



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.

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## 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. Stilettoes weren't made for traipsing across fields!"

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## 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.

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