

Entertainment



I'm Alan Partridge

Let me give you a compact précis - left the BBC, bad blood, started production company, that went into liquidation, voluntarily, I was clinically fed up for two years, didn't work boo hoo hoo. But the point is, I bounced back. People bounce back. Rolf Harris, Dennis Hopper, there are others. I'm one of them.

I now have the third best slot on Radio Norwich, I do a military-based quiz show for cable TV called *Skirmish* and I've got a girlfriend. I think you'll all want to hear about that.

Five years after disappearing from TV screens, Alan Partridge has bounced back. Starring Steve Coogan with Felicity Montagu, Simon Greenall and Amelia Bullmore, *I'm Alan Partridge* is written by Armando Iannucci, Steve Coogan and Peter Baynham.

Dave Gorman's Important Astrological Experiment

Every day, millions of people consult their horoscopes. Is it wise to follow the advice of astrologers? The world of science has not been brave enough to answer this question ... until now. Step forward Dave Gorman (Pisces). He's a multi award-winning comedian, but in this new series he's also an "unorthodox experimental scientist" on a real-life comic adventure.

For 40 days and 40 nights, Dave has given up normal life. Instead, he has scoured the horoscopes of 20 leading astrologers. His task - to follow their advice. To ignore speculation, prediction and guesswork, but strictly follow their instruction and pursue luck.



I Will Survive

The walking wounded of fame's battleground are gathered together in *I Will Survive*.

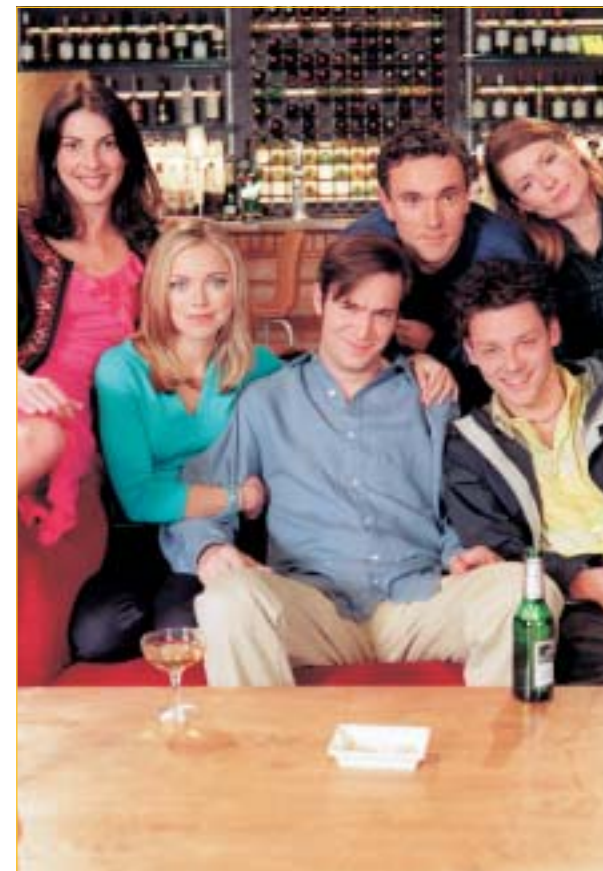
Each programme selects an area of popular culture and focuses on a period in time where the clash of egos, wallets and wardrobes was particularly bloody. Personal histories are interwoven with eye-witness accounts, archives and graphics to reveal who were the casualties and who were the survivors.

Subjects covered include *Sleeping With The Stones* - a look at the women linked through the years to the Rolling Stones; *Breakfast TV*; *Tory Scandal*; *Band Aid*; *Leaving EastEnders*; and *Marrying Royalty*.

The Office

Ricky Gervais returns with series two of the Bafta-winning comedy - the painfully accurate portrait of the modern work-place that leaves you either counting your blessings or questioning your career.

David Brent tries to assimilate the new Swindon intake, a group of well-trained and highly motivated personnel. It should be an easy job. Sadly, someone forgot to tell them they're meant to laugh at everything David says. Unlucky-in-love Tim finds his fortune changing, and it appears that there's more to demure Dawn than first meets the eye - but there's even less to Gareth.



Coupling

This autumn sees the return of *Coupling*, the frank, funny and totally upfront account of love and lust between best friends and exes. Steve (Jack Davenport) and Susan (Sarah Alexander) have split up and seek consolation in very different ways; Patrick (Ben Miles) and Sally (Kate Isitt) have entered the dangerous territory of being over-protective best pals; newly attached Jeff (Richard Coyle) is offered "unconditional sex" by another woman (Emilia Fox); whilst Jane (Gina Bellman) falls in love with a nice, sane, heterosexual man who's celibate.



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Look Around You

Harking back to the halcyon days of Seventies and Eighties Open University/Schools and Colleges programmes, *Look Around You* is a comedy series that offers a unique educational approach to the world about us. Through a series of experiments, it explores the effects of sulphur on Champagne; finds out how man and ghost can work together; observes the effectiveness of ants as igloo builders; and reveals the largest number in the world. So pay attention, have pen and paper ready, and watch the white dots disappear as the minute clock counts down.

Look Around You is written and produced by Robert Popper and Peter Serafinowicz.

The League Of Gentlemen

The dark princes of comedy breathe life once more into the grotesque inhabitants of the surreal village of Royston Vasey in a new series of *The League Of Gentlemen*.

In a welcome return to BBC Two, the multi-award winning team delves into the disturbingly dark and distinctly bizarre behaviour of the most peculiar "locals" on this planet.

The League Of Gentlemen is written by Jeremy Dyson, and co-written and performed by Mark Gatiss, Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith. The series is produced by Jemma Rodgers and directed by Steve Bendelack. The executive producer is Head of BBC Comedy Entertainment, Jon Plowman.

Happiness

Paul Whitehouse returns as Danny, still striving to find a meaning to his life and the cure for baldness.

Charlie and Sid are looking for love and a regular income. Terry is bored with being boring and this leads to marriage trouble. Fifty going on 15-year-old Angus is still into drink, drugs, young girls... and Rachel is setting Danny up with her eligible friends

Guest appearances include Kathy Burke, Ricky Gervais, Donna Air and Tony Parsons.

Happiness, written by Paul Whitehouse and David Cummings, also stars Johnny Vegas (Charlie), Fiona Allen (Rachel), Clive Russell (Angus), Pearce Quigley (Sid) and Mark Heap (Terry).



Dead Ringers

It promises to be "the silliest show on television". *Dead Ringers*, Radio 4's topical hit, is adapted for television when it transfers to BBC Two this autumn.

No public figure is safe from the acutely accurate impressions of Jon Culshaw, Jan Ravens, Phil Cornwell, Kevin Connelly and Mark Perry, and the sure-fire wit of writers Nev Fountain, Tom Jameson and Jon Holmes.

The producer of *Dead Ringers* is Bill Dare.



tlc

Reece Shearsmith from BBC Two's *League Of Gentleman* and Alexander Armstrong from Channel 4's *Armstrong And Miller*, star in a new black comedy set in a National Health hospital, *tlc*.

tlc follows the fortunes of junior doctor Flynn, a hard-pressed, stressed-out, wide-eyed, Catholic junior doctor; and the clued-up, semi-cynical Dr Nobl, a Registrar who's been at the hospital longer than Flynn and is the voice of semi-dubious wisdom.

Written by Dr Fintan Coyle (who created *The Weakest Link* with Cathy Dunning), *tlc* is set in a claustrophobic world where breakdown, failure, perpetual nights and lack of sleep are the norms.

Posh Nosh

Minty (Arabella Weir) and Simon (Richard E Grant) wouldn't call themselves the only two cooks on television. That would be bad breeding. Just don't mention Delia, Nigella or that oik with the scooter within a mile of their 17th-century Buckinghamshire mansion.

Learn to relax an avocado, bamboozle a parsnip or shave a fennel. See why you need an Aga, a title and a dog. Marvel at the happiest of marriages, while Minty sweats in the kitchen and Simon "supervises" his wine cellar and practises his backhand with his live-in tennis coach Jose, in the cookery show to end all cookery shows.



BBC
TWO

Entertainment

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The Harringham Harker

Winner of the Entertainment Greenlight Award for BBC Two, *The Harringham Harker* is the story of a local newspaper in the oldish new town of Harringham that's produced on video and where reporters spend much of their time making big news out of small stories.

The Harringham Harker is produced by Jon Rolph and stars Chris Pavlo, Tracey Anne Oberman, Alex Lowe and Kim Wall.

Living Famously

The friends and family of some of the biggest names in 20th-century entertainment – including Alfred Hitchcock, Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, James Dean and Maria Callas – have contributed to this new series on the lives of 25 screen and music icons.

Narrated by Caroline Quentin, the series is an affectionate look at the personal, rather than the professional, lives of these legends. The production team has secured interviews with family members, friends and colleagues, giving a fresh insight into their lives.

Also included in the series are profiles of Oliver Reed, Peter Sellers, Dusty Springfield, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, David Niven, Marvin Gaye and Bing Crosby.

Returning series

Never Mind The Buzzcocks

Velvet Soup

Flog It!

Flog It! is a major new antiques series for Daytime presented by Paul Martin – a “truly fabulous find”, according to series producer Hannah Corneck.

Each programme involves a valuation day and then an auction. People have been queuing up to have the *Flog It!* experts assess their goods; a selection of these are chosen – with the owners' agreement – to go forward to auction, where the antiques experts have to face up to the contributors when their valuations go awry.

Some contributors have had amazing results. One lady who inherited a small cream jug had it valued at between £300-600 – it sold at auction for £1,300. Another brought in a ceramic bowl which she'd purchased at a car boot sale for £4 – it was valued at between £400-£500.



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