

# PRESS RELEASE

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## BBC BLOCKBUSTERS HIT BBC FIRST

BBC First viewers will be getting a Christmas present in the shape of a raft of new series of some of the BBC's biggest and most popular shows. New series and Christmas specials of *Call the Midwife*, *The Musketeers*, *Death in Paradise* and *Miranda* will begin hitting screens over the Christmas and New Year period, with the first three titles being shown express from the UK.



The *Call the Midwife Christmas Special* will be shown on BBC First on December 26 at 8.30pm. One of the UK's most popular shows and beloved of Australian audiences, the Christmas episode sees preparations for the Sunday School Christmas Concert under way. Chummy is enlisted to help run a poorly-managed Mother and Baby home, and Cynthia makes a life-changing decision. The new series will follow express from UK.

The second series of *The Musketeers* will come bursting onto screens with more sword-fighting, action and thrilling adventure from January 4 at 8.30pm. **Marc Warren** joins the cast as the Comte de Rochefort, the Cardinal's man in Madrid who has escaped from a Spanish prison. The Musketeers must join forces with Rochefort to carry out an audacious rescue, but can he be trusted?

The hilarious *Miranda* will draw to a close with one final special on January 3 at 7.30pm. Miranda (**Miranda Hart**) is faced with two proposals - one from Gary and one from Mike. Who will she choose and will she finally find contentment?

January will also see a new series of *Death in Paradise* – the popular detective series set on the Caribbean island of Saint Marie and starring Kris Marshall - being brought straight to Australian audiences from January 9 at 8.30pm.

Tim Christlieb, Acting Director of TV Channels, BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand, said: “We are entering exciting times as we welcome some of the most popular UK shows to BBC First for the first time. We know Australian audiences have taken these shows to their hearts and we are pleased to be able to bring them the latest series express from the UK.”

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand**

Australia & New Zealand (ANZ) is a priority territory for BBC Worldwide, focusing on growth across all its core business areas. Based in Macquarie Park, Sydney, BBC Worldwide ANZ wholly owns six channels: BBC First, UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies in Australia; UKTV and BBC Knowledge in New Zealand; and is responsible for the distribution and promotion of BBC World News which transmits in both countries. BBC First, a new premium channel showcasing premiere drama and comedy on the Foxtel platform in Australia, launched on 3 August 2014 and immediately claimed the top three drama ratings across STV for the day. BBC Worldwide ANZ distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to all free-to-air and most subscription channels in Australia and New Zealand. It works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, magazines, digital apps, innovative products and live events to the local market, as well as offering advertising opportunities for the BBC's world renowned [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) news site.