

Steve Lamacq
Saturday 19 July, 1.00pm



Fresh from his acoustic tour of Europe earlier this year, Beck talks to Steve Lamacq about the upcoming Reading Festival and his most recent album *Sea Change*, which marked a more mellow departure from his previous album *Midnight Vultures*. The multi-talented performer also treats listeners to some acoustic tracks.

Steve Lamacq brings his cutting-edge style and musical choices to 6 Music. His quest to find the next big artist continues in *Your New Favourite Band* and *Rebel Playlist*. Each week he is joined by a regular music hack to theorise about anything they fancy.

BBC 7

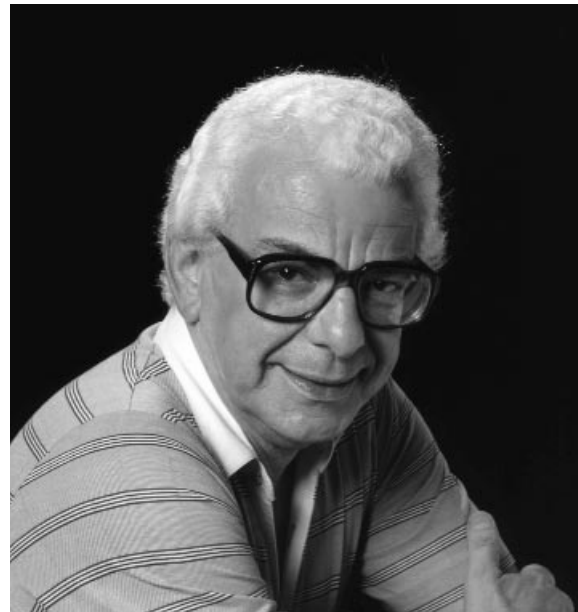
Our Mutual Friend
From Saturday 21 June, 11.00am

This 10-part dramatisation of Dickens's great classic 1865 novel, his final complete work, was first broadcast on Radio 4 in 1984. It features Dickens's usual ensemble of unforgettable characters such as Mr Boffin, Silas Wegg, Jenny Wren, Bradley Headstone and Mr Podsnap.

The story explores the complexity of inheritance and is also concerned with families

– what holds them together and what rips them apart. The cast includes Michael Graham Cox, Douglas Livingstone, Angela Pleasence, Tom Wilkinson and Simon Cadell as the narrator.

Comedy Greats
Continuing from Saturday 28 June, 9.00pm



Comedy legend Barry Cryer presents a new series on BBC 7, uncovering decade by decade the best of BBC Radio's comedy goldmine. Two Saturday programmes are dedicated to each decade, which started with the funniest of the Fifties and continues through to the present day.

On 28 June Barry reaches the Eighties where he features shows such as *Radio Active*, *After Henry*, *Saturday Night Fry*, *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* and *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

Barry finishes with a flourish and chooses some modern classics from the Nineties, starting on 19 July. Likely to be among his choices are: *Goodness Gracious Me*, *People Like Us*, *The League Of Gentlemen*, *Jeremy Hardy Speaks To The Nation* and *The Very World Of Milton Jones*.

Comedy Greats is rounded off with the listeners' choice, the result of an interactive poll in which listeners pick their own all-time favourite comedy programmes. The top six will be broadcast in August. To cast a vote, log on to BBC 7's website: www.bbc.co.uk/bbc7

Telling Tales
from Monday 23 June, 9.00am



Poignantly looking back on his childhood, Alan Bennett remembers growing up in a house above his father's butcher's shop in Leeds. Fascinated with small details, Alan muses on his Aunt Eveline's "enormous bust" and remembers cleaning his parents' false teeth. Bennett goes on to reminisce about his years at Oxford University, to which he won a scholarship.

Bennett is well known for being a member of the *Beyond The Fringe* comedy troupe, whose other members included Dudley Moore, Peter Cook and Jonathan Miller. He is also one of Britain's most popular and prolific playwrights with a keen eye for the absurdities of modern life and an excellent ear for dialogue. *Telling Tales* is read in 10 parts with music by George Fenton.

A Murder Is Announced
From Monday 23 June, 1.30pm,
rpt 8.30pm

June Whitfield stars as the indomitable Miss Marple in a classic treat for all Agatha Christie fans.

The residents of Chipping Cleghorn are agog to discover that they have been invited to a murder – but surely it must be a game? The five-part dramatisation also stars Ian Lavender as Detective Inspector Craddock, Sarah Lawson as Letty Blacklock and Judy Cornwell as Dora Bunner. There are additional performances by Angela Sims, Jamie Glover, Sarah Rice and Jenny Funnell.

Little Britain
From Tuesday 24 June, 2.00pm,
rpt 9.00pm



Matt Lucas and David Walliams's character-comedy sketch show explores British life in Britain as lived by Britons today. First broadcast on Radio 4 in 2001, the show successfully transferred to BBC Three in time for its launch in 2003.

Each programme introduces a host of characters such as rubbish transvestite Emily Howard; former Olympic-champion-turned-business-lecturer Denver Mills; Dyffed, the only gay man in Llandewi Brefi; and games inventor

Matthew Waterhouse, as well as including old favourites Sir Bernard Chumley and slimming expert Marjorie Dawes.

The sketches are introduced by the voice of Tom Baker and the series features a new theme tune recorded by David Arnold (*The World Is Not Enough, Tomorrow Never Dies, Stargate*).

Ghosts Of Albion
Saturday 28 June, 6.00pm, rpt 12.00am

A thrilling horror adventure about demons, ghosts and vampires, *Ghosts Of Albion* promises to have plenty of bite thanks to two key figures from the cult *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* television series. *Ghosts Of Albion* was first developed as part of BBCi's innovative internet dramas for the web.

Amber Benson, better known as Tara in *Buffy*, and Christopher Golden, a bestselling author of numerous novels including *Buffy* and *Angel*, have collaborated on writing for this project.

On the death of their grandfather – a famed stage magician – a brother and sister discover that not all of the old man's magic was performed on stage. The siblings find themselves the inheritors of an extraordinary legacy and must bear the burden of having sorcerer-like powers that make them the mystical guardians of early 19th-century England.

The Small World Of Dominic Holland
From Tuesday 1 July, 2.00pm,
rpt 9.00pm

Another chance to hear Dominic Holland's six-part Radio 4 series from August 2000 where he explores the comedic minutiae of everyday life, from domesticity and shopping to the pitfalls of growing up and having children.

Comedy Controller – Dominic Holland
Saturday 5 July, 8.00am, rpt 9.00pm



Author and comedian Dominic Holland is BBC 7's *Comedy Controller* for July, picking his favourite comedies to share with listeners.

One of today's funniest writers and performers, Dominic has performed stand-up for over 10 years, appearing regularly at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (winning the Perrier Best Newcomer Award in 1993 and another nomination in 1996). He's also enjoyed success with his BBC Radio 4 series, *The Small World Of Dominic Holland*, which went down a storm with audiences.

Dominic reminisces about playing the comedy circuit and his choice picks include *Jeremy Hardy Speaks To The Nation*, *Radio Active*, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* and *Knowing Me, Knowing You*.

Stop Messin' About – Tribute To Kenneth Williams Sunday 6 July, 9.00pm



In a three-hour special dedicated to Kenneth Williams and presented by Liz Fraser, BBC 7 prepares to flare its nostrils and say, "Oooh no, Stop Messin' About".

Star of the *Carry On* films and a perennial radio favourite, Kenneth Williams' career began with *Hancock's Half Hour* and continued with classics such as *Beyond Our Ken*, *Round The Horne* and *Just A Minute*, as well as many solo projects.

The tribute includes radio favourites and rarely heard gems, from Sandy's double entendre to erudite disputes with Nicholas Parsons. As Williams would have said, "It'll be nice to varda your dolly old eek."

Spanking New On 7 From Monday 7 July, 11.00pm

Twenty-eight brand-new stand-ups get their big break on BBC 7's first original comedy commission, *Spanking New On 7*. Hot new comedians, talent-scouted from across the

country, get their chance to impress a new audience in a series of hour-long stand-up shows, broadcast over seven weeks.



Robin Ince, a prolific comedian and writer with credits that include *The In Crowd*, *4 At The Store*, *The Office* and *The 11 O'Clock Show*, takes centre stage as compere. His challenging and arguably unenviable task is to warm up the crowd before introducing some of the country's brightest and talented new comedians.

To read an interview with Robin, go to page 8.

The Men From The Ministry From Wednesday 16 July, 2.30pm



Produced and written by Edward Taylor, *The Men From The Ministry* was a spoof on

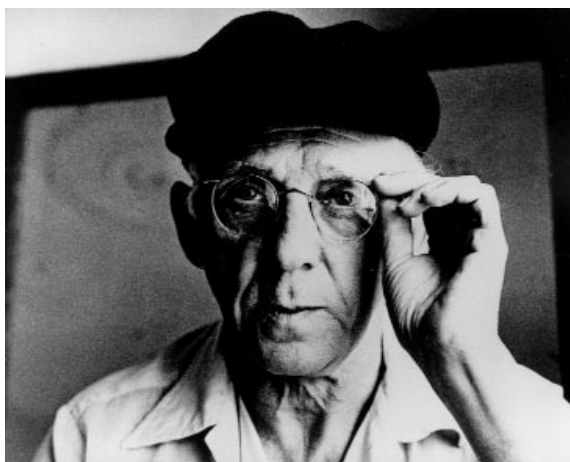
government bureaucracy and a parody of the British Civil Service.

Centred on the General Assistance Department of an unnamed Government ministry in Whitehall, incompetent civil servants, played for most of its run by Deryck Guyler and Richard Murdoch, try to keep their domineering and irrational boss, Under-Secretary George Pitkin, happy. The result is a wide range of escapades and buffoonery now considered classics of radio comedy. Over the years, several distinguished actors made guest appearances including Clive Dunn, Patricia Hayes, June Whitfield and Kenneth Horne.

The series was first broadcast in 1962 and carried on until 1977 with a total of 147 episodes; it also spawned BBC's *Yes, Minister*, which can be heard on BBC 7 on Wednesdays 25 June and 2 July at 2.30pm.

The next generation of civil service comedy, *In The Red*, with Stephen Fry and John Bird, can also be heard on BBC 7 from Wednesday 2 July at 8.30am.

King Cutler
From Saturday 19 July, 2.00pm,
rpt 8.00pm



Ivor Cutler brings his unique skills as a performer of poetry, music, comedy and art

to a six-part series with Phyllis King, first broadcast on Radio 3 in 1990. The programmes offer a glimpse into the inimitable man's personal kingdom.

Ivor Cutler was born in 1924 in Glasgow and his austere childhood there has been a source of inspiration for a number of books of prose, stories and programmes. Ivor's first gig was at the Blue Angel in 1957 but was, in his words, an "unmitigated failure". He started to write poetry at the age of 42, and claims that he wasn't any good until six years later.

Ivor is also recording his canon of children's stories for BBC 7's *Little Toe* in June.

The Foundation Trilogy
From Saturday 19 July, 6.00pm,
rpt 12.00am

Isaac Asimov's powerful science fiction saga spanning hundreds of years is dramatised by Patrick Tull and Mike Stott.

Harry Seldon is an expert in "psycho-history", the practice of predicting the future by analysing recent and yet-to-come historical events. He essentially reduces human behaviour to mathematical equations. Although unable to consistently predict the behaviour of a single human being, he can predict the actions of larger groups of people, especially by putting them in their social context. With this knowledge, Harry determines a way to save his galaxy from years of poverty and ruin, which he predicts will follow after the fall of the Empire.

Produced by David Cain in 1973 for Radio 4, the eight-part dramatisation stars Dinsdale Landen and Martin Friend.

Dick Barton – Special Agent
From Monday 21 July, 8.00pm

A beloved national treasure, Dick Barton was the star of the BBC's first daily radio serial,



broadcast between 1946 and 1951 on the Light Programme.

Along with his two best mates, Jock Anderson and Snowey White, special agent Dick gets himself into some pretty serious scrapes, which he also manages to get out of, thanks to some crime-busting gismos that would even make James Bond envious.

The tongue-in-cheek adventures struck a chord with post-war Britain and the programme had 15 million listeners at its peak. In total, 711 episodes were aired, of which these are some of its best.

Big Toe
Live daily, 4.00pm

S Club 8 are in the studio on Wednesday 25 June and *Big Toe* listeners have the chance to talk to and maybe even sing along with them.

GP Taylor, a Yorkshire vicar, a former policeman and now the author of *Shadowmancer* – which some believe could challenge Harry Potter in the popularity stakes – talks to *Big Toe* listeners on Thursday 26 June about his book's release in June. A turbulent adventure of good versus evil, with some magic, witchcraft and

shipwrecks thrown in for good measure, *Shadowmancer* is set against the backdrop of 18th-century Scarborough, Whitby, Ravenscar and Robin Hood's Bay.



Also in June, Jerammy Fine of the *Guinness Book Of Records* challenges the presenters of *Big Toe* to break some records of their own. In a previous show Kirsten O'Brien made it into the *Book* by managing to wear an amazing 41 pairs of socks at the same time!

In addition, there is music, great comedy and great stories including *Midnight For Charlie Bone* by Jenny Nimmo, *Mighty Fizz Chilla* by Philip Ridley and *Suitcase Kid* by Jacqueline Wilson.

Little Toe
Daily, 7.00am

To celebrate BBC 7's homage to Ivor Cutler in June, the iconoclast poet, writer and musician, beloved of the late John Lennon and the never-late John Peel, records his canon of children's books for *Big Toe*'s younger sibling, *Little Toe*, including *Meal One*, *Herbert: 5 Stories*, *The New Dress*, *The Animal House*, *One-And-A-Quarter*, *Doris The Hen* and *Grape Zoo*. The stories are broadcast later this summer.