



**RadioTimes**



**PRESS  
RELEASE**

## **Star-studded line-up announced for BFI & Radio Times Television Festival 7-9 April 2017 at BFI Southbank**

**With special guests\* onstage at BFI Southbank including: Michael Palin, Steven Moffat, Mark Gatiss, Julie Walters, Keeley Hawes, Freida Pinto, Babou Ceesay, Walter Iuzzolino, Jacqueline Wilson, Judith Kerr, Michael Morpurgo and the cast of The Archers**

**Embargoed until 14:00 Monday 28 November 2017, London**

The BFI and Radio Times today announce that they have teamed up to create the **BFI & Radio Times Television Festival**, set to be the largest and most prestigious public television festival in the UK. Taking place at BFI Southbank from **Friday 7 April – Sunday 9 April 2017**, the festival will be an unmissable occasion for lovers of the small screen with more than 30 events, the first of which are announced today, 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 festival's star-studded line-up includes appearances from some of the biggest stars of British TV such as **Michael Palin, Steven Moffat, Mark Gatiss** and **Keeley Hawes**, as well as a **tribute to Victoria Wood** with guests including **Julie Walters**. There will be premieres of the new series of **The Durrells** and an exclusive look at new Sky Atlantic series **Guerilla** starring **Freida Pinto, Babou Ceesay** and **Idris Elba**, who is also executive producer. Pinto and Ceesay will attend the premiere of the series which has been created by **John Ridley**, the Oscar®-winning adaptor of *12 Years a Slave*. There will also be appearances from **Walter Iuzzolino**, the brainchild behind Channel 4's **'Walter Presents'**, beloved children's authors **Jacqueline Wilson** (*Hetty Feather, Tracy Beaker*), **Michael Morpurgo** (*War Horse*) and **Judith Kerr** (*The Tiger Who Came to Tea, Mog*) and **The Archers'** Rob and Helen played by **Louisa Patikas** and **Tim Watson**. The full programme will be announced at a press launch in February 2017 at BFI Southbank.

The festival will kick off with comedian, actor, writer and globetrotter **Michael Palin**, being inducted in to the **Radio Times Hall of Fame**; taking the audience on a journey through his amazing life, from *Monty Python's Flying Circus* to *Around the World in 80 Days*. There will also be a screening of **East of Ipswich**, which Palin wrote in 1987: this acclaimed bittersweet drama about a teenager's first sexual experiences on a seaside family holiday, was described by Palin as 'the nearest I've come in fiction to the autobiographical'.

**Sherlock** creators **Mark Gatiss** and **Steven Moffat** will both be interviewed on Sunday 9 April. **Mark Gatiss: From League of Gentlemen to Sherlock** will see Gatiss take the audience on a tour of his favourite television moments. Later in the day **Steven Moffat** will also be inducted in to the **Radio Times Hall of Fame** when he will discuss his remarkable career with comedian **Frank Skinner**; from the early days of **Press Gang** and **Coupling** through to his work on two of the biggest shows on TV – **Doctor Who** and **Sherlock**.

Friends and colleagues will come together to share their memories in **Victoria Wood: A Tribute**, a session that will be full of fun, warmth and memorable clips. With **Julie Walters, Piers Wenger**, controller of BBC Drama and others. There will also be a screening of two fine examples from both

ends of Victoria Wood's career: ***Two Creatures Great and Small*** (1981) Wood's first starring vehicle, sharing top billing with Julie Walters and ***Victoria Wood at the Albert Hall*** (2002) which captures all her brilliance as an award-winning stand-up performer.

The festival will also celebrate the hugely popular ***Call the Midwife*** with a panel event that offers a unique insight into how a frayed news clipping or long-forgotten medical development can trigger a storyline. Join **Heidi Thomas**, creator of the hit TV series, as she shares the production secrets of the show, from research to filming, alongside executive producer **Pippa Harris** and members of the ***Call the Midwife*** cast.

### Exclusive screenings

There will be a **TV Premiere** of the first episode of the second series of ITV's hit dramatisation of Gerald Durrell's Corfu stories ***The Durrells*** starring **Keeley Hawes**, who will be joined by other members of the cast and crew to discuss the show. There will also be an **exclusive preview** of the much-anticipated Sky Original thriller ***Guerilla***, about a group of black power activists in 1970s London, which will be broadcast on Sky Atlantic in April 2017. Created by **John Ridley** who won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for *12 Years a Slave*, it stars **Freida Pinto**, **Babou Ceesay**. **Idris Elba**, is the executive producer and also stars. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Pinto and Ceesay, with more cast and crew to be confirmed.

Following a **premiere screening of *Merciless***, a bold Brazilian drama about a brutal but charming serial killer, **Walter Iuzzolino**, curator of Channel 4's *Walter Presents*, will discuss his latest acquisitions and reveal how he plunders Europe and the world for original-language drama. Also premiering will be the first episode of season two of ***Locked Up***, the daring Spanish prison drama, which will be followed by an interview with actor **Berta Vázquez**, series creator **Iván Escobar** and **Walter Iuzzolino**.

### Radio

The festival will also delve into other storytelling methods such as radio and literature. **The Archers: The Trial of Helen Titchener** welcomes **Louiza Patikas** and **Tim Watson**, who play Rob and Helen, and former editor of *The Archers*, Sean O'Connor, to reveal the inside track on the storyline which gripped millions of listeners and sparked a national debate about domestic violence, and look at why it took three years to bring it to the airwaves.

### Family sessions

Children's authors who have had their work adapted for the small screen will also feature at the festival. Acclaimed author and former children's laureate **Jacqueline Wilson** will appear with cast and crew of her latest CBBC drama ***Hetty Feather***.

Two of the UK's best-loved children's authors **Judith Kerr** (*The Tiger Who Came to Tea*) and **Michael Morpurgo** (*War Horse*) will be in conversation with each another during the festival. Other family focused sessions include ***Shaun the Sheep*** and ***Wallace and Gromit*** creators **Aardman** hosting a series of ewe-nique modelling workshops, where participants will be able to create their very own clay model of Gromit and Shaun to take home.

The BFI and Radio Times are a wonderful, complimentary partnership, both playing 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 in the world, 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:**

**Thursday 1 December, 11:30 – BFI Patrons and Champions**

**Friday 2 December, 11:30 – BFI Members**

**Saturday 3 December, 11:30 – Radio Times Subscribers**

**Monday 5 December, 11:30 – Public**

[www.bfi.org.uk/radiotimestvfest](http://www.bfi.org.uk/radiotimestvfest)

\*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 9.1million 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**