

EPIC GANGSTER DRAMA PEAKY BLINDERS RETURNS TO BBC FIRST FOR A SECOND SERIES THIS OCTOBER

Steven Knight's acclaimed six-part gangster epic, *Peaky Blinders* returns to BBC First for a killer second series starting October 16 at 8.30pm, two weeks after the series airs in the UK.

The spectacular cast from series one - **Cillian Murphy** leading as Tommy Shelby, **Sam Neill**, **Helen McCrory**, **Paul Anderson**, **Joe Cole** and **Ned Dennehy** is joined for series two by BAFTA award-winning actor **Tom Hardy** (*The Dark Knight Rises*, *Inception*), Australian actor **Noah Taylor** (*Game of Thrones*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*) and **Charlotte Riley** (*Edge of Tomorrow*, *Wuthering Heights*).

Set in 1922 the new series is set to be an enthralling tale of ambition, corruption, violence, desire, and above all an extraordinary family living through extraordinary times.

As the 1920s begin to roar, business is booming for the Peaky Blinders gang. Shelby starts to expand his legal and illegal operations. He has his sights set firmly on wider horizons, and the race tracks of the South are calling out for new management.

Shelby's meteoric rise brings him into contact with both the upper echelons of society and astonishing new adversaries from London's criminal enterprises. All will test him to the core, though in very different ways.

Meanwhile, Shelby's home turf of Birmingham is beset by new challenges as members of his family react to the upturn in their fortunes, and an enemy from his past returns to the city with plans for a revenge of biblical proportions.



15 second teaser

"Peaky Blinders is a passion project for me" explains creator, writer and executive producer **Steven Knight**.

"It's based on stories told to me by my parents, about their parents and uncles. They grew up in 1920s Birmingham and were bookmakers and gangsters embroiled in gang wars during that period of British history. I thought the stories must have been exaggerated, but in doing the research, I found they'd actually spared me many of the gory details. The reality was much more traumatic and I just felt I had to tell the story."

Natalie Edgar, Director of Television, BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand, said: "We are thrilled to bring Australian audiences the hotly anticipated second series of *Peaky Blinders*."

Steven Knight is one of the most talented screen writers of his generation, and his compelling writing and rich cast of characters is brought alive by an array of amazing talent. Viewers can expect a look into the dark underbelly of the London ghetto and powerful tales of corruption, violence and desire.”

Peaky Blinders airs on BBC First at 8.30pm from October 16.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For more information contact: Bryony Willis, Communications Executive, BBC Worldwide ANZ
bryony.willis@bbc.com T: +61 2 9744 4545 M: +61 413 255 920

BBC First Twitter handle: [@BBCFirstAus](https://twitter.com/BBCFirstAus)

To embed the Peaky Blinders teaser please use this code:

```
<iframe width="560" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/X5-7e8bZXDs" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

Website: www.bbc.com/first

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 five channels: 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. In August 2014 it will launch a new premium channel BBC First, showcasing premiere drama and comedy on the Foxtel platform in Australia. 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 news site and lonelyplanet.com. Australia is the most successful territory for the global BBC iPlayer.

bbcworldwide.com
twitter.com/bbcwpress

The logo for Foxtel, featuring the word "FOXTEL" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a gradient of colors, transitioning from a bright yellow at the top to a deep red at the bottom.