



DRAMA

CHARLES II

A dynamic romp through history - racy, visceral and violent – *Charles II* is set in the corridors and bedrooms of power, when the conflict between monarch and State was at a crossroads. Starring Rufus Sewell as King Charles II, Rupert Graves, Helen McCrory, Martin Freeman, Dame Diana Rigg and Ian McDiarmid.

The drama focuses on the court of King Charles II, his squabbling family and his glamorous mistresses – from the high-born and promiscuous Barbara Villiers (Helen McCrory) through folk heroine and sex symbol of the day Nell Gwynne, to French spy Louise de Keroualle (Mélanie Thierry).

From the pen of award-winning screenwriter Adrian Hodges, whose credits include *David Copperfield* and *The Lost World*, this ambitious and original take on Charles's reign penetrates to the heart of the charismatic monarch who was deeply traumatised by the execution of his father.

Charles Stuart is destitute, weary and hopeless. After nearly a decade in exile from Republican England, never did the prospects of regaining his crown seem so bleak - until canny General Monck persuades Parliament to invite him back to take up the throne. Charles's triumphant ride into London on his 30th birthday segues into another victory: the long-anticipated seduction of beautiful, tantalising Barbara Villiers, who has been holding out on him for several months.

The cast also includes: Diana Rigg as Henrietta Maria, Charles's volatile mother; Martin Freeman as Shaftesbury, a Minister in the House of Commons; Shirley Henderson as Queen Catherine; Charlie Creed-Miles as James, Charles's brother; and Alice Patten as the demure Lady Frances Stuart, the young virgin who manages to escape Charles's sexual advances.

To complement *Charles II*, BBC One is screening two documentaries on *Cromwell* and *King Charles II, The Boy That Would Be King* and *Oliver Cromwell – Warts and All*.



JUDGE JOHN DEED

Martin Shaw returns as Judge John Deed in a new series of the drama that strikes at the heart of the British legal system. This time around, Deed is fighting for justice in a world that favours big business. A deeply conscientious man, he respects no office that harbours corruption and is prepared to take his fight to the highest levels of Government.

But Deed is also a flawed hero, a habitual womaniser who cannot maintain relationships. This powerful and sometimes arrogant man is masking a lonely soul.



HOLY CROSS

Holy Cross is a factually based drama telling the story of two fictional families caught up in the events of 3 September 2001 on the Ardoyne Road in Belfast. A dispute arose concerning the rights of schoolgirls from the Catholic Ardoyne area of north Belfast to walk a few hundred yards past the predominantly Loyalist area of Glenbryn to the Holy Cross primary school. *Holy Cross* attempts to go behind the anger and the headlines to discover why the people involved in this particular dispute felt they had to see it through, no matter what the consequences.

This is a story about fear, identity, community, territory, trust and enmity in a polarised society where politics and community relations have failed. Holy Cross see's the dispute through the eyes of two fictional families to provide an insight into the actions and emotions of those involved on both sides.

The drama stars Zara Turner (*Sliding Doors*) and Bronagh Gallagher (*Sinners*).

CANTERBURY TALES

Julie Walters heads an outstanding cast in *Canterbury Tales*, one of the most ambitious adaptations ever undertaken by the BBC. The drama also features James Nesbitt, Om Puri, Paul Nicholls, Dennis Waterman, Billie Piper, Andrew Lincoln, Keeley Hawes, John Simm, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Jonny Lee Miller.

Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* are retold for a modern audience by some of Britain's best-known contemporary writers – Tony Marchant, Peter Bowker, Sally Wainwright and Tony Grounds – who are joined by two writers new to television drama, Olivia Hetreed and Avie Luthra.

Each tale has been imaginatively updated to reflect life in Britain today, with themes such as the cult of celebrity, the obsession with youth and the bigotry aimed towards asylum seekers. They are as relevant today as they were 600 years ago.

The Knight's Tale, *The Miller's Tale*, *The Sea-Captain's Tale*, *The Wife Of Bath*, *The Man Of Law's Tale* and *The Pardoner's Tale* are all set on the pilgrims' route to Canterbury. The journey begins in Southwark and continues through Blackheath, Gravesend, Rochester and Chatham before finally reaching Canterbury.





SILENT WITNESS

A new series of emotionally testing cases are in store for the usually cool, calm and collected Professor Sam Ryan (Amanda Burton).

Sam’s emotional resilience is put to the test when she is faced with the painful realisation that motherhood is no longer an option for her, becomes emotionally involved in a case after a brief encounter with the victim’s lover, and fights off a ferocious sex attacker. An increasingly vulnerable Sam is also hunted down by a man whom she wrongly accused of murder several years before – a man who is now out for revenge.

Returning alongside Sam are her partners in crime detection, Dr Leo Dalton (Will Gaminara) and Harry Cunningham (Tom Ward), who help unmask the culprits behind a variety of mysterious and suspicious deaths.

MERSEYBEAT

Leslie Ash and John McArdle return for a fourth series of Merseybeat, the popular Liverpool-based cop drama.

Inspector Charlie Eden (Ash) and Superintendent Jim Oulton (McArdle) head up operations at Newton Park station, with its team of established officers (played by Joanna Taylor, Josie D’Arby and Chris Walker). There are also some new recruits, including DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack) and PC Glenn Freeman (Scot Williams).

For all the team, there are professional and personal challenges – particularly when it emerges that Eden has a romantic history with one of the newcomers.



MONARCH OF THE GLEN

Glenbogle favourites Alastair Mackenzie (Archie), Dawn Steele (Lexie), Hamish Clark (Duncan), Susan Hampshire (Molly) and Alexander Morton (Golly) return to the Highlands estate for a new series, with Lloyd Owen as Archie’s newly discovered half-brother, Paul.

Also making their mark in the new series are: Dorothy, Killwillie’s manipulative sister (Richenda Carey); her overbearing daughter, Hermione (Hermione Gulliford); Golly’s daughter, Jessica (Rae Hendrie); and charming rogue Ewan, played by Martin Compston.

WAKING THE DEAD

Trevor Eve, Sue Johnston, Claire Goose, Holly Aird and Wil Johnson are *Waking The Dead* in a new series of the popular drama focusing on the Met’s “cold case” squad.

Using advanced techniques in forensic science, the crack squad of experts gets under the skin of more tough, unsolved cases in a bid to uncover the truth. Boyd’s (Eve) team of devoted professionals often take risks in order to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Cases under scrutiny in this series include a difficult investigation involving the remains of a young man found in an ancient burial ground. The discovery of new clues takes the squad on an unexpected trail. Tom Bell, Saskia Reeves and Charlie Creed-Miles also star.



DALZIEL & PASCOE

Warren Clarke and Colin Buchanan are back on the case as top detectives Dalziel and Pascoe. Supported by a superb line-up of guest stars including Alison Steadman and Ricky Tomlinson, the Yorkshire-based coppers face their toughest cases yet.

Katy Cavanagh joins the cast as DS Milligan – also known as “Spike” – an ambitious single parent who’s made it through the ranks, holds her own with the men of CID and gives as good as she gets.

Dalziel’s (Clarke) “individual” detective style increasingly rankles with his seniors and he battles to keep his cool as he investigates more intriguing murders. Fortunately, trusty sidekick Pascoe (Buchanan) is on hand to smooth things over and keep their cases on track.

RETURNING SERIES

CASUALTY

EASTENDERS

HOLBY CITY