

# DRAMA

## WINTER HIGHLIGHTS 2004



### ENGLAND EXPECTS

Steven Mackintosh stars in a hard-hitting drama about a man who is drawn back to his far right past as his life spirals out of control.

Mackintosh plays Ray, a responsible family man, fiercely protective of his daughter, Nikki. But he is also a control freak and, when things start to go wrong – first at work and then at home – he begins to lose his grip on reality. As his behaviour becomes increasingly erratic and he looks for someone other than himself to blame, he turns towards people from his past – people who are prepared to exploit him for their own ends.

*England Expects* is produced by award-winning programme-maker Ruth Caleb. Her BBC ONE credits include Dominic Savage's *Out Of Control*, which won the Michael Powell Award for Best British Film at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, and Antonia Bird's *Care*, which won the Prix Italia for Best Drama.



## THE AFTERNOON PLAYS

BBC Daytime presents an afternoon treat of five very different, self-contained, hour-long dramas, featuring many popular faces of TV drama, including Robson Green and Tina Hobley.

The five stories offer a diverse perspective of contemporary life in the UK: from *Weekend Love*, a sparky story of love and friendship and learning to tell the difference, to *Freeview*, a heart-warming tale of hope and humour, set on a Glaswegian council estate.

Also featuring high-calibre talent behind the camera, with Sarah Lancashire making her directorial debut with *The Bingo Club*, *The Afternoon Plays* are the perfect tonic to combat the winter blues.

## IN DENIAL OF MURDER

Stephen Tompkinson plays campaigning local journalist Don Hale in a factually based drama which explores the controversial case of Stephen Downing and the murder in 1973 of Wendy Sewell (played by Caroline Catz) in Bakewell cemetery in the Peak District.

Don Hale's determination to prove Downing's innocence captured the imagination of the press and public alike. Based on extensive research and written by Neil McKay, *In Denial Of Murder* tells the moving and tragic story behind the headlines, combining the story of Hale's campaign with an account of the life of the murder victim. The drama reunites the award-winning team behind *This Is Personal: The Hunt For The Yorkshire Ripper*.



## INSPECTOR LYNLEY MYSTERIES

Nathaniel Parker and Sharon Small are reunited as the posh cop and his sidekick, DI Lynley and DS Havers, in a new series of the acclaimed detective drama based on the novels by Elizabeth George.

Following the explosive ending to the last series when Havers fired a flare gun at a colleague, she finds herself busted back to uniform as a lowly Detective Constable. Naturally, she blames Lynley for not taking her side, which leads to an antagonistic atmosphere between them. Lynley, meanwhile, is having problems at home with his wife, Helen (Lesley Vicarage) – not least because they never see each other.



## DOWN TO EARTH

Ricky Tomlinson and Denise Welch join Angela Griffin and Ian Kelsey (Frankie and Matt Brewer) in the new series of *Down To Earth*, as Tony and Jackie Murphy, the brawling northern duo whose relationship becomes the subject of local gossip.

Tony is a loveable, modern-day Del boy, always looking to make a quick buck. He is full of scams that often involve the assistance of Matt.

Life on the farm is still proving a challenge for the Brewers: Frankie's pregnancy is the subject of mixed emotions; Matt struggles to come to terms with his eldest daughter, Becky, falling in love with Danny, the new farm help; wicked whispers result in a loss of customers; and a face from the past spells uncertainty for the couple.

Elizabeth Bennett, Ram Jon Holder, Claire King and Gary Webster also star.



## SEA OF SOULS

Past-life experiences, psychic abilities and voodoo are all in a day's work for a team of parapsychologists who investigate extraordinary circumstances surrounding ordinary people.

*Sea Of Souls* is a new investigative drama starring Bill Paterson, Archie Panjabi and Peter McDonald as the research team at Glasgow's Clyde University, who endeavour to explain the inexplicable. The series features two-part storylines with guest stars including Michelle Collins, Siobhan Redmond and Rakie Ayola.

## FAMILY BUSINESS

Marky (Jamie Foreman) runs Brooker and Son, a family building and renovation business. Marky has a passion for maintaining the "perfect family life", but the reality of what's happening around him proves to be very different. He may be the successful family builder, great at improving other people's lives, but things are falling apart in his own home.

His son has disappeared before his first term at Oxford and his daughter is struggling with her identity. Whilst it might be easy to hide behind his clients' problems, he more than anyone should know that you can't paper over the cracks forever.

Written by the award-winning Tony Grounds, *Family Business* also stars Elizabeth Berrington, Claire Rushbrook, Trevor Peacock, Meg Wynn Owen, Danny Dyer and newcomers Ronnie Fox and Abbie Nichols.



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## AUF WIEDERSEHEN, PET

The return of *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet* was one of the television events of last year. Having successfully relocated the Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge to the Arizona desert, there's no job too big for the nation's favourite brickies. Oz and the team are back but, this time, it's rum, salsa and cigars for the boys in Havana.

Cuba's capital is a city of Spanish colonial buildings with a faded and crumbling beauty. Restoration has become a priority and the gang are employed to rebuild the British Ambassador's residence. But that's not their only mission: one of them is singled out to join the British secret service and becomes "Our Man in Havana".

Series four reunites once again Jimmy Nail, Tim Healy, Kevin Whately, Timothy Spall, Christopher Fairbank, Pat Roach and Noel Clarke.



## JONATHAN CREEK

Alan Davies returns as the self-effacing hero to solve three new mysteries, written by David Renwick and featuring guest stars Adrian Edmondson, Celia Imrie, Bamber Gascoigne and Alice Patten. Julia Sawalha also returns as the prim and pushy Carla Borrego.

A "ghost hunter" dies in a tragic boating accident; his body mysteriously disappears. In episode two a highly respected police officer is chosen for an Eyes and Ears profile. But then some damning evidence is discovered. Is he, in fact, a ruthless killer? In episode three, a priceless porcelain figure is stolen from a small-town museum. Is the train of tragic events that follows a manifestation of its destructive nature?

## REDCAP

Tamzin Outhwaite dons the *Red Cap* once more and returns as Sergeant Jo McDonagh in the popular crime drama set on a British army base in Germany.

Jo and the Army's elite Special Investigations Branch investigate Eastern European war criminals, a suspected spy within the Ministry of Defence, the mysterious deaths of two young soldiers and the murder, abduction and trafficking of Eastern European girls bound for prostitution in the west.

Jo's judgement is also called into question when it turns out her lover may be a British traitor.

Douglas Hodge, James Thornton and Gordon Kennedy also star.





## THE DEPUTY

Warren Clarke plays fictional Deputy Prime Minister and Birmingham MP Bob Galway, a man of the people – opinionated, principled and pragmatic – in a one-off drama written by Richard Stoneman.

*The Deputy* is a funny, wry, fast-paced and sexy drama which explores Galway's life and work, from the nightmare of shuffling constituency business and parliamentary affairs to ministerial responsibilities, and how it impacts on his personal life. Surrounded by inefficient, highly sexed private secretaries, a beleaguered Bob strives to protect his reputation, his career and his conscience, as he tries to outsmart his adversaries in Westminster.

Making life increasingly difficult for him are Stephen Sharples, a self-seeking career politician, played by Jack Dee; and Terri Leonard, the Prime Minister's sharp-witted director of communications, played by Dervla Kirwan.

## HUSTLE

The first rule of law is:  
"You can't con an honest man."

From the makers of *Spooks*, *Hustle* follows the fortunes of a group of expert con artists let loose on the streets of London.

Mickey is master of the dying art of the "long con" and godfather of the gang; Danny is young, hungry and determined to prove he's got what it takes; Albert is the best in the business at identifying the "mark"; Ash is a seasoned con artist and an expert "fixer"; and beautiful, street-sharp Stacie completes the team.

Mickey is played by Adrian Lester, Danny by Marc Warren, Albert by Robert Vaughn, Ash by Robert Glenister and Stacie by Jaime Murray.

MELISSA HALL-SMITH,



