

Comedy and drama are two key ingredients to the mix on BBC One and are brought together in this season of stand-alone pieces (see pages 33-38), combining rich and funny stories with poignant and heart-lifting themes.

AFTERSUN

Jim (Peter Capaldi) and Sue (Sarah Parish) married young and, 20 years later, find themselves on holiday in Spain – an anniversary present from their children – with very little to say to each other.

Jim can't bear to be separated from his mobile phone and his business and, while Sue wants to relax with a chick-lit novel, Jim's idea of fun is immersing himself in a heavyweight historical biography. On discovering that their pool is shared with the adjacent villa, they do all they can to keep themselves to themselves, but the glamorous young couple next door soon bring a new perspective to Jim and Sue's relationship.

U





MAGNOLIA

Ex-con Paul (Ralph Ineson) is desperately trying to keep his business, Ace Decorators, afloat.

His partner, Sheila (Dawn Steele), wants him to give up and take a paid job with his previous employers, the notorious King brothers, but Paul refuses to abandon his workmates – sweet and bookish stoner Dino (Chris Bisson) and volatile Terry (Chris Coghill) – who he met in prison.

Two potential contracts stand between them and oblivion. But one depends on Paul winning over the obnoxious, racist site manager of a dodgy estate and the other seems to have been sewn up already by the King brothers.

SA/CD

THE GOODHOUSEKEEPING GUIDE

ANGEL CAKE

Elaine Wilson (Sarah Lancashire) is a gifted cake-maker, living on a grimy estate. She has a husband traumatised by a fire-fighting accident, a son who seems to have fathered most of the kids on the estate, a mother with a degree in emotional blackmail, and an amazing gift for producing beautiful cakes.

One day, a batch of buns emerge from Elaine's oven bearing a remarkable resemblance to the image of the Virgin Mary, and all around Elaine miraculous things start to happen. She doesn't have time for such naïve superstition ... but when it becomes clear that all is not well with her marriage, maybe she could do with a miracle of her own.

YD/MG

Things are going badly for Raymond Fox (Alan Davies). His high-powered wife, Jenny, has left him for a younger man, and looking after his teenage kids – nerdy Sara and wayward Robinson – and his gorgeous suburban family home is his only consolation.

Raymond is desperate to raise enough money to stop Jenny buying the family home and evicting him, but there aren't many opportunities for failed mechanics-turned-house husbands. So when he finds out that cheery neighbour Lydia is working as a prostitute to supplement her and her daughter's lifestyle, he's initially shocked – but soon realises that his housekeeping skills are surprisingly transferable.

SA/CD

BERRY'S WAY

Berry Cottrell (Lenny Henry), in his forties and recently divorced, has his hands full with a tearaway son and the family's ailing dry-cleaning business.

Frustrated, Berry embarks upon an Open University course in English Literature to prove to everyone, including himself, that he still has a brain. Berry joins a motley study group, run by hyperactive lecturer Charles (Ron Cook), the members of which have one month to prove that they can make the grade.

A tale of everyday people trying to improve themselves while dealing with the stuff of life, *Berry's Way* was written by Kim Fuller and Lenny Henry.

U



SKIRTS
REPAIRS
NEW ZIPS

TROUSERS
REPAIRS
NEW ZIPS

SHIRTS
REPAIRS

THE GREEN GREEN GRASS

John Challis, as Boycie, and Sue Holderness, as Marlene, celebrate their first year in the country and life in Shropshire is beginning to suit them, as John Sullivan's sitcom returns for a new series. Boycie is getting the hang of farming but he still yearns for the high life, jumping at the opportunity to run for mayor. Marlene attracts the lascivious attention of Tyler's (Jack Doolan) fellow pupils and has discovered the joys of donning her stilettos to tramp the virtual High Street.

Meanwhile, farm staff Elgin (David Ross), Bryan (Ivan Kaye) and Jed (Peter Heppelthwaite) continue to run rings round their master and duster-shy Mrs Cakeworthy (Ella Kenion) reveals her previously hidden fortune-telling skills. They're all doing fine ... until Marlene's sister arrives with an unexpected present.

FW



THE ARMSTRONG AND MILLER SHOW

Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller are re-united after five years in this brand-new contemporary sketch show, joined by the comic talents of TV newcomers Katherine Jakeways and Karen Hayley.

Ben and Alexander met in the early Nineties – shortly after they both left Cambridge University – at the Gate Theatre Comedy Club in London. In the vanguard of sketch comedy, the pair spent four years touring pubs and clubs, appeared as regulars on ITV's *Saturday Live* and, in 1996, were nominated for the Perrier Award at the Edinburgh Festival. Their wonderfully surreal and critically acclaimed first series was commissioned by the Paramount Comedy Channel and went on to a further three series on Channel 4. They also had a regular show on MTV called *So Nineties*, two series for BBC Radio 4 and supporting roles in *Plunkett And McLean*, before going off to pursue hugely successful individual careers.

Acting out comic character-based sketches which move seamlessly into spoofs of TV shows, monologues and more domestic-based material, this fresh new mainstream show promises to have wide appeal.

AN

JAM AND JERUSALEM

*Set in a small West Country village, **Jam And Jerusalem** stars Sue Johnston as local practice nurse Sal who, along with best friend Tip, the surgery's receptionist with an intricate knowledge of everyone's ailments, lives a busy life at the centre of their community.*

Despite her love for her fellow villagers, Sal cannot bring herself to join the local church's Ladies' Guild, knitting and cake-baking not being her scene. But when her husband dies suddenly and her son takes over the practice, Sal finds herself widowed, out of a job and rattling round an empty home.

In an attempt to avoid visits from the local Grieving Group, she decides it's time she started to take her own advice – stop sleeping in the dog basket, get a haircut and a new top and take stock of her new life. And the Ladies' Guild seems as good a place to start as any...

Written by Jennifer Saunders and also starring Pauline McLynn (as Tip), Joanna Lumley, Dawn French, Maggie Steed, David Mitchell, Sally Phillips and Doreen Mantle, *Jam And Jerusalem* takes an affectionate look at village life and the empathy and togetherness found in a local community where everyone knows everyone else's business.



NOT GOING OUT

Not Going Out is a brand-new sitcom co-written by Bafta-winning comic Lee Mack and Sony Award-winning writer and broadcaster Andrew Collins. It features two flatmates, Lee (played by Mack) and Kate (Megan Dodds, *Viva Blackpool* and *Spooks*), who have a problem. Their easy-going, comfortable friendship is steadily moving onto uneasy ground – a situation complicated by the fact that Lee's best mate, Tim (fellow Bafta winner and stand-up, Tim Vine), is Kate's ex-boyfriend...

DL



THE ROYLE FAMILY

The nation's favourite Royle family returns for an hour-long programme featuring the much loved cast – Ricky Tomlinson, Sue Johnston, Caroline Aherne, Craig Cash, Ralf Little and Liz Smith.

Life goes on in the familiar surroundings of their sitting room, but six years on baby David has grown – and what of the rest of the family? Have they given up smoking? Have they joined the local gym and Richard and Judy's book club? Will they be talking pilates and Sartre – or the same old shite they did six years ago?

What do *you* think?!

The Royle Family is written by Caroline Aherne, Craig Cash and Phil Mealey.

EP



ENTERTAINMENT AUTUMN 2006



FRIDAY NIGHT WITH JONATHAN ROSS

Triple Bafta Award-winner (Best Entertainment Performance) and doyen of Friday-night TV chat, Jonathan Ross returns for an 11th season of his multi-award-winning show this autumn.

Last series' highlights included Kiefer Sutherland, Sir David Attenborough, Sarah Jessica Parker, Robbie Williams, Louis Theroux, Gorillaz, Coldplay, Cameron Diaz, U2, Dirty Pretty Things, Tom Jones, Uma Thurman, Primal Scream, Morrissey, Russell Brand, Joan Collins, William Shatner, Halle Berry, Bruce Willis, David Cameron and Pete Doherty.

As well as the Baftas, *Friday Night With Jonathan Ross* has won a British Comedy Award, a Broadcast Award and the Indie Award for Best Entertainment Programme.

JP

1 VS 100

Imagine 100 opponents in front of you; 100 people wanting to defeat you; 100 people wanting to see you leave with no money whatsoever...

1 vs 100, a new National Lottery format, pits one player against 100 opponents. The player's goal is to eliminate all the opposition by correctly answering questions, hoping that their opponents will answer incorrectly and be eliminated from the game.

The battle continues until the very last opponent is defeated. Only then can the player walk away with the money they've earned.

Along the way, the player has opportunities to "buy" the right answer – but if they do, their cash will plummet. If the player gives a wrong answer at any time, it's game over and they leave with nothing.

Can they cling on to the hot seat and defeat every opponent? If so, it could mean serious money...

RL

NATIONAL LOTTERY DAY

National Lottery Day is a celebration of the good causes that the National Lottery has supported since its inception 12 years ago. To mark the day this special one-off programme is all about the good causes that have benefited, and the winners – live in the studio and at home. Wrapped up in an exciting entertainment format, contestants will compete for big prizes, while the programme also celebrates the work of the good causes with the National Lottery Awards – revealing the winners live on air.

Since it began in 1994, the National Lottery has raised £18bn for good causes, with over 220,000 grants awarded.

DL

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Graham Norton returns with a new series of up-to-the-minute topical comedy and good old-fashioned chat.

Aided and abetted each week by "A" list celebrity guests and the best home-grown and US comedy talent, the master of racy repartee and saucy innuendo casts a gleeful eye over the week's events.

With previous guests as fabulous as Roseanne Barr, Woody Harrelson, Rupert Everett, John Simpson, Elijah Wood, Joan Collins, Cate Blanchett, Christina Ricci, Alice Cooper and Sir Ian McKellen talking about subjects as diverse as WAGs, the Royal Family, George Bush, eco-warriors and Osama Bin Laden, this really is current affairs television as you've never seen it before.

The show will be filmed as live in front of a studio audience on the night of transmission.

GJ



STRICTLY COME DANCING

Strictly Come Dancing is set to waltz back onto our screens with a fourth series of the hugely successful Saturday night entertainment show.

The legendary Bruce Forsyth returns with his glamorous co-host Tess Daly to see who has got what it takes to be crowned 2006 *Strictly Come Dancing* champions.

From the jive to the salsa, 14 couples – celebrities and leading professional dancers – learn a variety of dance styles before battling it out in a knock-out competition.

The four judges – Len Goodman, Arlene Phillips, Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli – return to scrutinise the performances and decide whose toes twinkle and who's got two left feet. But it could all change as the public vote for their favourite.

KH

