



# ENTERTAINMENT



## THE CROUCHES

Robbie Gee, Jo Martin, Rudolph Walker and Mona Hammond star in an upbeat, contemporary comedy series for BBC One which takes an intimate, yet humorous, view of the trials and tribulations of a family living in Walworth, south-east London.

Childhood sweethearts Roly Crouch (Robbie Gee) and Natalie (Jo Martin) have been married for 18 years. With two demanding teenagers, Aiden and Adele, plus live-in parents Langley (Rudolph Walker) and Sylvie (Mona Hammond), the pressure on the Crouch household sometimes reaches boiling point. Natalie's best friend, Lindy, and Roly's workmates, Bailey and Ed, all add to the fun.

The cast also includes: Akemnji Ndifornyen (from Dominic Savage's award-winning 2002 drama, *Out Of Control*), Ony Uhiara (*Waking The Dead*, *The Vice*), Danny John-Jules (*Red Dwarf*, *Lock*, *Stock And Two Smoking Barrels*), Don Warrington (*Manchild*, *Rising Damp*), Llewella Gideon (*The Real McCoy*, *Absolutely Fabulous*) and Jimmy Akingbola (*Roger Roger*, *Doctors*).

Writer Ian Pattison is best known for creating and writing nine series of the multi-award-winning *Rab C Nesbitt*. *The Crouches* is directed by Nick Wood (award-winning director of *Black Books*, *Kerching* and *Goodness Gracious Me*), and produced by Stephen McCrum (*Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps*) and Carlton Dixon (*Blouse And Skirt*, *The Real McCoy*).





TEST THE NATION – THE NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE TEST

Anne Robinson and Phillip Schofield test the nation’s general knowledge in the latest of this successful format.

Six groups of people and a team of celebrities will take the test live on the night and answer questions from a variety of categories. Colin “Cooperman” Cooper has devised the scoring system to determine the national average, which will be unique to the show. The test will be a truly interactive experience, giving viewers the chance to take the test in a variety of ways, as well as by using good, old-fashioned pencil and paper.

A panel of experts will be on hand to assess the scores and see which group scores the highest on the night.



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, the 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 boy-friend, Terry. Mary, the elderly 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, Kitty, Kay and Kathline.

Martin is played by Tony Maudsley, Sandy by Sheridan Smith, Mary by Edna Doré, Christine by Rosie Cavaliero and Bobby by Neil Fitzmaurice.

Angela Clarke began writing two years ago when she sent her first hand-written script to the BBC New Writing Scheme, an initiative searching for new talent.

SUPERSTARS

Johnny Vaughan and Suzi Perry present the return of the legendary sports-entertainment show, *Superstars*.

Contestants already confirmed include footballers Dennis Wise and Stuart Pearce, athletes Colin Jackson and Liz McColgan, Annabel Croft from the tennis world, jockeys Richard Dunwoody and Peter Scudamore, and rugby players Martin Offiah and brothers Rory and Tony Underwood.

They are just a few of the top sportsmen and women who have signed up to take part in 10 disciplines, ranging from the infamous gym tests (dips and squats) to mountain biking, the 100m sprint, target golf and swimming.

The series features four men’s qualifiers and a final, as well as a women’s special, and contestants are based in an Olympic-style village at the world-famous La Manga Club in southern Spain, where they live and compete together.

The original *Superstars*, presented by David Vine, ran for 11 years on BBC One from 1974-1985, and featured memorable moments such as Brian Jacks’s outstanding gym performances, Kevin Keegan falling off a bike at high speed and Malcolm McDonald setting a record for the 100m.







HERE COMES THE SUN

Following a successful pilot earlier this year, Claire Sweeney returns to host a new series of the game show, *Here Comes The Sun*.

Contestants have the opportunity to win a luxury apartment for two weeks every year for the rest of their lives, in a highly sought-after holiday location. There are tears, tantrums and ecstatic joy as two families battle it out for the chance to win their ultimate dream prize.

Before they can get their hands on the keys to the holiday home, the families have to play a series of games especially themed for fun in the sun, which tests not only specific skills but also the strength of the relationships within the family unit.

ROLF AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Rolf Harris, one of the nation’s favourite Australians, takes centre stage at the Royal Albert Hall for an entertainment extravaganza in aid of The Prince’s Trust to celebrate his unique career. Joining him on stage will be fellow Antipodeans, celebrities and artists performing a wide range of material from Rolf’s huge repertoire. A dream line-up could include Nicole Kidman, Kylie and Dannii Minogue, Jarvis Cocker, Lou Reed and Boy George. With an incredible orchestra, didgeridoos, wobble boards and Stylophones resounding to the sound of Rolf’s hits, from *Stairway To Heaven* and *Two Little Boys to Perfect Day* and *Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport*, viewers can expect a unique evening.



ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS

The outrageous Edina (Jennifer Saunders) and Patsy (Joanna Lumley) are back for a fifth series of *Absolutely Fabulous* on BBC One. Along with the long-suffering Saffy (Julia Sawalha), Mother (June Whitfield) and Bubble (Jane Horrocks), the show also features Emma Bunton, Fern Britton, Elton John and other celebrity guests.

Saffy returns after having been away for several months. Edina has been coping on her own but, without Saffy’s watchful eye, work has fallen low on her list of priorities, and the house has seen tidier days – after all, there is just so much shopping to do. Edina is now a “CPR” – a celebrity PR – and Patsy continues to work at Jeremy’s – a new concept fashion store – but wants Eddy to find her work as a celebrity stylist.

THE STORY OF ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS

*The Story Of Absolutely Fabulous* is the definitive account of one of British comedy’s most successful sitcoms. The programme answers burning questions such as: was Patsy once a man? Why was Joanna Lumley nearly put off taking the role of Patsy? Who was originally going to play Saffy? And what do Marisa Berensen, Jennifer Saunders and Lynne Franks all have in common?

From how it came into being to how it manages to stay at the top of its game, this entertaining and engaging documentary follows the antics of the Ab Fab crew, namely Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley, Julia Sawalha and June Whitfield. It also sheds light on some of comedy’s most far-out characters. Featuring behind-the-scenes footage and drunken outtakes, *The Story Of Absolutely Fabulous* is everything you need to know... and a little bit more.

ALL ABOUT ME

Jasper Carrott returns to play Brummie builder Colin Craddock, with Nina Wadia joining as his wife, Rupinder, in this comedy which highlights the reality of two families from different cultures coming together and forming a loving unit.

The Craddock family has a new baby and, 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 an fixation on birds of a different kind; Rupinder’s daughter, Kavita, is finding it hard 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 acquires a long-awaited speech communication aid which enables him to have his say.



TRAVELS WITH AN UNFIT MOTHER

*Travels With An Unfit Mother* is like a one-off road movie with a difference.

Anne Robinson is the mother thought too unfit to bring up her own daughter, and the woman who lost out in a bitter custody battle. Emma is the daughter who came to hate the weekend shuttle diplomacy between parents and left for America to pursue a college education and a career.

Much has been written about their relationship but it has never been seen up close. This travelogue brings mother and daughter together publicly for the first time and puts their relationship to the test as they journey across the States.

RETURNING SERIES

COMMERCIAL BREAKDOWN

FRIDAY NIGHT WITH JONATHAN ROSS

HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

PARKINSON

THEY THINK IT’S ALL OVER

BBC One’s much-loved comedy sports quiz *They Think It’s All Over* returns this autumn with a new captain for each team. Former England and Middlesex cricketer Phil Tufnell signed up for the show earlier this summer as one of the team leaders; the identity of the second captain will be revealed in August.

Regulars Jonathan Ross and Rory McGrath return alongside host and referee Nick Hancock for the 16th series. In addition to the infamous *Feel The Sportsman* round, viewers can expect to see the return of some old favourites as well as some extra-special surprises.