



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

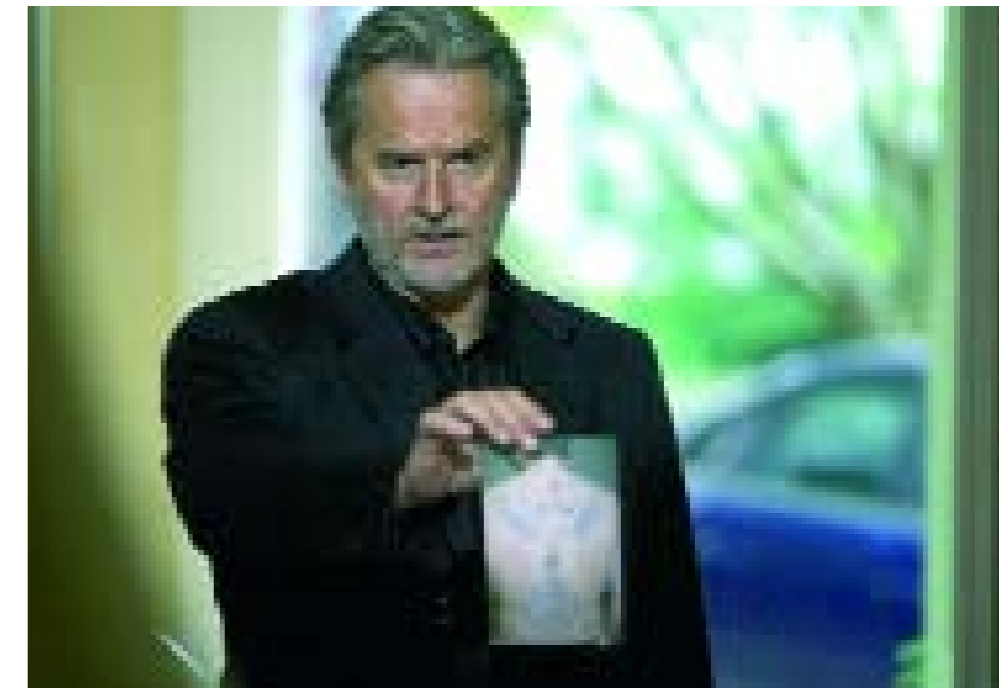
THE WORST WEEK OF MY LIFE

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





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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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