



# DRAMA

## WINTER HIGHLIGHTS 2004



### GUNPOWDER, TREASON & PLOT

An epic new drama for BBC TWO by award-winning writer Jimmy McGovern tells the story of Mary Queen Of Scots, James I and the Gunpowder Plot.

Starring Robert Carlyle as James I and French newcomer Clemence Poesy as Mary, the drama also features Kevin McKidd, Emelia Fox, Tim McInerney, Catherine McCormack, Richard Coyle, Daniella Nardini and Paul Nicholls.

Filmed entirely on location in Romania, the drama tells of Mary's short-lived reign and the battles she had to fight in Scotland with both her Protestant subjects and the English queen, Elizabeth I. The story continues with her son, James VI of Scotland (who became James I of England), and the plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament.



## HAWKING

The story of the early years of world-renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking is brought to the screen for the first time in a collaboration between BBC Science and BBC Drama.

Written by Peter Moffat (*North Square*, *Cambridge Spies*), *Hawking* stars Benedict Cumberbatch as the young Stephen Hawking who, as a bright and ambitious PhD student at Cambridge University, is diagnosed with the debilitating motor neurone disease and given two years to live. Against the odds, he goes on to achieve worldwide acclaim and success, in particular with his astounding book, *A Brief History Of Time*.

Lisa Dillon (*The Master Builder*, *Bright Young Things*) plays Hawking's first wife, Jane Wilde, who meets the young cosmologist at a party in 1963 and is instantly intrigued by Stephen's talk of stars and the universe. Michael Brandon, (*Jerry Springer* in the highly successful National Theatre production of *Jerry Springer-The Opera*, *Dempsey and Makepeace*) plays Arno Penzias, an American Nobel prize-winning scientist whose work provided physical evidence to back up Hawking's *Big Bang* theory; John Sessions (*The Last Prince*, *Judge John Deed*) plays Dennis Sciama, Hawking's academic supervisor and mentor at Cambridge.



