

MultiStory Media wraps up the year with a slate of commissions

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MultiStory Media, the award-winning factual, documentary and factual entertainment ITV Studios label, is wrapping up the year with a raft of new commissions.

The latest slate of programmes from the label behind *The Martin Lewis Money Show*, *Come Dine With Me*, *ITV Tonight* and *Revenge Porn: Georgia vs Bear*, showcases MultiStory Media's continued commitment to producing a diverse range of premium, compelling documentaries and engaging factual entertainment content.

Building on the success of previous drama companion documentaries including *The Real 'Des': The Dennis Nilsen Story* and *The Real Stonehouse*, ITV has commissioned two further drama companion docs from the MultiStory documentary unit led by Mike Blair, Head of Documentaries and Current Affairs.

Vera... Farewell Pet is a 60 minute special documentary marking the end of the iconic TV detective drama *Vera*, produced by fellow ITV Studios label, Silverprint Pictures. As *Vera* hangs up her famous cap for the last time, multi-award-winning actress, **Brenda Blethyn OBE**, looks back over the last fourteen years playing the formidable DCI Vera Stanhope. The documentary celebrates the legacy of *Vera*, a series which has not only been a mainstay of British TV with 56 feature length episodes, but has also fascinated viewers in 187 countries around the

world. *Vera... Farewell Pet* will transmit on ITV1 and ITVX in January 2025 and is produced by Iwan Roberts and commissioned by Jo Clinton Davis, Controller of Factual ITV.

The Real Ruth Ellis is a 60 minute documentary to accompany the forthcoming ITV drama, *A Cruel Love: The Ruth Ellis Story*, again produced by fellow ITV Studios label, Silverprint Pictures. The documentary shines a light on the real life story of Ruth Ellis, Britain's last woman to hang for the murder of her lover David Blakely in 1955.

The film explores how a volatile love affair led to David Blakely's shocking murder and sent Ruth Ellis to the gallows. The documentary features previously unseen footage and personal testimonies from the families of Ruth and David, speaking of how the aftermath of those terrible events continues to affect both families. The film includes interviews with actress **Lucy Boynton**, who plays Ruth, and **Nigel Havers**, who plays his own grandfather in the drama - the real life judge who sentenced Ruth to death in 1955. *The Real Ruth Ellis* will transmit on ITV1 and ITVX in 2025 and is produced by Iwan Roberts and commissioned by Jo Clinton Davis, Controller of Factual ITV.

The slate of commissions also includes, ***Dame Maggie Smith: A Celebration*** - a touching 60 minute tribute to the iconic, enigmatic actress who sadly passed away this year leaving a legacy of much loved and applauded stage and screen performances which spanned a career of almost 70 years. With Dame Maggie's own voice as its heartbeat, and featuring personal accounts from those who knew her best, the film tells the story of a girl born in pre-war Essex who, against the odds, took the theatrical world by storm before going on to become one of the most respected performers of our time. In recent years, she gained a new level of popularity playing the razor-tongued Lady Violet Crawley in *Downton Abbey* but, for all her success, Dame Maggie remained a very private person who shied away from the limelight of fame. *Dame Maggie Smith: A Celebration* will transmit December 14th on ITV1 and ITVX and is executive produced by Ceri Aston and commissioned by Jo Clinton-Davis, Controller of Factual ITV.

Georgia Harrison: Inside the Porn Business (working title) sees Georgia Harrison return to ITV with a two part series exploring the lucrative world of the online porn business following on from her previous documentary, *Revenge Porn: Georgia vs Bear*. With the global porn industry worth an estimated \$1 billion globally, Georgia takes a deep dive look into how this hugely profitable industry works and seeks to uncover just how far her own illegal video has spread, and

who might be profiting from it. The two part series will transmit in 2025 on ITV and is executive produced by Ceri Aston and commissioned by Kate Teckman, Head of Development & Commissioning Editor, Factual Entertainment ITV.

Wrapping up the raft of commissions is Britain's most trusted money man with an hour-long festive treat, ***Martin Lewis: How To Win at Board Games***. **Martin Lewis** is a man who loves to play board games; so much so that he even proposed to his wife during a Scrabble match. This Christmas he will be gifting the nation with top tips, tricks and tactics to claim victory over family and friends during the festive fun season. Playing some of the UK's most popular board games including Monopoly, Scrabble and Connect 4, Martin will also take on the toughest of competitors and learn a thing or two himself about increasing his winning odds. *Martin Lewis: How To Win at Board Games* will transmit on December 17th on ITV1 and ITVX and is produced by Clare Miler and commissioned by Kate Teckman, Head of Development & Commissioning Editor, Factual Entertainment ITV.

Mike Blair, Head of Documentaries and Current Affairs said: *"We're immensely proud to be ending 2024 with a host of great commissions to boost our existing programme slate. The documentary unit is continuing to build upon its reputation for producing a rich mix of compelling drama companion documentaries and impactful investigative shows which, alongside our popular factual entertainment programmes, showcases the diverse range of content MultiStory Media has to offer. We're hoping to announce further exciting commissions in the new year."*

ITV Studios handles international distribution for this slate of MultiStory Media productions.

About ITV Studios

ITV Studios is a creator, producer and distributor of world-leading programmes that people can't get enough of. We connect millions of people every day and shape and reflect the world they live in, we are More Than TV.

ITV Studios is home to some of the best creative minds, crafting over 6,700 hours of original programming across 60 production labels. Our global footprint spans 12 countries including the UK, US, Australia, France, Germany, The Nordics, Italy and the Netherlands and our global distribution business sells our catalogue of 90,000+ hours to broadcasters and platforms around the world.

ITV Studios is part of ITV PLC, which includes the UK's largest commercial broadcaster.

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