bringing to a close some of the best-loved stories, the final series also sees the return of familiar faces from Glenbogle's past, including Hamish Clark, Julian Fellowes and a spirited return from Richard Briers as Hector MacDonald.

JW

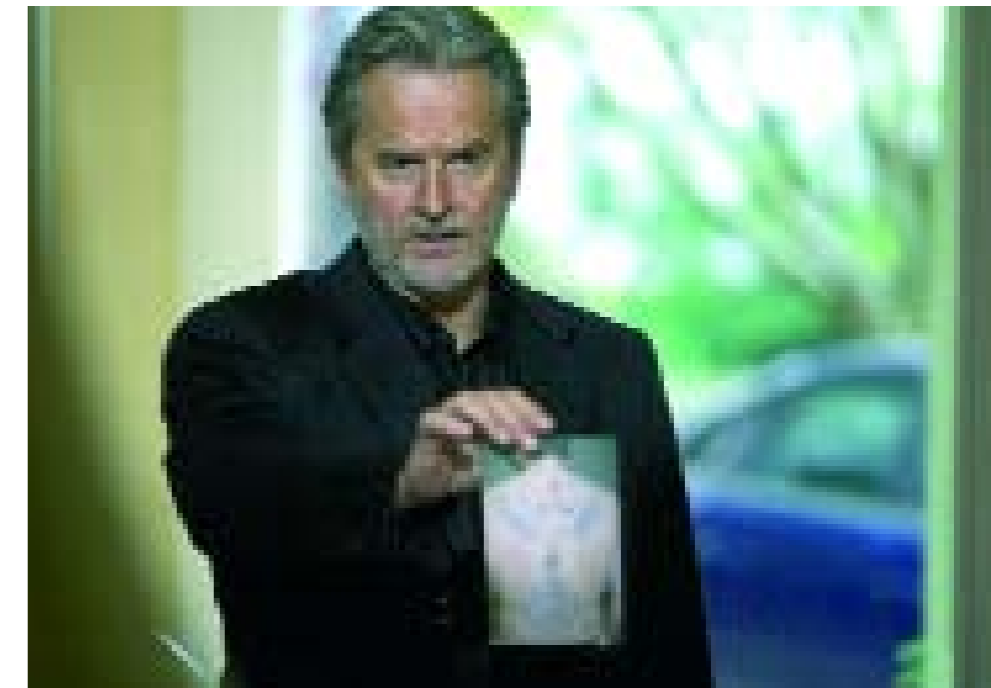
THE WORST WEEK OF MY LIFE

Having finally made it down the aisle after the worst week of his life, it seems as if things are finally going well for Howard. He and Mel are about to move into a new home together and they are expecting their first child. It seems for once everything is perfect. But seven days in the life of Howard Steel are never simple...

The first series witnessed the week leading up to Howard and Mel's wedding in which he managed to: lose the wedding ring; knock out the best man; molest his future mother-in-law; hospitalise his fiancée's grandmother; throw the in-laws' dog into a cement mixer; and was accused of impregnating an office colleague. Moving house and becoming parents should prove challenging for the Steels...

Following the critically acclaimed first series, *The Worst Week Of My Life* stars Ben Miller, Sarah Alexander, Alison Steadman, Geoffrey Whitehead and Janine Duvitski. It is written, produced and directed by Justin Sbresni and Mark Bussell.

KC



WAKING THE DEAD

Emmy award-winning series *Waking The Dead* returns for a new series of two-part films.

Trevor Eve, Sue Johnston and Wil Johnson return along with new recruits Esther Hall and Félicité du Jeu.

Following the tragic death of former colleague DS Mel Silver (Claire Goose), Frankie (Holly Aird) has left the team to return to research and Felix (Hall), a bright, strong, somewhat altruistic and objective pathologist, has stepped into her shoes.

The team is finding it extremely hard to come to terms with Mel's death and finding a replacement is proving to be a heartbreaking challenge.

However, when Stella, a dedicated, ambitious DS, arrives for an interview, it seems she may have what it takes to be member of this close-knit team.

Using advanced techniques in forensic science, the Met's crack squad of experts gets under the skin of some tough "cold cases" to discover the truth. Boyd's (Trevor Eve) team of devoted professionals often takes risks in order to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Guest stars include: David Walliams, David Hayman, Nicola Stephenson, Ayesha Dharker, Toby Stephens and Paul Freeman.

CP

LITTLE BRITAIN

With more awards tucked beneath its laydee's petticoats than Bubbles has rolls of fat, the time has come once again for *Little Britain* to open its crowded shores for business, courtesy of creators Matt Lucas and David Walliams.

While all the horribly familiar faces are back, from teen bad dream Vicky Pollard, to over-sized and under-financed health spa addict Bubbles, there are, of course, some new faces to welcome into the fold. However, more of them later in the year...

"But so many questions remain unanswered," we hear you cry. "Will computer ever say 'yes'? Will we ever get to meet the real Emily and Florence? And just how will Daffyd cope with not being the only gay in the village? Surely you can tell us a little more?" Alas, computer says "No". The awards for this returning series include: BAFTA Television Awards (Best Comedy Programme or Series), British Comedy Awards (Best TV Comedy), British Comedy Awards (The People's Choice Award), Festival Rose d'Or (Best Male Comedy Performance), Festival Rose d'Or (Comedy) and the South Bank Show Awards (Comedy).

AW/CG





SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare's reputation as a dramatist and poet is unique. Considered by many to be the greatest playwright of all time, Shakespeare's plays have merited translation and performances in cultures far removed from medieval England. The universality of his themes – love, marriage, death, guilt, separation, reunion and reconciliation to name but a few – gives his work a continual freshness and relevance. They also help us to understand what it is to be human.

This autumn, the BBC is celebrating Shakespeare with a variety of programmes and initiatives across its services – television, radio and online – in an attempt to rediscover the Bard, explore his work in original ways and investigate his life story and the mythmaking that surrounds him.

The centrepiece of this celebration will be four modern interpretations by some of Britain's leading television writers for BBC One.

Shirley Henderson plays Kate opposite Rufus Sewell's Petruchio in Sally Wainwright's version of *The Taming Of The Shrew*. Vitriolic, aggressive and "shrewish", Kate is an opposition MP who is instructed to find herself a husband to make her more electable. Twigg Lawson, Stephen Tompkinson, David Mitchell and Jaime Murray also star in the romantic comedy which explores the complexities of relationships against a backdrop of glamorous London circles and politics.

In David Nicholls's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Sarah Parish plays Beatrice, presenter of a popular early evening regional news show whose ex-lover and arch enemy, Benedick, played by Damian Lewis, is hired as her co-anchor. Billie Piper plays weathergirl Hero.

Peter Moffat's *Macbeth* is transposed to the enclosed and heated world of a top London restaurant kitchen and stars James McAvoy as Joe Macbeth and Keeley Hawes as Ella Macbeth.

Peter Bowker sets *A Midsummer Night's Dream* during a weekend in a holiday park. The romantic comedy featuring four warring couples, a donkey's head and a gaggle of fairies stars Imelda Staunton, Johnny Vegas, Bill Paterson, Lennie James, Sharon Small and Dean Lennox Kelly.

MO



STEPFAMILIES

One in 10 families in the UK is a stepfamily and the figure is rising, with more than two million children in stepfamilies.

A new BBC series gets to the heart of five stepfamilies to explore the problems and the challenges. Suzie Hayman – a Relate-trained counsellor specialising in stepfamilies – has just six weeks to work with each family to see if she can identify their problems and help them tackle any conflict.

Suzi explores issues, which will be familiar to stepfamilies across the country, ranging from coping with exes to merging different family units together.

HM



THE TRUTH ABOUT KILLER DINOSAURS

They have the scariest reputation of all the creatures that have lived on Earth and now, in a series hosted by Bill Oddie, viewers can finally learn the truth about some of the world's greatest beasts and their awesome physical power.

The Truth About Killer Dinosaurs is the ultimate clash of the titans in which the giants of pre-history, recreated and pitched against each other, will engage in mortal combat, using the most accurate and naturalistic CGI “dino-animation” ever seen. The series harnesses new research and gives a fresh perspective on how the most ferocious killers in history really lived and died.

KC

LOVE SOUP

Starring Tamsin Greig, Michael Landes and Trudie Styler, *Love Soup* is a romantic comedy-drama series by the creator of *One Foot In The Grave*, David Renwick.

Today, statistics show that the UK is a nation of people dragging their feet over settling down. People are getting married later – in 1991 the average age was 25, now it is 30. More people are living alone – 41 per cent of women over 16 are neither married nor cohabiting. And by 2011, the prognosis is that over 50 per cent of all men and women will never marry. So if more and more people are waiting longer and longer to meet their soul mate, what is happening in their love lives in the meantime? And what are their prospective partners getting up to in theirs?

Love Soup looks at what happens when your first love is a distant memory but you haven't yet found “the one”. Dealing with the parallel lives of a perfectly matched couple who have yet to meet each other, the comedy-drama follows their hopes, fears and dating disasters as they try to remain sane in a world from which they each feel increasingly excluded.

Tamsin Greig (*Green Wing*, *Black Books*) plays Alice Chenery, an account manager for a perfume company in a London department store, struggling to maintain a flat in Brighton she cannot afford. Michael Landes (*The Wonder Years*, *The Fresh Prince Of Bel Air*) plays Gil, a successful American comedy writer who has fled his home country in search of artistic integrity and a lasting relationship.

Each week, *Love Soup* shows their continuing doomed attempts to find the definitive partner who will bring them the happiness they deserve. Will fate ever put them together? Since when has fate ever been kind?

Trudie Styler is Gil's neighbour, Irene, and Sheridan Smith plays Cleo, one of Alice's colleagues and unofficial matchmaker on the perfume counter.

SA/JD





(c) Imperial War Museum / Q 9534

THE LAST TOMMY

The Great War of 1914-18 wiped out millions of young men. Many of those who made it home to Blighty never spoke of the horrors of the trenches. Now, of the five and a half million British and Commonwealth servicemen who fought, just a handful remains. *The Last Tommy* follows the six surviving British veterans, all over 100, and all that's left of the brave band of brothers, as they tell their stories for the last time.

Harry Patch had tried to forget the horrors, including the loss of all but two of his entire platoon of 30, in a war in which witnessing terrible and painful death was commonplace. But his move to a nursing home at the age of 100 prompted recollections when the light in the blanket store, flicked on and off by staff during the night, triggered flashbacks of shells exploding in No Man's Land.

Arthur Halestrap, now 105, recalls being offered the daughter of a German family for sex in exchange for food, so near starvation were they, while Jim Lovell remembers being lied to by the authorities. Gassed in a German offensive and recovering in a field hospital, he was told he was being taken for a day trip to the seaside – in fact he was being transported back to the Front for a final push.

The moving testimonies pay tribute to the extraordinary resilience and valour of those who not only watched their comrades fall, but have witnessed their numbers diminishing year by year – just five were present at the Cenotaph in 2003 – as age slowly claims them, till the last living memory of the First World War passes away.

JW

MURDER BLUES

Over the last three years, Operation Trident – the Metropolitan Police unit that deals with gun crime within London's black communities – has seized 450 guns, 7,000 rounds of ammunition and 960 kilos of drugs. In April 2005, London had 49 shootings, ranking it the third most dangerous city in the world.

Revealing a side of London that is rarely seen and often ignored by the mainstream press, *Murder Blues* follows Trident's investigations into the criminals who regularly carry guns and use them with casual disregard.

Trident's 350 officers have policed black-on-black gun crime in the capital since 2000. Back then, many offenders were Jamaican yardies involved in drug dealing or contract killings, but the landscape has changed. Now over 80 per cent of Trident's offenders are British-born black youths. The causes of these shootings are inter-gang rivalries, retaliation, drugs rip-offs, respect issues and petty arguments. For example, one shooting took place following a row over a computer game.

The films show the aftermath, the impact and the consequences of these brutal and violent crimes focusing on the bereaved families and the surviving victims. Cases featured include the murder of a North London gang member, the shooting of an innocent family man and the attempted murder of a man who was involved in a minor traffic accident.

KA

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