



ENTERTAINMENT



THE MURDER GAME

It should be a happy day in the village of Blackwater. A wedding is due to take place and the local residents are preparing for the celebrations. But when the vicar's wife, Tina Wells, comes running out of the church, screaming for help, it is clear that all is not going according to plan. Catherine Prior, the sister of the bride, has been savagely attacked and dies on the way to hospital. The shadow of murder hangs over Blackwater...

The Murder Game is a gripping, edge-of-the-seat drama, a murder mystery and a reality TV show rolled into one. Last year, 10,000 people applied to be contestants on the show – 10 were chosen and must now move in together as they try to hunt down the killer.

The contestants – or “investigators” – have spent a week at police college, learning all of the skills they need in order to catch the killer and win the game. But only one of them will solve the case and win the £25,000 reward.

The aim of the game for the investigators is to try to catch the killer before he or she eliminates them, one by one. At the end of each show, two contestants endure the terrifying *Killers Game* – and only one returns.

The investigators are guided through the case by a real detective. DCS Bob Taylor has hunted over 100 killers over the course of his career with West Yorkshire Police. He is the investigators' judge; he sets their lines of enquiry and they play by his rules.

In addition to coverage on BBC One, viewers can keep up with developments in the case on BBC Three in *The Murder Game – Inside HQ*, and online through BBC1.



COMEDY CONNECTIONS

Comedy Connections is a new series that tells the stories behind six of the nation's favourite sitcoms – *Porridge*, *Men Behaving Badly*, *The Good Life*, *Butterflies*, *Are You Being Served?* and *Only Fools And Horses*.

Packed with interviews with writers, production crew and stars, including Ronnie Barker, Leslie Ash, Felicity Kendal, Geoffrey Palmer, Penelope Keith, Molly Sugden and Wendy Craig, *Comedy Connections* reveals which BBC series became a success because of an ITV strike; which soap star was earmarked for the part of Godber in *Porridge*; and why *Only Fools And Horses* might never have been written at all...

I'D DO ANYTHING

Ian Wright hosts a tense and exciting new entertainment show, which tests the boundaries of friendship and self-sacrifice. *I'd Do Anything* asks whether people really will do anything to win a money-can't-buy dream prize for a loved one or special friend.

Ian Wright knocks on doors around Britain – unannounced – and presents those inside with the dilemma of a lifetime. Would you be prepared to face your biggest fear to make a friend's dream come true? The limits of selflessness are put to the ultimate test as phobias, fears and embarrassments are confronted head on.

TEST THE NATION – THE NATIONAL IQ TEST 2003

Viewers have the chance to find out whether they have become smarter in the last 12 months or whether the year has taken its toll on their brains, as *Test The Nation* returns to administer *The National IQ Test 2003*.

More than nine million viewers watched the BBC's first national IQ test back in May 2002, and a further 95,000 played along online through BBCi. Results then showed that people in Leicester had the highest IQs, whilst those in the south east of England languished at the bottom of the intelligence pile. Blondes failed to lose their "dumb" tag when they came bottom amongst the studio groups, whilst Jonathan Edwards leapt to the top of the celebrity pack with an IQ of 126.

This new programme is an opportunity to prove that a great result wasn't a fluke, and a second chance for those who didn't fare too well. Perhaps you were tired, run down, or had a glass of wine too many before last year's test, or maybe your friends didn't believe your high score...

Presented by Anne Robinson and Phillip Schofield, *Test The Nation – The National IQ Test 2003* gives every viewer in the country the chance to join in with a live national event by watching the show, logging onto the internet at www.bbc.co.uk/testthenation or taking part through interactive TV.





THE BIG IMPRESSION

Top impressionists Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona return to BBC One to serve up a feast of famous faces from the worlds of showbiz, sport and soap.

The new series sees the dextrous duo breathe life once again into some of their favourite comic impersonations. And there are more surprising encounters, as Alistair and Ronni create a surreal scenario involving Manchester football players and New York's sassiest screen babes in *Sex And Man City*.

TREVOR'S WORLD OF SPORT

Neil Pearson stars as a sports agent trying to retain his decency and dignity in an increasingly cut-throat world in this brand-new comedy series. His problems are compounded by a troubled marriage, a wayward son and an array of self-obsessed clients.

Written and directed by Andy Hamilton (*Drop The Dead Donkey, Bedtime*), *Trevor's World Of Sport* features famous sporting celebrities in guest cameos.

MEET MY FOLKS

During one long but highly entertaining weekend, three Romeos (or Juliets) move into a house with not only the object of their desire but also her (or his) parents in *Meet My Folks*, an original take on the dating format.

The three contestants endure surprising revelations and confront embarrassing situations in order to win their potential date's affections and, much more importantly, their parents' trust.

After one unlucky loser is eliminated by the parents, the remaining challengers are surprised with a series of tests so rigorous that they may soon think that it is they who are the unlucky ones.

The ultimate victor will enjoy a week in an exotic location with their dream date – if they get the parents' blessing!



BRITISH
ACADEMY
TELEVISION
AWARDS

THE BRITISH ACADEMY TELEVISION AWARDS

It's a star-studded night as British Academy celebrates the brightest and best stars of the small screen at The British Academy Television Awards.

In a night to remember, BBC One joins the main players as they walk the red carpet at the London Palladium in the heart of the West End, as guests, nominees and potential winners. From the best drama and entertainment shows, to the best sport and current affairs programmes, all will be honoured during this special programme. Viewers will also see who wins in the *Radio Times*-sponsored Lew Grade Audience Award.

EYES DOWN

Two fat ladies, 88; all the fours, 44; two little ducks, 22 – it's *Eyes Down* in Angela Clarke's new comedy about the lives, loves, hopes and disappointments of the staff and punters at a Liverpool bingo palace.

Paul O'Grady is Ray, bingo caller and manager, who presides over a motley staff. On catering, there's Christine, whose Chihuahua compensates for her unfortunate love-life. But Christine is blind to the devotion she arouses in floorman Martin, a mother's boy whose life is a world away from that of dandy mechanic and ladies' man Bobby, Ray's bête noire.

Sandy, young, pregnant and not too bright, works with Martin on the floor and has a boyfriend, Terry. Mary, the cleaner, is an endless source of bizarre anecdotes and skewed wisdom.

And if Ray hates Bobby, he loathes Mary. Completing the line-up are the regular players: Pamela, Karen, Kitty, Kay and Kathline.

Martin is played by Tony Maudsley and Sandy by Sheridan Smith. Angela Clarke began her writing career two years ago when she sent her first hand-written script to the BBC New Writing Scheme, an initiative

searching for new talent. She was promptly put through to the Women's Comedy Scheme, where she was so successful that she was then commissioned to write her first BBC comedy, *Eyes Down*. Angela, a Liverpoolian, is also an actor and most recently starred as Rita in *Educating Rita* at the Liverpool Everyman. She is also a regular at her local bingo hall.

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2003

The biggest international singing event of the year, the Eurovision Song Contest 2003 returns on BBC One and Radio 2 this spring. Following the success of last year's Latvian entry, Marie N performing *Wanna*, this year's contest will take place in Riga, Latvia.

Terry Wogan guides viewers through the occasion with his witty commentary, highlighting the more eccentric voting decisions of countries participating in the big event and pointing to the more interesting choices of costume. The nation is sure to be glued to the screen, urging the British entry on to victory – or at least to a more respectable score than Norway's infamous "nil point".



RUBY WAX MEETS...

Armed and dangerous and ready for action, Ruby Wax makes a welcome return to her natural habitat. Clawing her way through the five-star bush, beating back the natives and navigating her way through a jungle of famous faces, she closely encounters and examines the intimate lives of that rare and exotic creature – the A-list celeb. Ruby goes back to visit some of her previous victims and springs a surprise on some new big names, invading their inner sanctums and uncovering startling home truths.





ROGER, ROGER

Robert Daws stars as London minicab office owner Sam Mountjoy in the third series of John Sullivan's *Roger, Roger*, which picks up the story where it left off three years ago.

In the original series, Sam's long-time working partner, Dexter Willis (played by Keith Allen), took his own life by jumping off Blackfriars Bridge. Three years on, business is good but Sam is alone and haunted by Dexter's ghost.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Filmed throughout the UK, *Just For Laughs* plays pranks on unsuspecting members of the public with the aid of hidden cameras. Based on a highly successful Canadian format, the programme sets short and simple laugh-out-loud sequences to contemporary music.



ALL ABOUT ME

Jasper Carrott returns as Brummie builder Colin Craddock, with Nina Wadia as his wife, Rupinder, in the second series of BBC One's popular and uncompromising sitcom, *All About Me*.

The Craddock family has a new baby; for Colin, this spells nights on the sofa, while Rupinder struggles to adjust to increased pressures in the overcrowded household. Peter, Colin's elder son, pursues a passion for an ecological girlfriend, eight-year-old Leo develops a fixation on birds of a different kind, Rupinder's daughter Kavita reveals just how hard it is to adjust to a new baby, and Sima, Rupinder's half-sister, begins to explore the trendy side of Asian culture. Only Raj, Rupinder's disabled son, sees the big picture and, in this series, he acquires a long-awaited communication aid which lets him have his say too.

The first series of *All About Me*, broadcast in 2002, was described by the BBC as one of the bravest commissions in the channel's history. Writer Steve Knight offers a fresh and funny insight into 21st-century marital life, and the reality of two families from different cultures coming together and forming a loving unit.

RETURNING SERIES

A QUESTION OF SPORT

FRIDAY NIGHT WITH JONATHAN ROSS

HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU?

PATRICK KIELTY – ALMOST LIVE

THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER