

Press Release

Embargoed 10.30 am Wednesday 22 November

BBC CHANNELS ANNOUNCE NEW SHOWS FOR 2018

BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand today announces a raft of new shows coming to its channels next year with 'A' list actors **Kit Harington, Liv Tyler, Tim Roth, Christina Hendricks** and **Benedict Cumberbatch**, some of the UK's biggest comedians **Michael McIntyre, Kevin Bridges** and **Dawn French**, well-loved children's brands *Hey Duggee* and *Thomas the Tank Engine* and adventurers **Ben Fogle** and **Robson Green** all slated to appear across the BBC channels in 2018.

Tim Christlieb, Director of Branded Services, BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand said: 'This exciting programming line-up builds on our successes in 2017. During this year we have been making changes to our schedules to boost audiences in the key advertising demographic of P25-54. On BBC First, shows like *Top of the Lake: China Girl* and Tom Hardy's *Taboo* have brought new audiences to the channel with audiences up 56% year on year for total people and 53% year on year for P25-54*. In addition changes to the weekday afternoon line-up have increased audiences 122 % year on year amongst p25-54**.

"In 2017, UKTV has reached over 700,000 new viewers following the channel refresh we introduced last year and we are continuing to build UKTV as a destination for a new type of audience with new programming. BBC Knowledge continues to enjoy a solid performance as audiences tune in to our world class presenters and diverse programming that offer them fascinating new perspectives on the world around them.

"On CBeebies we are continuing to focus on our strategy of building strong global brands in pre-school that kids want to engage with across all platforms .

"We are also making extended digital rights for more of our bigger shows available so audiences can view from Foxtel's on-demand library or via Foxtel Now or the Foxtel Kids App."

BBC First

Coming to BBC First in 2018 is *Gunpowder*, a re-telling of the legendary story of Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot set against the background of Catholic persecution in England. Starring Kit Harington (*Game of Thrones*) and Liv Tyler (*Lord of the Rings*) the series has won critical and popular acclaim in the UK. Other big series coming to the channel are *Tin Star* a tale of corruption and revenge set in the Canadian Rockies starring Tim Roth and Christina Hendricks; *Rellik*, a crime thriller told in reverse from the talented writers responsible for *The Missing*; the second series of *The A Word* and new series of audience favourites *Call the Midwife*, *Death in Paradise* and *Silent*

Witness.

BBC First will also screen adaptations of two award-winning novels. **Romola Garai** and **Anna Taylor-Joy** star in *The Miniaturist*, the international best-selling novel by **Jessie Burton** set in 17th century Amsterdam. Meanwhile Benedict Cumberbatch (*Sherlock*) and Kelly McDonald (*T2 Trainspotting*) play parents struggling to come to terms with their child's disappearance in **Ian McEwan's** *The Child in Time*.

UKTV

In 2018 UKTV will build out its comedy offering with premieres of stand-up shows from some of the UK's biggest comedians including *Dawn French: 30 Million Minutes*, *Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story* and *Michael McIntyre: Happy and Glorious* which will screen in the Sunday night stand-up comedy slot. Tuesday nights which are home to the channel's comedy panel shows will see new series of *Taskmaster*, *Insert Name Here* and *8 out of 10 Cats*.

BBC Knowledge

On BBC Knowledge two exciting new series see members of the public taking on real life training exercises designed to test their capabilities to take on some of the most taxing jobs. *Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?* sees 12 applicants being put through a series of grueling tests to win the ultimate reference – the backing of astronaut and former Commander of the international Space Station Chris Hadfield when the space agencies next take on recruits. In *Spies* three former members of the British Secret Intelligence Service put 14 men and women through a series of tests based on the Intelligence Officer New entry Course to see who has the skills to make it as a spy.

Charismatic experts return to the channel with a new series of **Ben Fogle's** *Where the Wild Men Are* as he explores the lives of people who live off-the-grid including a couple on Australia's Wilderness Island. Singer, actor and angler **Robson Green's** *Ultimate Catch* sees him pushing the boundaries of fishing and adventure traveller **Simon Reeve** takes viewers to Turkey, Columbia and Russia.

CBeebies

Meanwhile on CBeebies there will be a new series of the International Emmy and BAFTA award-winning pre-school favourite *Hey Duggee*. The loveable dog has been a huge hit around the world where it is seen in 150 countries. In Australia the popularity of the show has underpinned new licensing partnerships and product releases with plush toys, clothing lines, playsets, games and puzzles, books, DVDs and tableware lines in store with retail partners such as Big W, Myers, Target and ABC Retail online as well as a special *Hey Duggee* cinema special which is currently in cinema's nationally.

There are also new episodes of *Go Jetters*, one of our top-rating shows which is continuing to grow in popularity with nearly a million new viewers coming to the show this year and licensing deals including toys, tableware, books and DVDs.

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As well as growing new global brands, CBeebies is home to some of the biggest established pre-school brands and this year *Thomas and Friends* will be joining the channel where it will sit alongside children's favourites like *In the Night Garden*, *Waybulu* and *Sarah and Duck*.

2018 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

BBC FIRST

GUNPOWDER

Kit Harington and **Liv Tyler** star in *Gunpowder*, a retelling of The Gunpowder Plot.

England, 1603. Elizabeth I is dead and King James of Scotland has taken the throne. With the country at war with Catholic Spain, English Catholics are persecuted and priests caught saying Mass are punished with death. Several attempts have already been made on the new King's life. All so far have failed. But deep in the heart of the Warwickshire countryside a new plot is brewing. A plot that will become legend, and leave a mark on the country that will still be felt over 400 years later.

3 x 60'



RELLIK

Written by **Harry and Jack Williams** (*The Missing*) and starring **Richard Dormer** (*Game of Thrones*) and **Jodie Balfour** (*Quarry*), *Rellik* is a crime thriller - but one that turns the serial killer story on its head.

Starting at the end, with a prime suspect caught, the series moves backwards in time through the string of gruesome murders, gradually unravelling the truth.

Enigmatic, unrelenting and charismatic, we follow DCI Gabriel Markham as he is propelled in an obsessive hunt for a serial killer who left a mark on him both physically and mentally. As the clock ticks back, and Gabriel's personal and professional lives unfurl, we explore the painful psychology of a man disfigured, while the shockwaves from the crime ripple out in reverse.

6 x 60'



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TIN STAR

Tim Roth and **Christina Hendricks** star in this tale of corruption of innocence, of murder, of grief and of all consuming revenge - set against the backdrop of a remote and beautiful Canadian mountain town.

Written by Rowan Joffe (*28 Weeks Later*), Roth plays Jim Worth, a former London detective beginning a new life as police chief in the idyllic town of Little Big Bear in the Rockies. Worth's new-found utopia is shattered by the opening of an oil refinery nearby, which heralds a wave of drugs, prostitution and organised crime in the town. Jim takes a stand, unleashing a sequence of bloody and tragic events that recall his violent, alcoholic past as the line between hero and villain becomes increasingly blurred. **Genevieve O'Reilly** (*Rogue One*) and **Christopher Heyerdahl** (*True Blood*) also star.

10 x 60'



THE A WORD - SERIES 2

The six-part drama revisits the funny, messy, mixed-up lives of the Hughes and Scott families as they struggle to do their best as parents, carers, lovers... and to work out what's really important in the face of nothing ever feeling normal.

The story picks up two years on from where we left it and Joe (**Max Vento**) is changing. Autistic is a word Joe has heard but can't yet understand, but now age seven he has begun to look at the world and finds he doesn't fit in. It's up to the whole family to help Joe make sense of who he is and his place in the world.



Christopher Eccleston, **Mollie Wright**, **Morven Christie** and **Lee Ingleby** also star.

6 x 60'

THE CHILD IN TIME

Starring **Benedict Cumberbatch** (*Sherlock*) and **Kelly Macdonald** (*T2 Trainspotting*) this adaptation of **Ian McEwan's** Whitbread Prize winning novel is a lyrical and heartbreaking exploration of love, loss and the power of things unseen.

Stephen Lewis, a successful writer of children's books, is confronted with the unthinkable: he loses his only child, four year-old Kate, in a supermarket. In one horrifying moment that replays itself over the years that follow, Stephen realises that his daughter is gone. With tenderness and insight, the drama explores a marriage devastated by the loss of a child. Kate's absence sets Stephen and his wife, Julie, on diverging paths as both struggle with an all-consuming grief. With the passage of time, a balance of sorts returns, until hope surfaces and triumphs unexpectedly.

1 x 90'

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THE MINIATURIST

An adaptation of the international best-selling novel by **Jessie Burton**, starring **Anya Taylor-Joy** and **Romola Garai**.

Set in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman arrives in Amsterdam to start a new life as the wife of wealthy merchant, Johannes Brandt. But instead of Johannes, she's met by his cold sister Marin and quickly realises that nothing is as it seems. When Johannes finally appears he presents her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a doll's house replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive Miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror what is happening within the house in unexpected ways and seem to be predicting and unravelling the future with unsettling accuracy.

As Nella begins to uncover its secrets and those of the Brandt household she realizes the escalating dangers that await them all. Does the Miniaturist hold their fate in her hands? And will she be the key to their salvation or the architect of their downfall?

3 x 60'

UKTV

TASKMASTER - SERIES 5

Taskmaster **Greg Davies** and live-in PA **Alex Horne** return for a fifth series, dragging with them a quintet of brave yet understandably terrified comedians: **Aisling Bea**, **Bob Mortimer**, **Mark Watson**, **Nish Kumar** and **Sally Phillips**.

Once more Greg has set them a spiky thicket of tricky tasks designed to encourage genius, but which can also result in hapless humiliation. They'll be asked to costume coconuts, make Marmite and create cuddles as they fight each other for the world's premier prize: Greg's golden head, impaled on a plinth.

8 x 60'

INSERT NAME HERE - SERIES 3

Sue Perkins presents the third series of the comedy panel show all about famous people, past and present, who have just one thing in common: they share the same first name.

Our host invites two teams, headed up by captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe, to battle it out, answering questions and competing to earn the right, at the end of the game, to decide the greatest ever bearer of that week's name.

8 x 60'



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DAWN FRENCH: 30 MILLION MINUTES

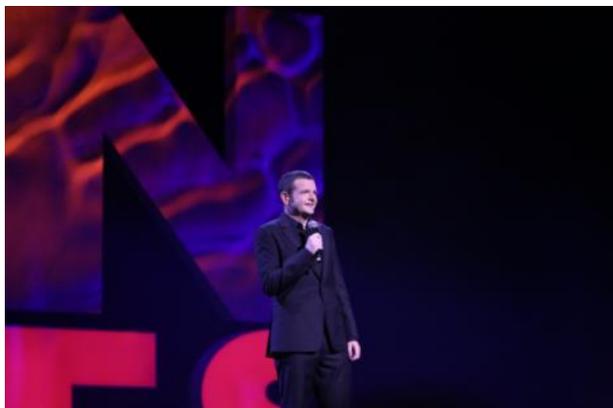
Performing live in London's West End, legendary comic **Dawn French** delivers her very first solo stand-up show. This time there is no Jennifer Saunders by Dawn's side, no extravagant costumes, and no madcap characters to hide behind. Directed by theatrical visionary Michael Grandage, Dawn French live is comedy with a dramatic and emotional flourish. It tells the story of Dawn's 30 million minutes on earth – and counting. Cancer scares, her father's suicide, and romantic relationships are all explored. Dawn opens up to her audience, tickles their funny bones and touches their hearts.



1x70' + 1x45'

KEVIN BRIDGES: A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY

Kevin Bridges continues his rapid rise up the comic ladder with another record-breaking gig in front of 12,000 fans. *A Whole Different Story* captures a raucous Saturday-night gig at the SECC Arena. Sharp observations and crude comedy spark brilliantly as Kevin muses on his tentative steps into 'grown-up' life, a sure fire weight loss regime and the strange side effects of stardom.



1 x 60'

MICHAEL MCINTYRE: HAPPY AND GLORIOUS

Michael McIntyre is back, doing what he does best - making everyday life face-achingly hilarious. Everyday encounters are transformed into virtuoso comic routines by the funny man with floppy hair as he mines the mundane for massive belly laughs.



Happy & Glorious sees the record-breaking comic perform in front of a 12,000-strong audience at the O2 Arena. Michael has now headlined at the vast London venue 27 times and counting – more than any other artist in the world.

1 x 60'

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BBC KNOWLEDGE

ASTRONAUTS: DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Millions dream of being an astronaut, but how many of us have what it takes? Astronaut and former Commander of the International Space Station, **Chris Hadfield**, former NASA medical researcher **Dr Kevin Fong**, and psychologist **Dr Iya Whiteley**, have chosen 12 exceptional applicants from thousands. The candidates range from doctors of science to a military pilot, a surgeon, a dentist who has summited Mt Everest and a professional ballerina studying for a PhD in Physics. The 12 are put through a series of gruelling tests with one candidate ultimately selected as the winner. The person who impresses the most will receive the ultimate reference: Chris's backing for their application when the space agencies next take on recruits.



6 x 60'

SPIES

Every day, Britain's Secret Intelligence Services are fighting an invisible war against a host of hidden threats. In this series, three former spies are putting a diverse group of men and women to the test to see if they have the skills and qualities required for that battle.

Spies sees them go through a series of exercises based on the Intelligence Officer New Entry Course (IONEC) - an intense, ultimately inspiring psychological experiment run by people who've been through the real thing. As the 14 trainees' raw intelligence, powers of persuasion and talent for concealment are put under the microscope, the ex-Spies (known as "Control") judge who has the character, wit, and confidence needed to make it through to the end.



4 x 60'

WHERE THE WILD MEN ARE – SERIES 6

Ben Fogle returns to examine the lives of more people who are choosing to go off the grid and set up home in isolated locations. The new series kicks off in Australia where Ben travels to the remote Wilderness Island, off the north-western cape of Australia, to meet a man whose story is as remarkable as the landscape he inhabits. He also gets a lesson in the art of mud-crabbing and an understanding of the urgent need for fresh water, which the island is currently without.



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8 x 60'

ROBSON GREEN'S ULTIMATE CATCH

Travelling to incredible locations renowned for their fishing potential, **Robson Green** flies thousands of miles across the globe to be in the right place, with the right fishing guides, at exactly the right time.

But even then it's not going to be easy. Thunderstorms, drought, high winds and flash floods all have their part to play, and Robson will have to use every ounce of his fishing know-how, combined with the local guides and legends, if he wants to hook into the ultimate catch.

4 x 60'

TURKEY WITH SIMON REEVE

Simon Reeve takes a dramatic journey across the historical nation of Turkey, a popular tourist destination that's now at the epicentre of a crisis. Caught between war-torn Syria and a founering European Union, the country is under threat from terrorism, mass-migration and political unrest. Simon seeks out the stories of Turkey's past and present as he travels through a landscape shifting from turquoise coastline to the high-forested mountains of the north.



2 x 60'

COLOMBIA WITH SIMON REEVE

Simon Reeve embarks on an inspiring journey around spectacular Colombia, a country hoping for peace after 50 years of brutal civil war. Simon's journey takes him from Cartagena, where a historic peace deal was signed in late 2016 by the government and the guerrilla army FARC, to the capital city Bogota to visit victims of the war. Simon finds hope for the future in the notorious city of Medellin, learning how it's been transformed from the 'most dangerous city on Earth' to one of Colombia's liveliest and most creative.



1 x 60'

RUSSIA WITH SIMON REEVE

A hundred years after the Russian Revolution, **Simon Reeve** travels through this land of extremes to investigate what the next century might bring for the powerful Russian Federation and its relationship with the rest of the world. The intrepid journalist uses his trademark insight and warm manner to get to the heart



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of a nation that's more often viewed through the bleak prism of cold war hostility. He meets an extraordinary range of characters while unlocking the beauty and variety of this vast country.

3 x 60'

CBEEBIES

HEY DUGGEE

Created by the OSCAR® nominated and BAFTA award-winning Studio AKA, *Hey Duggee* is one of the happiest, most fun places on kids TV! Loved by both children and parents, Duggee is a big loveable dog who runs a club for pre-schoolers. Each episode starts with Duggee welcoming the Squirrels, a bunch of curious little characters. This marks the start of laughter and learning as they discover new things about the world around them, all under the patient guidance of Duggee who rewards them with a squirrel activity badge - which they proudly show to their parents when they are picked up at the end of the day.



GO JETTERS

Go Jetters is a pre-school show with comedy, teamwork, thrilling action, awesome sights and fantastic facts about brand new places. Our four plucky Go Jetters (Kyan, Xuli, Lars and Foz) are mentored by Ubercorn - a funky Disco-grooving Unicorn - and antagonized by Grandmaster Glitch. The Go Jetters save well-known landmarks, such as the Sahara Desert and Stonehenge, from the clutches of the naughty Grandmaster Glitch. *Go Jetters* aims to introduce little ones to the basics of geography in a fun and exploratory way.



THOMAS AND FRIENDS

Thomas & Friends has been making tracks to great destinations for over 65 years. Initially created by a father for his son, today the little blue engine is enjoyed by families across the globe. The #1 blue engine and his friends invite children to enter a world of imagination. Through colourful and timeless stories children embark on a host of exciting journeys with their engine friends and learn about discovery, friendship and cooperation.

20 x 10'

-Ends-

For more information, please contact: Sue Affleck, T: 02 9744 4501 M: 0404 604731 sue.affleck@bbc.com

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NOTES TO EDITORS

*Source: Oztam National Subscription Panel, jul-Sep 2016 v Jul-Sep 2017, 1800-22.30 Live projections, p25-54 and TTL PPL

**Source: OzTam National Subscription Panel, Jul - Sept 2016 v Jul - Sept 2017, 1430-1930, LIVE Projections, P25-54

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. It wholly owns six channels: BBC First, UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies on Foxtel and Fetch TV in Australia; UKTV and BBC Knowledge on Sky TV in New Zealand. BBC Worldwide ANZ distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to free-to-air, subscription channels and SVOD platforms in Australia and New Zealand. It works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, consumer products, entertainment formats and live events to the local market. In 2016/17, it generated headline sales of £79.5m and headline profit of £21.12m – an increase in profit of 9.9%.

twitter.com/BBCWANZ

About BBC Worldwide

BBC Worldwide is a principal commercial arm and a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Its vision is to build the BBC's brands, audiences, commercial returns and reputation across the world. This is achieved through investing in, commercialising and showcasing content from the BBC around the world, in a way that is consistent with BBC standards and values. The business also champions British creativity globally.

In 2016/17 BBC Worldwide generated headline profits of £157.3m and headline sales of £1,059.9m and returned £210.5m to the BBC.

For more detailed performance information please see our Annual Review webpage:

bbcworldwide.com/annual-review/.

bbcworldwide.com

twitter.com/bbcwpress

The logo for Foxtel, featuring the word "FOXTEL" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font with a white outline.The logo for BBC Worldwide, consisting of the letters "BBC" in white on a dark blue square background, with the word "Worldwide" in a dark blue, sans-serif font below it.The logo for Fetch TV, featuring the word "fetch" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a blue square containing the white letters "tv".

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