

## THE BFI & RADIO TIMES TELEVISION FESTIVAL 2019 ANNOUNCES MORE EVENTS INCLUDING OPENING NIGHT WITH JOANNA LUMLEY BFI SOUTHBANK, 12-14 APRIL 2019

*Confirmed sessions and guests include: Joanna Lumley, Stephen Poliakoff, Keeley Hawes, Bodyguard and Line of Duty creator Jed Mercurio, Brenda Blethyn, Black Mirror creators Charlie Brooker and Annabel Jones, Inside No 9's Reece Shearsmith and Steve Pemberton, Russell T Davies, Zawe Ashton, Frank Gardner, Jamie Oliver, Nadiya Hussain, Big Narstie, Dominic Savage, Samantha Morton, Taskmaster's Alex Horne and Greg Davies, Call the Midwife, Unforgotten, Midsomer Murders and Dad's Army*

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, is returning for a second outing at **BFI Southbank** from **Friday 12 April – Sunday 14 April 2019**. This year's Festival will kick off with **Joanna Lumley**, who 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.

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. Sessions drawing on material from the **BFI National Archive** will include *From the BFI National Archive: David Bowie* featuring enthralling forgotten footage of Bowie on British TV, including revealing interviews, unexpected acting appearances and dazzling musical performances from a true icon.

Previews will include:

- **Stephen Poliakoff's *Summer of Rockets*** starring **Keeley Hawes** and **Toby Stephens**
- **Russell T Davies'** ambitious new BBC One drama ***Years and Years***
- New post-watershed comedy from the team behind *Horrible Histories*, ***Ghosts***
- The powerful and emotionally charged ***Kirsty*** from BAFTA-winning film-maker **Dominic Savage**, starring Oscar-nominee **Samantha Morton**

The previously announced line-up of **Jed Mercurio (*Bodyguard, Line of Duty*)**, **The Big Narstie Show**, ***Midsomer Murders***, ***Dad's Army*** and **Jamie Oliver** will be joined by:

- ***Unforgotten*** starring **Nicola Walker** and **Sanjeev Bhaskar**
- ***Inside No 9*** – with a particular focus on the live Halloween episode
- ***Vera*** starring **Brenda Blethyn** and created by acclaimed crime writer **Ann Cleeves**
- **Heidi Thomas'** hit drama ***Call the Midwife***; joining Thomas onstage will be actors **Leonie Elliott**, **Helen George** and **Jennifer Kirby**
- The creators of ***Black Mirror***, **Charlie Brooker** and **Annabel Jones**, discuss the latest series
- Hit comedy game show ***Taskmaster***, with comedians **Alex Horne** and **Greg Davies**
- Channel 4's edgy Yorkshire-based drama ***Ackley Bridge***
- A new strand programmed for and by young people will include sessions on BBC Three's psychological thriller ***Clique*** 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**, joins us for an afternoon of cakes and chat
- A session with actor **Zawe Ashton** looking at the nature of performance
- A talk from the BBC's security correspondent **Frank Gardner**

### **Full programme details:**

The weekend will kick off with national treasure **Joanna Lumley**, who will be welcomed into the **Radio Times Hall of Fame** to celebrate her five decades in television, which has seen her successfully turn her hand to everything from acting to writing, directing and presenting. Joanna will talk about her career, from *The New Avengers* and *Sapphire and Steel*, to her BAFTA-winning portrayal of Patsy in *Absolutely Fabulous*, and not forgetting her recent role as the intrepid presenter of exotic travelogues.

**Jed Mercurio**, the man behind two of BBC One's most critically acclaimed dramas, 2018's *Bodyguard*, and the hit police corruption drama *Line of Duty*. Jed will be talking about the return of *Line of Duty*, alongside stars from the cast. In a separate session, *Making of a Modern Classic*, he and his team will discuss how they made the Golden Globe-winning *Bodyguard*.

*Unforgotten* stars **Nicola Walker** and **Sanjeev Bhaskar**, alongside writer and creator Chris Lang and executive producers Sally Haynes and Laura Mackie, reveal the secrets of the success of the cold-case crime drama that has enthralled viewers for three series on ITV. With a new series in the pipeline, the stars and creators talk about the enduring appeal of crime drama – with a twist.

Following the huge success of the ground-breaking *Black Mirror: Bandersnatch*, creators **Charlie Brooker** and **Annabel Jones** are back with their fifth series of *Black Mirror*. The unnervingly insightful and often disturbing anthology, exploring the impact of technology on the way we live, has won two BAFTAs and seven Emmys. Join Brooker and Jones as they discuss the ideas behind the new series, how they realised them on screen, their relationship with technology – and the future of television.

*Inside No 9* creators **Reece Shearsmith** and **Steve Pemberton**, along with director Barbara Wiltshire and long-standing producer Adam Tandy, revisit their ground-breaking live Halloween episode *Dead Line*, to discuss how they produced one of the TV events of the year.

*Vera* star **Brenda Blethyn** appears alongside the show's creator and acclaimed crime writer **Ann Cleeves** to explore how different the TV portrayal of the much-loved sleuth is from the character in the hugely successful novels. And what happens when a work of fiction develops an entirely new life as a TV drama?

*Call the Midwife*'s writer and creator **Heidi Thomas** is joined by cast members **Leonie Elliott**, **Helen George** and **Jennifer Kirby** to discuss how the hit-drama deals with hard-hitting and sensitive storylines, from backstreet abortion, disability, racial tension, alcoholism and the thalidomide scandal, while still finding a message of hope for our times – all on a Sunday night!

Dave's word-of-mouth hit *Taskmaster*, created by comedian **Alex Horne**, is the cult comedy game show that sets out to test the wiles, wit and wisdom of hyper-competitive comics with a series of ingenious challenges. Taskmaster **Greg Davies** and his assistant Little Alex Horne present an exclusive look at the new series – and play the game for real.

*Ackley Bridge* star **Amy Leigh-Hickman** (Nasreen), director Penny Woolcock and creator Ayub Khan-Din discuss how its compelling storylines have led to the continued success of Channel 4's Yorkshire-based edgy drama about teachers and students from the local British and Pakistani communities.

This year's festival will also include a strand programmed for and by young people, to reflect their radically different TV-viewing experiences including a session on the massively popular BBC Three hit *Clique* with cast **Synnové Karlsen**, **Sophia Brown** and **Izuka Hoyle**. Also part of this strand will be *I Feel So Seen: the Messy Characters Tearing Up TV* in which the creators of some of the most interesting,

yet flawed, young characters on TV discuss how they bring them to life. Guests will include the creator of *Skins* **Bryan Elsley**, the writer of new Channel 4 drama *Pure*, **Kirstie Swain** and its star **Charly Clive**, and **Ambreen Razia**, writer, creator and star of BBC Three's *Hounslow Diaries*.

The BBC's security correspondent **Frank Gardner** talks about his two very different lives. Since he was shot by terrorists in Saudi Arabia in 2004, he has had to use a wheelchair, but that hasn't stopped him from doing the day job – or pursuing his other roles as a thriller writer, an intrepid wildlife filmmaker and as a voice for wheelchair users' rights.

Following the release of her debut book, a memoir called *Character Breakdown*, **Zawe Ashton** discusses the nature of performance, not just in an actor's life, but in all our lives. Zawe will discuss her life and career, from her earliest days as a child actor to her current multiplicity of roles, as a writer, director and multi-talented performer.

**Plus exclusive preview screenings of some of 2019's most anticipated new programmes:**

Multi-award-winning writer and director **Stephen Poliakoff** is joined by **Keeley Hawes** for an exclusive preview of his much anticipated forthcoming BBC Two Cold War-themed drama *Summer of Rockets*. When Samuel (Toby Stephens) is charged by MI5 with uncovering the secrets of his charming new friends, his life becomes more and more entwined with his mission, how far is he willing to let things unravel for his cause. A panel discussion will follow, featuring Poliakoff, Hawes and other members of the cast.

An exclusive preview of episode one of **Russell T Davies's** ambitious new BBC One drama, *Years and Years*, which stars Emma Thompson, Rory Kinnear, Jessica Hynes, Ruth Madeley, T'Nia Miller, Anne Reid and Russell Tovey. *Years and Years* tells the story of the Lyons family in a fast-changing Britain. Their lives converge on one crucial night in 2019, then the story accelerates into the future. As we follow the twists and turns of the next 15 years, we find out if this ordinary family could ever change the world. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Russell T Davies and members of the cast.

An exclusive screening with the cast of BBC One's new post-watershed comedy *Ghosts*, from the writer and performers behind *Yonderland*, *Bill* and *Horrible Histories* (**Mathew Bayton**, **Jim Howick**, **Martha Howe-Douglas**, **Ben Willbond** and **Laurence Rickard**). The estate of Button Hall is haunted by ghosts from different historical eras, but all are united by their plan to scare away the young couple who now own the property and want to turn it into a hotel.

*Kirsty* stars Oscar-nominee **Samantha Morton** as Kirsty and Paul Kaye as Ryan, a menacing figure in her life; this is the story of a woman fighting to keep her family stable in a precarious world – and the sacrifices she makes to survive. Morton appears alongside the drama's creator, BAFTA-winning filmmaker **Dominic Savage**, for an exclusive preview of this powerful and emotionally charged film, which is part of a dramatic anthology series for Channel 4.

**Other sessions previously announced include:**

**Jamie Oliver** celebrates 20 years since the programme that launched him, *The Naked Chef*, which changed the way we cook. Jamie will be talking about his life and career and whisking up a classic recipe in a live demonstration.

**Big Narstie** (Tyrone Lindo), star of Channel 4's cult comedy chat show *The Big Narstie Show*, one of the breakout hits of 2018, will be joining proceedings alongside co-star **Mo Gilligan**, aka Mo the Comedian to discuss how their special brand of anarchy has redefined the chat show for a new generation.

For over 20 years murder has stalked Midsomer. Now the stars, past and present, of ITV's ***Midsomer Murders*** reveal what it's like to make one of the deadliest — and most popular — detective shows ever made.

The festival will also be celebrating one of the most loved British comedies of all time, ***Dad's Army***. Three episodes from the second series — *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Walker*, *A Stripe for Frazer* and *Under Fire* — were seemingly destroyed after they were first broadcast and are now being remade; meet the new cast and catch an **exclusive preview** of the new shows.

**Nadiya Hussain**, join the nation's favourite home baker, who shot to fame after winning *The Great British Bake Off*, for an afternoon of cakes and chat. Enjoy this delicious taste of Nadiya's own recipes, while the baker-turned-TV-presenter talks about her life, work – and love of cooking.

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](http://www.bfi.org.uk/TVFest)

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **On sale dates:**

**Thursday 7 February, 11:30 – BFI Champions and Patrons**

**Friday 8 February, 11:30 – BFI Members**

**Monday 11 February, 11:30 – Radio Times Subscribers**

**Friday 15 February, 11:30 – 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.**

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### **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](https://www.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>