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# **BFI & Radio Times Television Festival announce full programme 7-9 April 2017 at BFI Southbank and BFI IMAX Including a screening of the rediscovered drama *The Author of Beltraffio* (1974) directed by Tony Scott**

New special guests\* announced today include: Dame Maggie Smith (*DOWNTON ABBEY*), Aidan Turner (*POLDARK*), Claire Foy (*THE CROWN*), Stephen Daldry (*THE CROWN*), Charlie Brooker (*BLACK MIRROR*), Rowan Atkinson (*MAIGRET*), Jenna Coleman (*VICTORIA*), Susanne Bier (*THE NIGHT MANAGER*), Joe Wicks (*THE BODY COACH*), Jasmine and Melissa Hemsley (*HEMSLEY + HEMSLEY*), Tom Kerridge (*TOM KERRIDGE'S PROPER PUB FOOD*), Jack Thorne (*NATIONAL TREASURE*), Jed Mercurio (*LINE OF DUTY*), Lee Mack (*NOT GOING OUT*), Barry Cryer (*I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUE*), Adam Hills (*THE LAST LEG/PARALYMPICS*), Simon Nye (*THE DURRELLS*)

Guests join those names already announced: Michael Palin (*MONTY PYTHON*), Steven Moffat (*DOCTOR WHO*, *SHERLOCK*), Mark Gatiss (*SHERLOCK*), Julie Walters (*NATIONAL TREASURE/DINNER LADIES*), Keeley Hawes (*THE DURRELLS*), Josh O'Connor (*THE DURRELLS*), Simon Nye (*THE DURRELLS*), Freida Pinto (*GUERRILLA*), Babou Ceesay (*GUERRILLA*), Walter Iuzzolino (*WALTER PRESENTS*), Jacqueline Wilson (*TRACY BEAKER*), Judith Kerr (*THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA*), Michael Morpurgo (*WAR HORSE*) and Helen and Rob from *The Archers*

## **Embargoed until midday Monday 6 February 2017, London**

The BFI and Radio Times today announce the full line-up for the **BFI & Radio Times Television Festival**, celebrating the current golden age of TV with more than 40 events featuring some of the biggest names on the small screen. The new events announced today include the stars, writers and producers of some of the biggest TV shows of the year; including *The Crown*, *Victoria*, *The Night Manager*, *Line of Duty*, *Poldark*, *Sherlock*, *Black Mirror* and *Strictly Come Dancing*. Also screening in the Festival will be *The Author of Beltraffio* (TF1 1974), a precious gem which has recently been rediscovered by the BFI National Archive, and was directed by the late **Tony Scott**. This TV drama, screening on Saturday 8 April, has been unseen since its UK transmission in 1976 and stars *Doctor Who*'s fourth Time Lord **Tom Baker**.

Other highlights announced today include:

### **IN CONVERSATION:**

- **Dame Maggie Smith** will make a rare appearance onstage on Saturday 8 April; the legendary *Downton Abbey* actor will reflect on her life on stage and screen.
- The satirical writer and broadcaster **Charlie Brooker** will talk about his work including *Screenwipe*, *Dead Set* and the award-winning *Black Mirror* as well as his TV influences on Sunday 9 April.
- Comedians Lee Mack and Barry Cryer have spent many years writing sketches and sitcoms for television; join these two giants of comedy on Sunday 9 April as they discuss their craft and comedies past, present and future.

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS:

- Opening the Festival on Friday 7 April will be an event dedicated to **Maigret** starring **Rowan Atkinson**. Atkinson will be joined by exec producer John Simenon, son of original *Maigret* creator Georges Simenon, to talk about bringing the enigmatic sleuth to the small screen.
- A panel discussion about Netflix's lavish drama **The Crown** with executive producer **Stephen Daldry, Claire Foy**, who plays the Queen, and **more cast and crew TBA** will take place on Saturday 8 April. The discussion will offer audiences an insight into the making of this majestic drama which recently won Golden Globes for actor Claire Foy and for Best Drama.
- On Saturday 8 April **Victoria** stars **Jenna Coleman** and **Tom Hughes** will take a break from filming the second series, along with writer-creator **Daisy Goodwin** and executive producer **Damien Timmer**, to discuss ITV's Sunday night hit drama.
- The compelling adaptation of John le Carré's book **The Night Manager** became one of the TV highlights of 2016; on Sunday 9 April Oscar®-winning director **Susanne Bier**, executive producer **Simon Cornwell**, and cast member **Alistair Petrie** will explain how they created such brilliant water-cooler TV that kept us on the edge of our seats.
- On Saturday 8 April there will be a special **Poldark** event, with the drama's leading man **Aidan Turner**, writer **Debbie Horsfield** and executive producer **Damien Timmer**. Audiences will also get a glimpse of series three, due to be aired this autumn.
- On Sunday 9 April join **Doctor Who** executive producer **Brian Minchin**, and **cast members** to talk about the joys and challenges of making the world's longest-running sci-fi series. With a sneak preview of clips from the upcoming series, set to be the last full series for Moffat and for star Peter Capaldi.
- Moffat's other worldwide smash for the BBC is the marvellous re-imagining of Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective **Sherlock**, co-written and co-created by **Mark Gatiss** and executive produced by Moffat's wife **Sue Vertue**. An event on Sunday 9 April will see a discussion of the compelling sound of *Sherlock* with Gatiss and Vertue along with composers **David Arnold** and **Michael Price**.
- Join writer **Jed Mercurio** and members of the cast of **Line of Duty** on Saturday 8 April as they discuss the latest series of the compelling drama as it moves to BBC One and the dark world of AC12 and police corruption.
- Meet the unsung stars of **Strictly Come Dancing** on Saturday 8 April; executive producer **Louise Rainbow**, talent executive **Vinnie Shergill**, director of choreography **Jason Gilkison** and head of costume **Vicky Gill** are some of the team responsible for putting together the glitziest programme on TV.
- On Sunday 9 April athletes **Libby Clegg** and **Susie Rogers** will be joined by comedian and *Last Leg* host **Adam Hills** to discuss how Channel 4's exciting, dedicated coverage of The Paralympics has -changed public attitudes towards those who are physically different.
- Join the country's best-loved wordsmith **Susie Dent** on Saturday 8 April as she vacates **Countdown's** dictionary corner to take audiences on an entertaining and informative journey across the rolling landscape of the English language.

## MASTERCLASSES:

- **How to Become a Social Media Star** on Saturday 8 April with guests **Joe Wicks (The Body Coach)** and the **Hemsley Sisters (Hemsley + Hemsley)**, will reveal how they turned themselves into lifestyle gurus, TV presenters, and social media stars.
- BAFTA-winning writer **Jack Thorne** will give a masterclass on Sunday 9 April, speaking about his influences and work at the forefront of British TV's current golden age including **National Treasure, Skins, Shameless** and **The Fades** and his forthcoming adaptation of Philip Pullman's **His Dark Materials** for the BBC.

#### TREASURES FROM THE BFI NATIONAL ARCHIVE:

- TV drama **Author of Beltraffio** (TF1, 1974), directed by the late **Tony Scott**, has remained unseen since its UK transmission in 1976. This drama was the British contribution to a five-part series of Henry James stories made for French TV in 1974 and stars Tom Baker.
- The Festival programmers have plundered the BFI National Archive to put together a collection of memorable moments from Tom Jones' outstanding ATV series **This Is Tom Jones** (1969-1971); on Saturday 8 April audiences will be able to revel in clips of special stars such as Dusty Springfield and Stevie Wonder performing one-off duets with their host.
- **TV Dinners with Tom Kerridge** on Saturday 8 April will celebrate larger-than-life cookery stars such as Fanny Cradock and even Vincent Price, bringing us up to date via Mary Berry and Delia Smith with clips drawn from the BFI National Archive and hosted by the Michelin-starred chef and TV cookery star **Tom Kerridge**.

#### FAMILY EVENTS:

- On Sunday 9 April there will be a preview of two brand new episodes from CBBC's top football drama **Jamie Johnson**. Hear from the writers, selected cast and crew, plus a special celebrity guest, after the screening.

#### EVENTS WITH RADIO TIMES EXPERTS:

- **Spoiler alert! How to Write About Television** on Saturday 8 April will see Radio Times' TV Editor **Alison Graham**, Deputy TV Editor **David Butcher** and RT's Choices writers share a few secrets of the previewer's art.
- **The Making of a Cover Star** on Saturday 8 April sees Radio Times Art Director **Shem Law** and prolific Radio Times photographer **Don Smith** discuss 90 years of iconic covers and what it takes to create them.

The **BFI & Radio Times Television Festival** is set to be the largest and most prestigious public television festival in the UK. The festival will be an unmissable occasion for lovers of the small screen with more than 40 events, including talks with some of the biggest names in broadcasting; exclusive UK and international previews; rare archive screenings; book signings; family programming; a fiendishly tricky TV quiz, and much more besides.

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. 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.

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

##### On sale dates for events being announced today:

Thursday 9 February, 11:30 – BFI Patrons and Champions

Friday 10 February, 11:30 – BFI Members

Saturday 11 February, 11:30 – Radio Times Subscribers

Monday 13 February, 11:30 – Public

Previously announced events are on sale now: [www.bfi.org.uk/radiotimestvfest](http://www.bfi.org.uk/radiotimestvfest)

Press information on previously announced events is available online:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/sites/bfi.org.uk/files/downloads/bfi-press-release-star-studded-line-up-for-bfi-and-radio-times-television-festival-2016-11-28.pdf>

**\*Talent appearances are work permitting and subject to change. Please check the [BFI website](#) for updates to the programme.**

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**About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

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 and the biggest selling quality magazine, selling an average 732,765 copies a week. Radio Times is also the UK's biggest weekly subscription title, with over 275,000 subscribers. [RadioTimes.com](http://RadioTimes.com) has 11.5million 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 2016 British Media Awards, and Radio Times editor Ben Preston was named the BSME Editor's Editor of the Year in November 2016. Follow on Twitter @RadioTimes

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank / 2017 / April / BFI & Radio Times Television Festival**