

**THE BFI & RADIO TIMES TELEVISION FESTIVAL 2019 ANNOUNCES
MORE EVENTS INCLUDING HELEN MIRREN, MARK GATISS,
SURANNE JONES AND PEAKY BLINDERS
BFI SOUTHBANK, 12-14 APRIL 2019**

New confirmed sessions and guests include: Helen Mirren, Peaky Blinders with Steven Knight and Helen McCrory, Mark Gatiss, Gentleman Jack with Suranne Jones and Sally Wainwright, Beecham House with Gurinder Chadha, 63 Up with Michael Apted, Josh O'Connor, TV Quiz with Richard Osman, Moominvalley, The Nation's Favourite TV Themes, Missing Believed Wiped Special: The Scaffold

The **BFI & Radio Times Television Festival**, the biggest, most exciting public television festival in the UK, featuring the very best TV shows, stars, writers and directors, today reveals the final events in this year's exciting line-up. Cast and crew of some of the best-loved shows on British TV as well as previews of hotly anticipated new shows will appear on stage at the second outing of the Festival at **BFI Southbank** from **Friday 12 April – Sunday 14 April 2019**.

The BFI and Radio Times today announce that **Dame Helen Mirren**, will be honoured at the Festival with her induction into the **Radio Times Hall of Fame**. The legendary star of *Prime Suspect* has been a permanent fixture on British screens for decades, with her Oscar-winning turn in *The Queen* sealing her place as one of the most beloved British stars of the big and small screen, both at home and abroad, and she is soon to return to UK screens with the lead role in Sky Atlantic's *Catherine the Great*. Mirren will close the Festival with an In Conversation event about her incredible and varied career on **Sunday 14 April**.

Other new events being announced today include a celebration of the phenomenal success of *Peaky Blinders* with creator **Steven Knight** and star **Helen McCrory**, a session on Ghost Stories with **Mark Gatiss**, a talk with rising star **Josh O'Connor** (*Les Misérables*, *God's Own Country*) who will soon be seen playing Prince Charles in *The Crown*, and a **TV Quiz** with ticket holders getting a unique chance to be quizzed by host **Richard Osman**. Also on the bill will be a live edition of *The Two Shot Podcast*, hosted by actor **Craig Parkinson** (*Line of Duty*), who will be joined by a special guest actor to discuss the highs and lows of their profession.

The festival also features previews, followed by Q&As with cast and crew, of some of this year's most hotly anticipated television **programmes**, including *Gentleman Jack*, the new drama written by **Sally Wainwright** (*Happy Valley*) and starring **Suranne Jones** as Anne Lister, the 19th century woman who is often credited as the 'first modern lesbian'; which will be followed by a **Q&A** with Jones and Wainwright. Also previewing will be *63 Up with Michael Apted*, which sees the director, who will be onstage following the preview, revisit the same group of people he has interviewed every seven years since childhood in 1964. Younger audiences will be able to get a first look at the new animated series *Moominvalley*, based on Tove and Lars Jansson's beloved *Moomin* series, and meet the Oscar-nominated director of the series **Steve Box** (*The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*) and Tove Jansson's niece and Creative Consultant on *Moominvalley*, **Sophia Jansson**. Finally, there will be a preview of *Beecham House*, ITV's new historical epic set in India at the cusp of the 19th century; following preview there will be a **Q&A** with director **Gurinder Chadha**, and cast members **Tom Bateman**, **Bessie Carter**, **Dakota Blue Richards** and **Viveik Kalra**.

The Festival will also feature an event celebrating the **Nation's Favourite TV Themes** with **Classic FM**, presented by Radio Times film editor and Classic FM presenter **Andrew Collins** and composer **Howard Goodall**. The event will reveal the results of a poll run in Radio Times in the coming weeks to find the nation's best loved television theme tune.

The **BFI's Missing Believed Wiped** series, which seeks to screen TV material long thought lost, will mount a special event during the Festival celebrating the latest return from global lost TV hunter Philip Morris. Philip will present a 1969 TV special featuring the comedy music group **The Scaffold** (comprising musician **Mike McCartney**, Comedian **John Gorman** and poet **Roger McGough**) who will appear in person to introduce the screening.

Previously announced previews at the Festival will include:

- **Stephen Poliakoff's** arresting new Cold War drama **Summer of Rockets** starring **Keeley Hawes** and **Toby Stephens**, followed by a **Q&A** with **Stephen Poliakoff** and **Keeley Hawes**
- **Russell T Davies'** joins us for a preview of his ambitious new BBC One drama **Years and Years**; the cast include Emma Thompson, Rory Kinnear and Jessica Hynes
- The new post-watershed comedy from the team behind *Horrible Histories*, **Ghosts** will be previewed, followed by a **Q&A** with the team
- The first episode of the female-led anthology drama **Kirsty** from BAFTA-winning film-maker **Dominic Savage** will be previewed; the screening will be followed by a **Q&A** with **Dominic Savage** and its star **Samantha Morton**
- Three episodes of iconic comedy **Dad's Army** were seemingly destroyed after they were broadcast and are now being remade; meet the new cast, including **Kevin McNally** (Captain Mainwaring) and **Robert Bathurst** (Sergeant Wilson) and see preview clips of the new shows

Previously announced sessions in the Festival will be dedicated to:

- **Joanna Lumley** will be welcomed into the **Radio Times Hall of Fame** to celebrate her five decades in television, from *The New Avengers* and *Absolutely Fabulous*, to her recent role as the intrepid presenter of exotic travelogues
- Creator of **Bodyguard** and **Line of Duty**, **Jed Mercurio**, will take part in two sessions dedicated to his hit shows
- Join **Nicola Walker** (subject to filming commitments), **Sanjeev Bhaskar**, writer/creator **Chris Lang** and executive producers **Sally Haynes** and **Laura Mackie** as they reflect on the success of the cold-case crime drama **Unforgotten**, that has enthralled viewers for three series
- Guests including **Steve Pemberton** and **Reece Shearsmith** will offer audiences an insight into the live Halloween episode of **Inside No 9**
- The star of **Vera**, **Brenda Blethyn** and acclaimed crime writer and creator of **Vera Ann Cleves** will take part in a session looking at the continued success of the show
- **Heidi Thomas'** hit drama **Call the Midwife** will be discussed by Thomas alongside actors **Leonie Elliott**, **Helen George** and **Jennifer Kirby**
- The creators of **Black Mirror**, **Charlie Brooker** and **Annabel Jones**, discuss the latest series
- There will be a live edition of hit comedy game show **Taskmaster**, with comedians **Alex Horne** and **Greg Davies**
- Cast and crew of Channel 4's edgy Yorkshire-based drama **Ackley Bridge** will join us for a session to discuss the show's compelling storylines and youth appeal
- A new strand programmed for and by young people – **Switched On** – will include sessions on BBC Three's psychological thriller **Clique** with cast members **Synnove Karlsen** (Holly), **Sophia Brown** (Louise), **Izuka Hoyle** (Dani), **Leo Suter** (Jack) and **I Feel So Seen: the Messy Characters Tearing Up TV** with guests **Bryan Elsley** (*Skins*, *Clique*), **Ambreen Razia** (*Hounslow Diaries*), **Kirstie Swain** and **Charly Clive** (*Pure*)

- One of Britain's best-loved bakers, **Nadiya Hussain**, will join us for an afternoon of cakes and chat, while **Jamie Oliver** be celebrating 20 years since the launch of *The Naked Chef*, and whisking up classic recipes to taste in a live demonstration
- Following the release of her debut book, a memoir called *Character Breakdown*, **Zawe Ashton** will discuss the nature of performance, not just in an actor's life, but in all our lives
- The BBC's security correspondent **Frank Gardner** will talk about how a terrorist attack changed his life - and the work he's done since
- Stars of *The Big Narstie Show* **Big Narstie** and **Mo Gilligan** will join us to celebrate the breakout chat show
- The cast and crew of *Midsomer Murders*, including **Neil Dudgeon** and **Jane Wymark**, will be onstage to celebrate the long-running show, before audiences can retire to the Blue Room for a *Midsomer Afternoon Tea*, with sandwiches, tea and cakes. For the health conscious, we can guarantee all items are murder-free, but members of the *Midsomer Murders* cast will be popping in to ensure no foul play, just in case...
- Events drawing on material from the **BFI National Archive** will celebrate David Bowie and take a look at the earliest British TV advertisements

The inaugural edition of the festival in 2017 welcomed star names including **Tom Hiddleston**, **Claire Foy**, **Maggie Smith**, **Keeley Hawes**, **Freida Pinto**, **Michael Palin** and **Thandie Newton**, and was attended by more than ten thousand people over the course of the weekend.

The BFI and Radio Times is a partnership that underlines how both organisations have played an essential part in British television heritage for decades; the BFI is responsible for maintaining the BFI National Archive, home to one of the most significant archives of film and television in the world and is the UK's designated National Television Archive. This includes the largest accessible archive of British TV programmes, an estimated 750,000 titles collected since the late 1950s. In addition, the BFI curates television seasons and events at BFI Southbank, providing public access to that TV heritage. The Radio Times is UK's leading authority on television and radio and was the world's first broadcast listings magazine when it was founded in 1923 and is the UK's best-selling quality magazine.

The full line-up and timings for the BFI & Radio Times Television Festival can be found at www.bfi.org.uk/TVFest

NOTES TO EDITORS:

On sale dates for new events (all previously announced events already on sale):

Monday 4 March, 11:30am – BFI Champions and Patrons

Tuesday 5 March, 11:30am – BFI Members

Wednesday 6 March, 11:30am – Radio Times Subscribers

Tuesday 12 March, 11:30am – General public

Talent appearances subject to change. Please check the [BFI website](http://www.bfi.org.uk) for updates to the programme and sign up for updates about the festival.

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Press Officer, BFI Cultural Programme

liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918

Mia Farrell – PR Manager, BFI Festivals

mia.farrell@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8970

Judy Wells – Head of Press and PR, BFI
judy.wells@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8919

Dominic Lobley – Head of PR, Radio Times
Dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk / 020 7150 5015

About the BFI

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and Industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

About Radio Times

Owned by Immediate Media Co since 2011, Radio Times is the UK's leading authority on television and radio. Radio Times is the UK's biggest selling quality magazine and also the UK's largest weekly subscription title, with over 250,000 subscribers. RadioTimes.com has over 15.5million unique monthly users and is the UK's fastest growing dedicated TV and entertainment website. Radio Times has a total weekly brand reach of 3.36million. Radio Times was named Media Brand of the Year at the 2018 British Media Awards. Follow on Twitter @RadioTimes

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank can be found via the link below:
<https://bfi.sharefile.com/d-s4b33a897b7443cfa>