



PUBLICITY PACK

**Please note all content in this document is strictly embargoed until 00:01 on Friday 2nd December*

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What is ITVX?

ITVX is our fresh new streaming service offering more new shows for free than anywhere else*

- Streaming service launching on **8th December** with over 10,000 hours of **free** programming
- Flagship programming premiering on 8th December include *A Spy Among Friends*, *Tell Me Everything*, *The Confessions of Frannie Langton* and *Plebs: Soldiers of Rome*
- 250+ stellar films and 200+ series available at launch

Please read our [launch press release](#) as well as our [complete content guide to what's on ITVX](#)



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**for comparison details see support.itv.com*

UK Streaming Services in 2022

PROVIDER	PRICE	HOURS OF CONTENT	FREE TRIAL	SIMULTANEOUS STREAMS
 itvX	FREE	10,000 HOURS	NA	4
 prime video	£8.99 _{pcm} £95.00 _{pa}	26,000 HOURS	✓	3
 apple tv	£4.99 _{pcm}	NA	✓	6
NETFLIX	£6.99 _{pcm} Basic £10.99 _{pcm} Standard £15.99 _{pcm} Premium	41,000 HOURS	✗	1 → BASIC 4 → PREMIUM
NOW TV	£9.99 _{pcm} £4.99 _{pcm} Hayu Piers	41,000 HOURS	✓	1 → STANDARD 3 → NOW BOOST (pay-as-you-go)
hulu	£4.55 _{pcm} £54.60 _{pa}	40,000 HOURS	✓	2
 Disney+	£7.99 _{pcm} £79.99 _{pa}	4,000 HOURS	✗	4
hayu.	£4.99 _{pcm}	NA	✓	1
 BA ZN	£7.99 _{pcm}	NA	✓	2

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A SPY AMONG FRIENDS



A Spy Among Friends launches exclusively on ITVX on December 8th with all episodes available

A Spy Among Friends

Hotly anticipated cold war drama **A Spy Among Friends** is a series based on the New York Times best-selling book written by Ben Macintyre. In collaboration with Sony Pictures Television, ITV Studios and Veritas Entertainment Group, the series produced in the UK stars Golden Globe® and Emmy® Award-winning actor, Damian Lewis (Homeland, Billions) and Emmy® Award-winner, Guy Pearce (Jack Irish, Mare of Easttown). Lewis also serves as executive producer.

The six-episode series dramatises the true story of Nicholas Elliott and Kim Philby, two British spies and lifelong friends. Philby was the most notorious British defector and Soviet double agent in history. This is a story of intimate duplicity; of loyalty, trust and treachery. Philby's deeply personal betrayal, uncovered at the height of the Cold War, resulted in the gutting of British and American Intelligence.

From the producers of Homeland, this espionage thriller dramatises the illustrious, and true story, set at the height of the Cold War, of Nicholas Elliott (Lewis) and Kim Philby (Pearce) — two spies and lifelong friends, one of whom was betraying the other all along.

Alongside Pearce and Lewis, cast members include Anna Maxwell Martin (“Motherland,” “Line of Duty”), Adrian Edmondson (“Back to Life,” “The Pact”) and Stephen Kunken (“Billions,” “The Handmaid’s Tale”).

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All six episodes are available on the ITV press preview service

A Spy Among Friends Q&A panel at ITVX Content Showcase



[WATCH HERE](#)

A Spy Among Friends Q&A panel quotes

Damian Lewis plays Nicholas Elliott

Anna Maxwell Martin plays Lily Thomas

Ben Macintyre is the author

Damian, this is a tale about the Cold War, about class, about conscience. It is also, primarily, a story about friendship.

Damian: Yes. That's right. The Philby story, at least in this country, is infamous, and quite well-known in certain circles. I think we just wanted to get in behind the curtain and see what an intimate betrayal between two friends. Nick Elliot, the man I play, really represents every man. He is everyone. And it just happened to be his best friend. And from that intimate relationship, a close, close friendship and that betrayal, we wanted to extrapolate from that and show the socio-political, geo-political effects of that betrayal. But it starts very much and returns to this friendship, the intimate nature of betrayal between two friends, two lovers, if you'd like.

There's a scene where the audience gets to see Guy Pearce singing, which is fantastic. But we see then this glimpse of the impact of his betrayal on you in that scene.

Damian: Yes, I think that sets the tone for the piece, that you realise how much he misses his friend. I don't want to give the end away, but there is a famous four-day interview set in Berrington Interrogation, which is the centrepiece of our drama, which we come in and out of in a brilliantly orchestrated, in a time jumping way by Alex Carey, who adapted Ben's brilliant book. But that's our central piece, that four-day interrogation. That's the emotional heart of the show. And what happens at the end of that, I won't to say, but we know that Philby doesn't come home.

Anna, you play a character who's an amalgamation of people. Your character is really integral to revealing the truth about this man, that many people thought they knew very well and clearly didn't...

Anna: Yeah, she's not in Ben's book. They didn't write my bit, so someone else had to! So she's not real. She's invented. She's Alex's creation. She's MI5, so she's sort of investigating this chap and what he's been up to. I don't want to band around words actors tend to, but it was a real privilege, we had a lovely time. It's rare that all those things come together, an amazing script from a wonderful book, brilliant director, brilliant, lovely, kind producers, wonderful cast, so yeah. A lovely time.

A Spy Among Friends Q&A panel quotes

Ben, we're talking about a true story in the height of the Cold War, but it will really resonate with the world that we're living in today, especially in 2022...

Ben: Absolutely. Anyone who thinks that intelligence isn't at the heart of what's happening in Ukraine at the moment isn't really paying attention to it. It's all about deception and betrayal and adventure and romance. Just going back to what Anna was saying, although the character was invented, that investigation happened, and it is the question of what Philby was really about and how this relationship between these two men played out is still debated inside MI6. It hasn't gone away. It's still a contemporary debate. All of human intelligence really is about, opposed to signal intelligence, which is the stuff that we would text and so on. Human intelligence is about looking in someone's eyes and trying to work out if they're lying to you. And that is the absolute essence of this story. And it's extraordinary to see it moved from the page to the screen with such honesty and depth. It's brilliant.

Damian and Anna, do you think you would've made great spies?

Anna: I was just saying that, I would make an excellent spy. No, obviously, I do have a big gob, and it does run loose a lot, but when push comes to shove, I'd be on it like a car bonnet.

Damian: No. I like a story too much!

A Spy Among Friends ITVX content Showcase Images



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NOLLY



Nolly launches exclusively on ITVX in 2023

Nolly

Nolly has been commissioned by ITV's Head of Drama, Polly Hill, and will premiere on ITV's brand new, free streaming service ITVX in 2023, before transferring to linear transmission months later. The first glimpse of Academy Award-nominated and BAFTA-winning actor Helena Bonham Carter (The Crown, Enola Holmes series 1 and 2, The King's Speech, Harry Potter, Burton and Taylor) as Noele "Nolly" Gordon has been released as filming on the series commences.

Augustus Prew (The Morning Show, The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power) joins the cast as Tony Adams, Nolly's Crossroads co-star, devoted friend, confidante, and her occasional chauffeur. Emmy and BAFTA-winner Mark Gatiss (Sherlock, League of Gentleman, Doctor Who) joins as inimitable entertainer Larry Grayson, who also shared a close and enduring friendship with Gordon.

Richard Lintern (Young Wallander, Silent Witness) is Ronnie Allen, who played Crossroads' suave hotel manager David Hunter. Antonia Bernath (Downton Abbey, Dickensian) is Jane Rossington, who starred in Crossroads as Jill Richardson, Meg's daughter. Clare Foster (The Crown, The Ex Wife) is Sue Lloyd, who played Barbara, wife of hotel manager David. Chloe Harris (Sherwood, The Spanish Princess) is Susan Hanson, who played Crossroads fan favourite Miss Diane. Lloyd Griffith (Ted Lasso, It's A Sin) is Paul Henry, who for over a decade played Crossroads' handyman Benny.

Con O'Neill (Happy Valley, Uncle) also joins the cast as Jack Barton, producer of Crossroads, and Tim Wallers (The Windsors, Belgravia) plays Barton's boss, and ATV's Controller of Programming, Charles Denton. Bethany Antonia (House of the Dragon, Stay Close, Get Even) joins the cast as Poppy Ngomo, a young actor thrown into the world of Crossroads.

Noele (or Nolly to her friends) was a legend in her own lifetime. As flame-haired widow Meg Richardson in the long-running soap opera Crossroads, she was one of the most famous people in Britain. Then in 1981, at the height of the show's success and the peak of Nolly's fame, she was axed without ceremony, without warning and with no explanation. With the boss's words "all good things must come to an end" ringing in her ears, Noele Gordon found herself thrown out of the show that was her life for over 18 years.

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Nolly launches exclusively on ITVX in 2023

Nolly Q&A panel at ITVX Content Showcase



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Nolly Q&A panel quotes

Helena Bonham Carter plays Noele Gordon, Mark Gatiss plays Larry Grayson, Nolly is written by Russell T Davies

Helena, the story of Noele Gordon sacking made front page news. What this explores is what was behind that, is that right?

Helena: Yeah. It is. Well actually, I think Russell the best equipped to describe this. You're the genius. You wrote the story.

Russell: I was 18 in 1981 when she was sacked and it was front page headlines in every single newspaper. And it always stayed with me because it was a very mysterious sacking. She was sacked overnight, no lunch, no dinner, no warning, no little chat with the agent. It was just absolutely ruthless. I wondered about it for many years why that happened. Did a lot of research and found out why.

Helena: And the other thing was that Russell's always been a great lover of Crossroads. And wasn't it true that your first script was for Crossroads?

Russell: Yes.

Helena: And it was accepted. It was about to be filmed and then bash, then it got axed. So this is really him completing a dream.

Helena, we all thought we knew Noele Gordon because she was just such a regular feature in our living rooms, but presumably when you read the script and found out what Russell knew about her, it must have been like a great character to be able to make?

Helena: She's a dream. When I read the script, it was like a gift. It was a dream that floated on to the page. I couldn't believe it. I knew Noele Gordon. I mean sort of dimly. I wasn't a huge fan or a great loyal watcher of Crossroads, but I was very aware of it. It was sort of perma wallpaper to my... I was going to say childhood, but actually... So I knew her as a figure, but I hadn't really taken on board the sacking. And then quickly after reading it, it was just like it's one of those things which it's so wonderful and you read something, it's a no brainer. When you don't have to make decisions in life, it is so wonderful. And it's like when you meet a script and it's like meeting someone and falling in love. So I just knew this was my fate. And then I went on YouTube and I saw Noele the night she was sacked. She went on Russell Harty and she sang Some People and I thought, "My God, that woman has such guts." I thought if I play her and some of her guts rub off of me, then that would be just a bonus. I think she really is an extraordinary woman and I think she was buried, as Russell said. And Russell and Nicola and the team of It's a Sin are so great at supporting the underdog, I feel like, or bringing people who've just been brushed under the carpet out into the light to be fully seen and witnessed and appreciated.

Nolly Q&A panel quotes

Is there a danger, Russell, that it's too niche, or will this appeal to fans of television in general, not just Crossroads fans?

Russell: Those who remember Crossroads will have great smiles and delight to see Benny, Miss Diane and all the characters. But as Mark was saying earlier, it's essentially the story of a queen who loses her crown. That's a great story. A woman falling from grace and publicly being humiliated in many ways. It's a great story. You could have invented the story and it would still be a great story. So very happy with it.

Mark, you play another TV legend, Larry Grayson, that must have been a joy for you?

Helena: He's brilliant, by the way.

Mark: Well it's same thing as Helen said, it was a gift. You sometimes get emails asking, "Do this, that, the other," and, "Oh yes please." Everything about it, the whole caliber of production. And it was just a joy to do. But I kind of fell in love with him all over again. I watched so many videos and I'd sort of forgotten how much of a part of our lives he was and just how effortless and brilliant he was. It was a joy to do.

He was a trailblazer, actually?

Mark: Yeah. Steam rolling into our living room until the Saturday night with absolute filth. That's what it was.

Russell: And they're genuinely best friends. Noele and Larry were properly best friends.

Helena: We were properly and we are. We have discovered.

Mark: But they used to joke about getting married, and I was saying earlier, it's like people used to give Hilda Oden... Jean Alexander used to give her money because Stan was keeping her short. And people believed that Larry and Noele were going to get married. They absolutely did.

Helena: They loved it and they loved the idea of it.

Mark: So did we.

Nolly ITVX Content Showcase images



[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

Nolly red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Mark Gatiss plays Larry Grayson
Russell T Davies, writer

How does it feel that Nolly is launching on ITVX?

Mark: It's very exciting to launch Nolly on ITVx, because it's reclaiming ITV's later audience. And Nolly is a very interesting, universal story, which is also rather beautifully chiming in with ITV's own past, reclaiming Crossroads, and celebrating it. It's all good.

And were you a Crossroads fan?

Yeah, as a kid I used to watch it. It took the place of babysitting – you were just plonked in front of it. I do remember being vaguely embarrassed by it because it was quite low rent. I remember Noelle Gordon's sacking very well, because it was headlines everywhere.

What did you think when you were asked to play Larry Grayson in Nolly?

Mark: I was thrilled and honoured and it was just one of those emails you look forward to getting. It's an honour to play a gay icon like Larry and also someone who was so much part of our TV growing up.

He's a gay icon, and yet he was never out and I wonder how you felt about that contrast with your own life?

Mark: I think the contrast is really interesting. There a documentary about Larry a few years ago, and I was talking about the documentary with a friend. And my friend, who was very big in gay campaigning in the Seventies, said, 'I can only ever think of him as the enemy.' And I think the truth is somewhere in between. I think Larry and John Inman were amazing trailblazers, but equally, I can understand the point of view that if they were the acceptable face of homosexuality but they weren't out, they were sort of neutered. But because we don't live in an age of nuance, it's very hard to talk about that without someone shouting you down. I think the truth is complicated and actually, that complexity is what makes him a very interesting figure.

Nolly red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

What was the biggest challenge for you?

Mark: Just trying to capture him and being in awe of how effortless he made it. He just looks down his nose at someone, just has a look to camera, and that brings the house down. I watched so many videos and I kept putting in little bits that I learned. Some of his bits were just brilliant and absolutely filthy, but Saturday night audiences just totally lapped it up. And it's a sort of lost voice, that. We've sort of lost that. It's feels very resonant of our child. But also you have a kind of musical kind of working class voice.

What was the biggest challenge in playing Larry?

Mark: The teeth! I had a set of false teeth. And then I got a wig and then the rest is the speech. Oh, and the glasses on the chain are imperative.

Russell, why did you want to write about Noelle Gordon?

Russell: I've been fascinated with her all my life. When I was 18 years old, I went to university. Everyone was studying Chaucer, I was watching a TV to find out what happened on Bonfire Night to find out about Meg Mortimer, whether she survived. Genuinely. I was fascinated. When I was 21 I wrote a script for Crossroads and sent it off to them. I had no agent, nothing. I sent it off. They phoned me up and said, 'We liked the script. Come and meet us and write a trial script.' And then the programme was axed. I was cruelly robbed for all these years and, genuinely, getting to write, 'Interior: Crossroads Reception' for the first time in my life was like revenge for all those years. But I always loved it. I was always fascinated by why Noelle Gordon was sacked. So sad. I always thought there was a story hidden away in there, did the research and I was right. It turns out there was something very fascinating going on.

What can you tell us?

Russell: There's no smoking gun. There are no revelations, and we've not come to attack Noelle in any way, shape or form. The whole programme is a tribute to her. So, no, we don't discover any secret affairs, but we do discover inevitably that a woman was treated badly by men. What a surprise. She was 60 plus at that point. They were different days. Now if you've got the sack from a soap opera, you go straight into the jungle, you'd be on Loose Women. Then you disappeared. She fought very hard to come back she went on stage. She went to the Leicester Haymarket, she did Gypsy she worked very very hard at saving herself and she's a fascinating woman, because she was unmarried with no children. no brothers or sisters and people like that don't quite fit into the world.

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WITHOUT SIN



Without Sin launches exclusively on ITVX on December 28th with all episodes available

Without Sin

Psychological thriller *Without Sin* explores the relationship which develops between a grieving mother and the man she believes murdered her daughter.

In this four-part drama, Vicky McClure (*Line of Duty*, *This is England*, *Broadchurch*, *Trigger Point*) plays the role of grieving mother, Stella Tomlinson, whose 14-year-old daughter Maisy, is found dead at their family home with the bloodied, hooded figure of Charles Stone (Johnny Harris - *The Salisbury Poisonings*, *Medici*, *Troy: Fall of a City*) standing over her.

The Nottingham-based drama focuses upon Stella's life three years on from the death of her daughter and how she is still hostage to her grief. The loss of her beloved only child has created deep divisions in her life, as she struggles on a daily basis to come to terms with this.

Wracked with guilt and remorse at the events of that night, she chooses to live a nocturnal existence as an Uber driver. She is estranged from husband Paul, who still lives in the family home. When contacted by Restorative Justice, and in an attempt to move on, Stella and Paul reunite to listen to a taped recording of Charles, who they believe wants to atone for his sins and apologise for murdering their daughter.

Following this development, Stella returns to her roots in the Millfields estate. Surrounding herself with the people she trusts and holds dear, her mother Jessie and best friend Remy, she decides to take things with Charles one step further.

Stella agrees to visit the prison alongside a Restorative Justice Mediator and come face to face with her daughter's killer. But nothing could prepare her for what Charles has to say next...

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Without Sin launches exclusively on ITVX on December 22nd with all episodes available

Without Sin Q&A panel at ITVX Content Showcase



[WATCH HERE](#)

Without Sin Q&A panel quotes

Vicky McClure plays Stella Tomlinson, Johnny Harris plays Charles Stone

Vicky, what did it mean to you that this is set in Nottingham?

Vicky: I mean, it just meant an awful lot to me. First and foremost I was so excited to work with Johnny. We've worked together only once, really, given This Is England. We've forged a beautiful friendship that we just knew that works on set as well. When you trust somebody that much. So that was something we wanted to do for a long time. Working with Fran and Sian, knowing that we were working with people that were passionate about what we wanted to do, which was working class stories, and the fact that Fran's also from Nottingham and John, you kind of are a bit now. Everything came together really organically and I think, you know, when you're not trying to force something for the sake of it, or tick a box, there was a real meaning behind everything we were doing. It was a dream come true. I got walked to work one day, that was never going to happen, I thought, but it did, so that was nice.

Johnny, from your point of view, when Vicky said, "I've got this idea for this drama,"...

Vicky: It was him, it was him who came to me.

Johnny: It was a conversation between Sian and I. Sian was part of the production of a show I did years ago, Troy. We met in a desert! We had a conversation a little while ago and it just so happened to be the 10th anniversary of This Is England 86' at that time. Sian and I had a conversation that week. We just caught up in life and she said, "what would you like to do next?" I said "Well Vicky and I..." Vicky's my closest friend in life, we're on the phone every day. I said "Vicky and I would love to, if we can find the right project, it'd be lovely to do something together again. We're ready to try and create two different characters, you know, and step up to that challenge," and Sian being Sian made it happen. Within a few weeks, I think, not that long we were working with this incredible writer who was from Nottingham and I just thought, "There could be something here". That was how it evolved.

Without Sin Q&A panel quotes

When you started reading through the scripts and actually working together as opposed to being mates on the phone and supporting each other, does that really help because you've got this trust between you, or can it actually sometimes hinder the work you're trying to create? Especially when we're talking about these characters. A grieving mother, and a man who's in jail trying to prove he's innocent of killing someone's daughter.

Johnny: For me, look there are probably examples at either end of that scale. There's probably times when it's been an absolute nightmare for people to work with their friends and there's times when it's an utter joy. For me acting's about the truth. The best advice I ever got for acting was, you hit your mark and you find the truth, and with this particular story, our relationship, it's very different to This Is England, it was contained. It's in a prison visiting room and it's across the table. So ultimately, you know, you're going to have to look into that other actor's eyes and find the truth. I just kind of had an extinct, and I knew that we were going to do that.

Vicky: It was collaborative as well, from production to writing, to acting. A lot of shows now you get the script, that doesn't necessarily mean that's what you're going to shoot. Me and Johnny working with Shane Meadows, we're very used to that, and that kind of doesn't scare us too much but Fran was very up for it and so let's see what happens on the day, because you can get to a location and go "well that doesn't actually work," because of various reasons. And so me and Johnny have always wanted to play and have that kind of freedom. So when you are friends with somebody and you have got that trust, it really does make that bit a little bit easier because we can kind of second guess each other. So there was perks in that.

Vicky, is this a self contained story or do you feel there may be a future for some of the characters?

Vicky: It is a self contained story but, you know, any character in any story, when it's television, can go in any direction, so let's see.

Without Sin ITVX Content Showcase images



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Without Sin red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Vicky McClure plays Stella

Johnny Harris plays Charles

What's it like to be launching Without Sin on ITVX?

Vicky: To be honest, I'm genuinely really excited, because it's always exciting to be on the telly – we're jobbing actors and we're very excited to get work! But to have something where there's this kind of launch to it, and to be bringing new shows to a very new audience, I think it's very exciting. I've felt very supported by ITV with Trigger Point and Without Sin and I'm really rooting for them.

What attracted you both to Without Sin?

Johnny: There are unique aspects to it. We've exec-produced it as well. What happened was we had a conversation with [Left Bank Productions' executive producer] Sian McWilliams, who asked what we'd like to do next. I'd worked with Sian before, and it was the ten-year anniversary of This is England 86, which Vicky and I met on, obviously, and she is also my closest friend, my dearest friend on the planet. We speak every day. So when Sian asked me that question, Vicky and I had been talking to see if we could find the right project and two characters that are very different from This Is England. We wanted to work together again. And Sian went away and found Frances Poletti, a Nottingham writer, and said, 'Johnny and Vicky want to work together. Let's create something for them.' So then Frances started developing this thing, came up with the idea and ran it by us. It was just an immediate 'in' – it was clearly going to be very different from This Is England, it was still going to be very intense. And the thought of going to work with this woman who is I think our greatest actress, was enough.

Vicky: He's my best mate and I feel the same about him. We respect each other's work, we respect each other's friendship. There's a real love for each other. We support one another at work and in our lives. And so, to have that kind of connection with somebody is really lucky and important. When you add all of that together, that's a recipe for just a joy. It was a joy to go to work on it.

Without Sin red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Vicky, you're playing a woman whose daughter was murdered. How emotional was that to play?

Vicky: Every role is emotional because you're embodying a character who's going through something. Certainly, losing your child, I'll never know how that feels – I don't have children – so you go with your own gut feelings and your reactions, all those things that people like Shane [Meadows, creator of This Is England] taught me, the workshop [Nottingham's Television Workshop] taught me and working with people like [co-star] Johnny have taught me over the years. I feel very lucky that I've got that process to lean on at times to help, because you want to do the story justice you want to do justice to the people that have been in those situations. I just had to find the truth in this world.

Vicky, Without Sin is being co-produced by your production company, Build Your Own Films. How do you feel about that?

Vicky: Really excited. And we're not just doing drama – there are lots of different things on our slate now, which is really exciting. But Left Bank were very supportive in letting BYOB be a part of Without Sin and obviously the connections that I have in Nottingham, and just wanting to make sure that certain places like Confetti, a media college there, and different crew members that I know, and cast members from the workshop are involved. It's my home and I bang on about it a lot and I'm sure some people are thinking, 'Alright, we get the message!' I'm still very proud of it and want to showcase it as much as I can.

Johnny: Nottingham loves her, too, it should be said. She has her own tram, quite seriously. Not every legend has their own tram, only a few. But she's one of them.

Vicky: I do have a tram. I'm elated. It's the best thing I never had.

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TELL ME EVERYTHING



Tell Me Everything launches exclusively on ITVX on December 8th with all episodes available

Tell Me Everything

Rising British talent lead the line-up for ITV's provocative teen drama *Tell Me Everything*, from Noho Film & Television

Brimming with heart, laughs, pathos and gut-punches, tenderness and darkness, *Tell Me Everything* is a six part drama exploring the stresses of mental health for today's teens created by the omnipresence of technology and social media, whilst they are still searching for their own identity, exploring sexuality, and experimenting with relationships, drink, drugs and sex (as well as what to wear tonight).

Rooted in truthful observations about life as it actually is for young people, *Tell Me Everything* is a celebration of adolescence, without shying away from the difficult subjects facing teens as they grow up in the 2020s.

Tell Me Everything introduces us to 16 year-old Jonny Murphy, who is trying his best to navigate through this world. Growing up hasn't been easy, and although loved by his friends and family, Jonny suffers from undiagnosed depression which he does his best to hide. So when he is faced with the most gut-wrenching tragedy, Jonny has to decide – is he going to let events overtake him or is he going to learn how to live?

His oldest friends, Louis and Neve, are battling their own issues and emotional struggles, yet continue to be there for Jonny. So they are right to be suspicious of Mei when she comes into his life. She seems to understand Jonny, but increasingly appears to be a dangerous influence on him. Meanwhile, new college mates, Regan, Saj and Zia, initially appear cool and carefree, but as Jonny, Neve and Louis get to know them, it soon becomes clear that everyone is fighting their own personal battles.

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Tell Me Everything launches exclusively on ITVX on December 8th with all episodes available

Tell Me Everything Q&A panel at ITVX Content Showcase



[WATCH HERE](#)

Tell Me Everything Q&A panel quotes

Callina Liang plays Mei
Tessa Lucille plays Regan
Carla Woodcock plays Zia
Lauryn Ajufu plays Neve
Spike Fearn plays Louis
Mark O'Sullivan is the creator

Mark. how much of this is about your teenage years. how it was for you growing up?

Mark: Quite a bit. Jonny is one of the main characters. He's a much cooler version of teenage me. I was just quite odd as a teenager. So I'm the starting point for Jonny in this series, and Jonny goes through some of the stuff that I went through as a teenager.

Did you have to adapt it quite a lot because being a teenager right now is very different unfortunately to being a teenager back in the day?

Mark: It is, and it's a cliché to say, but it's true. The big difference is social media and technology and that sort of ever present banging on the door of people judging you and having an opinion about you, and having to put yourself out there, but lots of things are quite universal, actually. Trying to work out who and what you are hasn't changed. I've got two teenage children myself, I spent a lot of time talking to them and their friends, and talking to young people in Welwyn Garden City, where the show's set, which is my hometown. We went back there and spoke to a load of young people to find out what their lives are like, so there are some things that are very different and some things that haven't changed at all.

Lauryn. is the script a true depiction of your life growing up as a digital native and navigating your way through the world of social media whilst being a teenager?

Lauryn: Yeah, I think I definitely agree with that. Social media does play a huge part in our lives. I think some would say we spend a bit too much time on it, but I also do think it has its pros and cons, but it is definitely part of who we are as individuals.

Spike. the series also picks up on a real big issue for teenagers and this is whole relationship with our mental health now. that's important?

Spike: Yeah. I think in the series there's just lots that teenagers can relate to, so I think that's a good part of the series. I think everyone will watch it and see something, even if an old person above 80, watches it. They might be able to relate to something as well because you go through it all the time. So I think the show's good.

Tell Me Everything Q&A panel quotes

Callina, what was it like for you to be involved in this show and working alongside all these up and coming actors?

Callina: It was amazing. I think for it to also be one of my first times in London, everyone was so welcoming and we had such a great time filming. I feel like we all got along really quickly, so it wasn't even hard to work together every day because it was like we were just having fun working on set, chilling with friends.

Carla: It doesn't really feel like work or doesn't feel like hard work anyway, and we've all kept in touch and stayed friends, we've got a group chat. We're very lucky to be surrounded by such lovely people.

Eden, is it right that this is your first TV role?

Eden: Yes, it is, which is a little bit terrifying. No pressure at all. But everything was very new to me coming into this, and that was pressurising at times, but everyone was so accommodating and informative. I think it gave such a nice environment to be able to create a piece of work that I'm proud of.

How did your experience differ to what you thought it might be like coming to work in TV?

Eden: Really little things like if it rains, someone comes over and just holds an umbrella of you which is really strange. I spent 18 years learning how I hold my own umbrella. So it was just little things, but then it felt like the crew and the cast were one body and everyone was working collectively to one goal, and that felt really inspiring, I think.

Given you are all young is this something that you would like to watch?

Tessa: Yeah definitely. I mean, it's so much fun and it has so many different things going for it. There's just something for everyone, and everyone can see themselves in one of these characters or little bits of themselves in every character and it's really incredible.

Carla: I think it's important to have that as you're growing up, so if you feel like in your teenage years you feel alone, being able to see people that are like you on the screen, it helps you feel like there are people that are going through things that you are going through as well.

Tell Me Everything Q&A panel quotes

What are your plans for when this launches on ITVX, does the group chat come together and watch it together or are you going to watch it with friends and family?

Eden: I think I'll delete all social media and go on a little holiday. I think my friends keep trying to get me to have a little screening party, but I've never been good at watching myself so we'll see. But I've seen episodes one and two, and I'm very proud of the work that everyone's created, so they might be able to convince me to do a little screening with my friends, but we'll see. No promises.

What about you, Lauryn?

Lauryn: I mean, it'd be nice to have a little group watch together.

Carla: You are the party planner!

Lauryn: That is my nickname. Maybe I will do something. You never know, pizza and Tell Me Everything.

Mark, it must have been incredible for you to get this script to life, to get it commissioned and then given the nature of the people that you were writing about, to work with some incredible new talent and showcase them on ITVX?

Mark: It's been amazing, and when you are writing something, you often get a picture of how you think it's going to be and what the people are going to be like, and what certain situations are going to look and feel like, and that happened for some of it. But for lots of it, including all of these actors and their characters, I didn't ever have, when I was writing it, a really clear picture of them, and then these people came along and brought them to life in the most extraordinary way. You've seen a glimpse of them, but I am so excited about you seeing what they've done throughout the series because they are really incredible, all of them.

Are you more interested and intrigued how Eden plays you or is he not really playing you so you can take a step back?

Mark: We've talked about this quite a lot, haven't we? Because I wrote the character and he is there on the page, but that was only really 50% of it. When Eden came along and we started putting it on its feet and started asking questions and talking about him, that's when he really came alive. I care about all the characters. There are bits of all of my friends growing up in there. They're the gang that I wish I'd been part of when I was growing up. They wouldn't have let me because as I said, I wasn't cool enough.

Tell Me Everything ITVX Content Showcase images



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Tell Me Everything red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Callina Liang plays Mei

Tessa Lucille plays Regan

Carla Woodcock plays Zia

How does it feel for Tell Me Everything to be launching on ITVX?

Carla: So exciting. I feel like the show is a very binge worthy watch, so it's nice that it's on this platform, that you can watch all the episodes in one day if you so wish. Also, I feel like we're going to have such a young audience watching the show and so many people watch things online these days. I mean, we all do. So I think it's really nice to have this platform that everyone can access.

Tell me about your characters and whether you can relate to them in any way.

Callina: My character is quite an outsider, she's new to coming back to England. She doesn't really have anyone; she's quite lost with her family life as well. She's quite manipulative, a little bit destructive. At first, I was like, 'Oh, this is so completely opposite to who I am.' But I think, as the show went on, I actually found a lot of similarities between me and her. How lost we both were growing up.

Tessa: Reagan knows herself very well and is very set in who she is and can suss people out quite quickly. I definitely relate to her – I could be quite stubborn and think, 'No, I'm going make my own decision. Like, I *do* want to paint my room pink and I know what I'm doing.' And then, ultimately realising that was definitely a mistake. We definitely have that in common.

Carla: Zia is kind of seen initially as like a cool girl. She blew up online and so she's now been given this huge platform on Tik Tok and on Instagram. But deep down, she still is a very normal teenager. She's best friends with Regan and she's navigating this career that she's been thrust into, while also trying to grow up and learn about who she is. I do feel like I can relate to her. I started working as an actor when I was about her age. It was quite sudden. You're thrust into this position, and you're like, 'Oh, but I still want to go out and have fun with my friends.' So it was really fun to play her and it brings in some of the stuff that I went through and the new stuff that see it goes through as well.

Tell Me Everything red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

What does Tell Me Everything bring to the teen drama genre that's new?

Carla: It's so uniquely British. I don't think we see a lot of that in teen dramas, a lot of them are either American or seen through an American lens, which is obviously still wonderful. But I think a lot of British teenagers might not see their adolescence is portrayed on screen. That's something that's really special about Tell Me Everything.

Tessa: It's very working class and that's something I really love about the show. We see a lot of stories about the elite, which are interesting and exciting and fun to watch. But I think it's really nice that this can reach a wider audience. Having the characters be much more working class is interesting.

Callina: It's very raw, very real, nothing's glamorised. And I think it shows this real rough side of growing up as a teenager in the 2020s.

itvX

THE CONFESSIONS OF FRANNIE LANGTON



The Confessions of Frannie Langton launches exclusively on ITVX on December 8th with all episodes available

The Confessions of Frannie Langton

The Confessions of Frannie Langton a four-part drama, adapted by author and writer Sara Collins from her breath-taking debut novel of the same name.

Karla-Simone Spence (*Blue Story*, *Wannabe*) leads the cast in the role of Frannie Langton, the drama's young protagonist born into a life of slavery who is fighting to tell her own story. She is joined by Sophie Cookson (*The Trial of Christine Keeler*, *Kingsman: The Secret Service*) as Madame Marguerite Benham and Patrick Martins (*Redemption*, *Blasts From The Past*) as Oludah "Laddie" Cambridge in the murder mystery drama.

Also starring in the historically authentic adaptation is Stephen Campbell Moore (*War of The Worlds*, *The One*) as renowned scientist and husband to Madame, George Benham. Joining him are Steven Mackintosh (*Rocketman*, *Wanderlust*) as John Langton and Amarah-Jae St. Aubyn (*Small Axe*) as Sal.

Set against the dazzling opulence of Georgian London, *The Confessions of Frannie Langton*, narrates Frannie's journey from a Jamaican plantation to the grand Mayfair mansion of celebrated scientist George Benham and his exquisitely beautiful wife, Madame Marguerite Benham.

In a misguided and monstrous gesture Frannie is gifted to Benham by the man who owns her, John Langton, and she is employed as a maid in the household much to her chagrin.

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The Confessions of Frannie Langton launches exclusively on ITVX on December 8th with all episodes available

The Confessions of Frannie Langton Content Showcase Images



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The Confessions of Frannie Langton red carpet interview from ITVX Content Showcase

Karla Simone-Spence plays the title role

What can we expect from The Confessions of Frannie Langton?

KSS: In a non-spoiling nutshell, Frannie is a young Jamaican woman that was born into slavery and she's brought over from Jamaica to Georgian London. And she is given as a gift to this family, the Benhams, and she works there as a maid and falls in love with her mistress. Frannie is one of a kind. Her journey is so in depth and takes so many twists and turns. I can't think of another story like it – it's not just about trauma but about love and all the different things that she experiences.

Tell us how you got into the role.

KSS: I read the script and the novel was so in depth and it showed her early life, so I felt like I had so much material to work from and I just filled in the blanks. I figured out her truths and you just build the person from there.

You're wearing a pale pink princess gown with a bodice here at the launch. Is this an homage to your character?

KSS: I like to dress in a way that's fitting to the period or the character that I'm playing. Ever since playing Frannie, I've been obsessed with corsets! I just love the look. It was really enjoyable wearing them, and I know no one ever says that. But the corsets that I had, they weren't the Regency corsets, they were shorter. I thought they looked great.

The Confessions of Frannie Langton red carpet interview from ITVX Content Showcase

Frannie Langton is debuting on the launch day of ITVX. How do you feel about that?

KSS: It feels really monumental. This is a big thing for me and to have the drama joined with a new streaming service is great. I can't wait for everyone to see it.

How nerve-wracking was it to lead a big ITV drama?

KSS: Do you know what, by the time we were filming, I just really wanted to work and I really wanted to do this. And I was just so excited that I got the role. I never felt the pressure, thankfully, and I guess because the team was so lovely and Sara [Collins, author and adaptor] was just so welcoming. It's a blessing to have the approval of the person who wrote the story. I felt like I had full control of what I was doing and I just really enjoyed my time on it. I guess the more daunting thing is now having your baby out in the world and having people watch it and have their opinions on that, but I feel really happy with what we've done.

Sara Collins has said she wrote the novel because there were so few period murder mysteries about people of colour. How do you feel about that?

KSS: Yeah, it's great to see a Jamaican black woman in Georgian London and with historical context. My family's Jamaican as well, so just to be able to play that as a lead character is incredible. And I've never done a period drama before.

How did you master the accent?

KSS: Well, I had some vocal coaching. But essentially, I just crafted it myself. I have my family, who are Jamaicans, if I was in doubt, to use as reference. Mostly it was just sitting with the character and thinking about what she goes through and then the voice just came.

itvX

LITVINENKO



Litvinenko launches exclusively on ITVX on December 15th with all episodes available

Litvinenko

ITVX will premiere Litvinenko, with David Tennant portraying Alexander Litvinenko, the former Russian Federal Security Services and KGB officer whose death, from Polonium-210 poisoning in November 2006, triggered one of the most complex and dangerous investigations in the history of the Metropolitan Police.

Produced by ITV Studios, Tiger Aspect Productions and Nordic Entertainment Group (NENT Group) in association with Livedrop Media, Litvinenko is the story of the determined New Scotland Yard officers who worked to prove who was responsible for the death of Alexander Litvinenko.

Written by acclaimed screenwriter George Kay, (creator and writer of the smash hit crime thriller Lupin), the drama will relate how in November 2006 two police officers were called to University College Hospital in London to interview a patient in declining health. The patient was Alexander Litvinenko, a Russian dissident who claimed to have been poisoned on the direct orders of Vladimir Putin. At the end of a ten year battle the international courts agreed that Russia, under Putin's leadership, was responsible for his murder.

During the police interviews, Alexander provided meticulous details from his hospital bedside about the events leading up to his illness, which he knew would prove fatal. His information would ultimately help detectives track down two Russians who had poisoned Litvinenko with Polonium-210, a highly toxic radioactive substance.

The drama also focuses upon the story of Marina, portrayed by Margarita Levieva (The Deuce, The Blacklist), Alexander's fearless, dignified widow who fought tirelessly to persuade the British Government to publicly name her husband's killers and acknowledge the role of the Russian State in his murder.

Litvinenko will also star Neil Maskill (Small Axe, Utopia), Mark Bonnar (Catastrophe, Quiz), Daniel Ryan (The Bay, Four Lives) and Stephen Campbell Moore (Anne, War of the Worlds)

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Litvinenko launches exclusively on ITVX on December 15th with all episodes available

Litvinenko ITVX Content Showcase images



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Litvinenko red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Margarita Levieva plays Marina Litvinenko

How do you feel about Litvinenko making its debut on ITVX?

It is exciting, because more people are watching streaming platforms now and I think it will give more people an opportunity to see it. It broadens the audience. You could just access it from any laptop or phone.

As a Russian living in America, what did you know about the story of Alexander ‘Sasha’ Litvinenko?

I knew when it happened and I just remember thinking, ‘God, how awful,’ because I have known for a while now the things that Vladimir Putin unfortunately has committed and kind of acts taking place on his behalf. It was just devastating to hear of that happening in broad daylight in London to an English citizen. It’s mind boggling.

How do you feel about playing Alexander’s wife, Marina?

That’s what’s so special about this series. We all knew this terrible thing that happened – this awful, awful tragedy. But that’s just the beginning of what took place. The next 10 to 15 years has been Marina’s journey, fighting on behalf of Sasha, getting justice for him, making sure his story gets out there, making sure that he’s heard. And that is just so beautiful. Marina is a force of nature. Truly, she’s one of the most remarkable human beings I’ve ever met. Her bravery, her courage, but most of all her persistence in her drive, but I would say most of all the love that she carries – the positivity, that zest for life is remarkable, especially for someone who had been through what she’s been through. And that’s what I love about this series, because it really explores Marina and her journey and what happened after such a death and how Marina has just dedicated her life to getting justice for Sasha.

How involved was Marina in this project?

Marina is very involved in this project. We met over Zoom and I was really nervous, wondering what she was going to make of me playing her. But couldn’t be more generous or lovely, and we found that we had a lot in common. As soon as I arrived in London, we met in person and went for a long walk and had lunch. I can call her a friend. But it only just put more pressure on me, because I was like, ‘I really, really need to honour her so much.’ That was my whole goal for the series.

How easy or difficult was it to get Marina’s accent right?

It was challenging because Marina has such a specific accent. And even though I wasn’t trying to copy her, per se, I really wanted to infuse the accident with her intonations. So I was listening so much and constantly going over it in my head to the point where I wouldn’t go into my regular accent on set because I didn’t want to mess it up.

itvX

RICHES



Riches launches exclusively on ITVX on December 22nd with all episodes available

Riches

Riches is a glossy, high stakes family drama in six parts, written and created by Abby Ajayi (Inventing Anna, How To Get Away With Murder) and produced by Greenacre Films.

Deborah Ayorinde (Them, Truth Be Told) stars as Nina, the estranged daughter of self-made millionaire Stephen Richards played by Hugh Quarshie (Stephen, The Murder of Stephen Lawrence). Sarah Niles (Ted Lasso, I May Destroy You) plays Stephen's second wife, Claudia, and Brendan Coyle (Downton Abbey, Requiem) is Stephen's trusted advisor and confidante, Gideon. Hermione Norris (Cold Feet and Luther) will play Stephen's long-standing and faithful PA, Maureen Dawson. The cast also includes Adeyinka Akinrinade (Top Boy, Temple), Ola Orebiyi (Cherry, A Brixton Tale), CJ Beckford (Sitting in Limbo, The Trial of Christine Keeler), Nneka Okoye (Grantchester, The A List) Emmanuel Imani (Cobra, Black Earth Rising) as well as Jourdan Dunn making her acting debut in the drama.

Abby Ajayi's witty and deftly written scripts introduce us to Stephen Richards, a successful and smart businessman, who always gets his own way. He's built his life and business empire around the fact everything he touches turns to gold. Even abandoning his first wife and two older children, Nina and Simon, turned out well for him.

After 20 years of success, Stephen's at the helm of his multi-million pound cosmetics empire and is reaping the rewards of his business acumen and ambitions. He's a great advocate for black-owned business, powerful, driven and impassioned, and with a glamorous, younger second wife, Claudia, life is never dull. Along with their adult children, Alesha, Gus and Wanda they love spending their hard-earned cash. The Richards are all about the good life and they've earned it.

In New York, Nina and Simon have established themselves as business people in their own right but when Stephen suffers a stroke, the family's world comes tumbling down. As Stephen's life hangs in the balance, his children are about to collide and with secrets and lies rising to the surface and the empire at stake, it's bound to be a complicated family reunion...

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Riches launches exclusively on ITVX on December 22nd with all episodes available

Riches Q&A panel at ITVX Content Showcase



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Riches Q&A panel quotes

Hugh Quarshie plays Stephen Richards
Abby Ajayi writer

Abby, you have described this project as a love letter to Black London, how so?

Abby: When I started writing it, set in the hair cosmetics empire, which is a world which is something that I think is both joyful and also incredibly lucrative, I had so much fun writing it, and it was important for me and putting Black Brits on screen for that to celebrate the joy, the fun, the immigrant grit, and to see Black Brits on screen in a way that I don't often get to experience them in the UK. So in writing it, and I was writing away from home at that point as well, so it was just really important for me to depict these characters living their lives, failing, messing up, but with a sense of purpose and agency about them.

Hugh, was it Abby's scripts or her storytelling or a little bit of both that made you want to be in this?

Hugh: It was a bit of both. I've dubbed this television noir, not just because it's sort of predominantly Black cast, but as in film noir where you reverse the polarities. A lot of scenes shot at night or in darkness. And the main character isn't exactly a model of virtue. Nina, I think it's fair to say, has her own ruthless streak, and we see that. She's obviously sexually ruthless as well. I don't know where she gets it from. But it's just the fact that Abby's told a story demonstrating that she understands the conventions of storytelling, but also departs from it. And this is a story, of course, about a wealthy family, but it isn't just the issues of the American siblings versus the British siblings who were nouveau riche. I just love the way that she's introduced the certain cultural differences. My particular favourite was just before the will is read, and I think, is it Wanda? Remonstrating with the catering staff about the jollof rice. "Who puts carrots in jollof rice? Do you see any Ghanians here? This is a Nigerian family." I think those little elements will enrich it and make it not simply a sort of mainstream conventional drama.

You've got the absolutely magnificent Sarah Niles, she's just an incredible actor, isn't she?

Abby: She's phenomenal. I'd watched her in theatre many years ago and seen her in A Rolling Catastrophe and did write this role with her in mind. So we're going to see her at the peak of her powers, really, which is she is capable of being incredibly mercurial, she's someone we're going to struggle to empathise with at points, but then you are confronted with these incredible moments of vulnerability and what motivates her. I think alongside Hugh, Brendan, Hermione and Deborah, incredible cohort we were lucky enough to get together. They became a real family. I can't wait for our audience to get to know all of them because they all did a superb job and really took ownership of their characters.

Riches ITVX Content Showcase images



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Riches red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

How do you feel about Riches launching on ITVX?

Hugh: I think it's a bold choice. ITVX obviously needs a lot of bold content, so I'm pleased that Riches is the kind of show that they think is going to appeal to that slightly younger audience, a streaming audience. It's also quite canny on behalf of ITV knowing that there is an emerging market out there in Africa and its population is going to be how many billions by 2050? I think the subscription models will take off eventually. So a show like Riches, which has a predominantly black cast, is a smart move.

Tell us what we can look forward to in Riches.

Hugh: I've dubbed it television noir, not just because it's a black cast, but also because of the moral compass of it. Everybody in it is driven, is ambitious, sometimes with more ambition than integrity. I like the way it's pitched the American side of the family, the American siblings, Nina [Deborah Ayorinde] and Simon [Emmanuel Imani], against the nouveau riche British family, who could probably have their own series like Made in Chelsea. But these are guys who have never had to struggle – think of the Kardashians, the Trumps or the Ecclestons. And to some extent, when that happens, the usual niceties of behaviour and moral codes are jettisoned because money will solve most problems. So from that point of view, it's probably a universal theme. At the same time, I love the way that [writer] Abby Ajayi has introduced specific cultural references. My particular favourite was when Wanda [Nneka Okoye] is remonstrating with the catering staff, saying, 'I asked for jollof rice. Who puts carrots in jollof rice? Do you see any Ghanaians here?' That's a specific reference to the 'Jollof Wars' between Ghana and Nigeria. Nigerians can't understand how Ghanaians can cook it with basmati rice, they insist on long grain.

Tell us about Stephen Richards, your character.

He's built up the company from scratch against the odds, without any help from anybody. And I would stress that although he's the patriarch, the founding father, the series really is about the matriarchs. That's a common issue in the West African culture. Women are very strong. In Ghana, it's a matrilineal society – succession goes down through the mother's side. Similarly in Nigerian culture. It's really touching the way that Nina and Simon go and effectively ask permission of their mother to go to the father's funeral [spoiler]. And the British children defer to their mum, Claudia [Sarah Niles]. That is typical of West African culture, the deference given to older people, particularly to the mothers of the family.

What makes Riches different from other British dramas?

Hugh: I think what it does is just remove any need to talk about race being an issue, although there is an awareness that race is an issue, particularly when the white copper stops Gus [Ola Orebiyi] in his flashy supercar and gives him stress. I think there's a kind of an ease about it – because the people who run the company are black, you don't have to make it an issue.

itvX

A YEAR ON PLANET EARTH



A Year on Planet Earth launches exclusively on ITVX on December 22nd with all episodes available

A Year on Planet Earth

Showcasing the many wonders of the world, A Year on Planet Earth, reveals the incredible ways in which almost all life is connected and how where we are on our journey around the sun affects the lives of individual animals.

The fresh concept documentary series will draw on the most spellbinding and dramatic stories from all corners of the globe.

Combining extreme weather, breathtaking landscapes, epic wildlife spectacles and lovable animal characters, this series reveals our planet in a completely new light, uncovering how animals react and adapt to shifting habitats and unexpected events.

Presented by acclaimed actor, author and comedian, Stephen Fry, this unique series is brand new for ITVX, uncovering never before seen footage of our favourite creatures.

From Marion Island, home to one of the largest and most remote king penguin colonies on Earth, to China, capturing the rare sight of the giant pandas in monsoon season. A Year on Planet Earth is truly a year-long adventure around our world.

Featuring a story arc across the seasons, viewers will be immersed in the extremes of winter, spring, summer and autumn.

Filmed in more than 60 locations, the series covers a wide range of our favourite animals, including African elephants, polar bears, blacktip sharks, chipmunks, grizzly bears, cheetahs, leatherback turtles, pandas and zebras, among many, many others.

All of their individual stories are told, as never before, as we spend A Year on Planet Earth.

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A Year on Planet Earth launches exclusively on ITVX on December 22nd with all episodes available

itvX

CRIME SERIES 2



Crime Series 2

ITVX announces cast for second season of Irvine Welsh's, Crime. Eagerly anticipated crime thriller set to air on ITVX starring international Emmy nominated Dougray Scott, Ken Stott, Joanna Vanderham and John Simm

The six-part drama series, due to air exclusively on ITV's new, free streaming service ITVX, is currently being shot in Scotland and produced by Buccaneer (Marcella, The Burning Girls) and Off Grid Film and TV.

Dougray Scott (Mission Impossible 2, Twin Town, My Week with Marilyn) returns as troubled detective DI Ray Lennox.

Scott's portrayal of Lennox in season one of Crime recently landed him an International Emmy nomination for Best Performance by an Actor. He leads a stellar line up of Scottish talent including Ken Stott (Rebus, The Missing) and Joanna Vanderham (Dancing on the Edge) who reprise their roles as Chief Superintendent Bob Toal and DS Amanda Drummond.

John Simm (Grace, Doctor Who) and Derek Riddell (Silent Witness) also return for the second season, which also sees Dougray Scott's son Gabriel Scott (House of Dragon) appearing alongside his father.

Rebecca Root (The Queen's Gambit) David Elliot (Kajaki), Laura Fraser (Breaking Bad, Pact), Fiona Bell (Shetland) Sarah McCardie (It's A Sin), Brian McCardie (Murphy's Law), John McLarnon (Outlander), Ewan Miller (Skin) and Gordon Morris (The Forgotten) are also confirmed to feature.

In the second season of Crime, Ray Lennox is ready to return to the fray at Edinburgh Serious Crimes, keen to prove he is fully recovered from his breakdown induced by bringing Mr Confectioner to justice. But he's surprised to find that it's all change: Bob Toal has lost his mojo, while Amanda Drummond is newly promoted. And there are two new faces on the team in the form of the devious Tommy Stark and failed actor Norrie Erskine.

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Crime launches exclusively on ITVX in 2023

Crime Series 2 Q&A panel at ITVX Content Showcase



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Crime Series 2 Q&A panel quotes

Dougray Scott plays DI Ray Lennox, Joanna Vanderham plays DS Amanda Drummond, Irvine Welsh is the author and show writer

What can we expect this series? Are we going to delve more into his past?

Dougray: Yeah, the second season you really find out about why Lennox became who he became, why he became a cop and you sort of go back into the history of his life, his childhood a little bit more. But you also, from a sort of cop point of view, you get to see his relationship with DI Drummond grow and you get to see more of that character. And that, I think, is a really good aspect of the second season. You get to know more about his family, his relationship with his sister, his relationship with his mother. It is a very different story than the first season, but it provides a platform for the audience to see why he is and why he became who he became. You think he's changed, you think he's sort, I don't want to say relaxed a little bit more, but certainly he's gone away and he's come back. I won't give away what happens, but you think he's made a shift in his life, in his person and his emotional sort of state, but quite quickly you understand a leopard can't really change his spots in that regard. But in some ways, it's moved on. I think second seasons, when you try and recreate the success of a first season, you quite often get into trouble. I think what Irvine has done brilliantly is he's not reinvented it, but he's used the first season as a platform to go into different areas in his life, but in the other characters' lives as well. I think the writing is extraordinary in the same way as the first season was. I hope that the audiences can be as captivated with the second season as they were with the first season.

And you're filming it right now?

Dougray: We're filming it right now, yeah. I've got to get on a plane tomorrow and film tomorrow as well. Back to Glasgow. We film in Glasgow and Edinburgh, but we're nearly finished.

Joanna, your character is newly promoted in the second season, so what can we expect from her?

Joanna: I love this season because we really get to know more of what's going on in Drummond's private life. So she's promoted, which means a lot to her because she's incredibly ambitious and that side of her personality gets explored. But we also get to see what's going on, because in the first season, there's this sort of incredibly surprising scene with a person from her past that was absolutely seeded in and then you have to wait till the second season to find out what that was and now you do, and you find out what she's been dealing with and keeping beneath the surface and actually, how hard she's been working to maintain this cool, calm exterior while she's at work. As Dougray said, there's a really nice growth in the dynamic between our two characters. I think what's also been really fun for me this season is that Drummond is not always likeable; and she's not always nice and she's not always doing what's expected of her. As a woman, that's been really quite enjoyable to play that sort of style of character who is out for herself and she really puts herself first. So I'm excited to share that with everyone.

Crime Series 2 Q&A panel quotes

What's it like when you first get that call to say, "We want you for this Irvine Welsh production"?

Joanna: Yeah, I mean it was dream come true! I am Scottish. I grew up in Scotland and Irvine was always this name. When I was in drama school, we were sort of introduced to his work as a masterpiece. It was definitely the forefront of my mind. So when the audition came through, I just thought, "I've got no chance". I really did. I thought, "There's no way". So when I booked the job, it was like, "How is this happening?" And then my first impression of Irvine was he's just so tall. He's just so tall.

Irvine: Everybody thinks I'm a short arse. I don't know?

Joanna: Irvine's writing, it doesn't have, perhaps a filter in the same way that in person does. You're really quite calm and cool and laid back. I think I expected this sort of slightly angry man and you're not. You're not an angry man. So that's really joyful for me to have gone from being a fan, and still being a fan, but also kind of feeling like I've got to know these guys really well and that we've created something together that people, judging by the first season, really love.

So Irvine, once again, this is a book that you're bringing to life for the television...

Irvine: Yeah, the book came out and then it started filming it two weeks after, which was quite nuts with all the lockdown stuff. There was a big time lag, and it's very different because the characters really established themselves in the first season and our ambition was that you wanted to imagine every single character in a spinoff of their own. It didn't matter what they were doing. They had to be realised characters to give us a springboard into doing a deeper character drama in the second season. So because we bedded a lot of those things and we were able to really have the characters doing interesting stuff. I mean, we didn't want it to be the kind of... basically the crap standard kind of British crime drama where everybody's just sort of handing photocopied bits of paper to the hero or saying there's a call and handing them the phone and all that. We wanted them to be very dynamic characters with a past as well because I think it enriches the lead character if they're around interesting characters. It gives them more to spark off against

Crime Series 2 ITVX Content Showcase images



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Crime red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Dougray Scott plays DI Ray Lennox, Joanna Vanderham plays DS Amanda Drummond, Irvine Welsh is the show writer and author

How do you feel about having a distinctive Scottish voice in drama?

Irvine Welsh: I don't really feel as if I do, basically. It's strange because I've lived out of Scotland for over 30 years, in England, Ireland, America, Holland. I'm not as aware as people would think, or conscious of being Scottish, and it's because I've lived way I can meet the culture of Scotland as a bit of an exotic tourist. But it's familiar enough for me to immerse myself in it as well and be part of me. So I've got a sweet spot with regards to writing about Scotland. I've got enough distance to be objective about it and observe it and the quirks of it, also emerge as well, because it's common, and it's just something that comes out on their own.

When you heard that some English-speaking people had to turn on subtitles to understand Crime, what do you make of that?

Yeah. I mean, I hadn't really heard that about Crime, but I'm sure it's been the case. I mean, honestly, I think no, that I mean, if you look at if you look at kinda like, a successful show, like Squid Games, I know that a lot of kids I talked to them, they'll say that. You've got to watch it with subtitles, you can't watch it dubbed. You know? So, yeah. You can you can take the culture and different delivery mechanisms to follow the book.

How excited are you about crime coming back for a second series? And what can we expect?

Joanna: It's ramped up a gear, for sure. I mean, the characters, they're delved into more deeply.

Dougray: You can't carry on in the same vein if you're doing a second season, you have to give it a real overhaul and make sure that the audience are getting as fresh a story as they felt they were getting in the first season. So therefore you have to uncover things, to peel away the onion layers of the characters in order to get deeper inside them, because otherwise the audience will get bored. So you find a lot more about Amanda Drummond, and you find out more about Lennox and you go back in his childhood. This season is really about identity and about all these characters and what makes them who they are. There's obviously there's a procedural element to it and they have a case to investigate and you think he is sort of changed his comeback from a break and yo go oh it's a different kind of Lennox. a different kind of Lennox, and then quickly is not goes back into that song. It's very intense character to play.

Crime red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

What is it like for you to play? In season one it was a proper tour de force. Is it exhausting? Do you take it home?

Dougray: You can't take it home. I mean, I live, breathe and eat my work, you know, I sort of I never really leave it. And I don't mean that from a pretentious point of view – what I mean is there was so much to think about, because I'm producing the show as well. And so there's a lot of stuff I have to do – the scripts, the rewrites and assemblies [sic... not sure what he means]. That's not a complaint. I'm happy to be doing that, but it means you're really consumed by the whole thing 24/7, which is good. I enjoy that

Joanna: It's really inspiring to work with Dougray and watching him field all of those things, because when you have quite a difficult to scene to film, or it's very emotionally challenging that you wouldn't have any headspace for anything else, he's looking at casting tapes at the same time and yet is delivering the performance of a career. As someone who's interested in producing myself, it's really really inspiring watching his great work.

How does it feel for Crime season 2 coming out on ITVX?

Dougray: I think is great. I mean, we haven't seen it yet, but it seems it has all the ingredients of being something very different, exciting, a little bit more edgy than ITV, which is great. So I think it will perhaps reposition ITV in the way that people look to Netflix or Hulu or Amazon because you'll be able to say, 'ITVx has got these brilliant, brilliant actors like Joanna Vanderham, Damian Lewis, Helena Bonham Carter. You have so many wonderful, wonderful actors involved in it, so they're bringing a lot of great talent. So I think for me, from my perspective, I'd be like, 'I'll watch ITVx because it has great drama.'

Neither of you often play Scots. What's it like to use your native accent in a drama?

Dougray: Actually, I'm not nearly as broad as Lennox is, but it's great because there is an ease. Ask any American actor – when they're working in the vernacular it's great, you just understand it, you're in and say that right from the start. I mean, we both played many different characters from different backgrounds, but to be involved in telling a Scottish story, I think is very exciting for me.

Joanna: There's also so many different accents in Scotland. And so for example, like I grew up in Perthshire, and the guys were very sweetly saying that I have a very sweet accent when I said the word fired as in, 'You've been fired.' I couldn't hear the difference, but it made me really self-conscious, because they were like, 'You say it funny.' People bring what's authentic to them and it really colours the show in a way that I believe Irvine has wanted from the start. You know, he's Scottish and has that in his bones. And it comes across in the writing of it. And so as an actor, it's just fun to get to bring that to life.

itvX

PLEBS: SOLDIERS OF ROME



Plebs: Soldiers of Rome launches exclusively on ITVX on December 8th with all episodes available

Plebs: Soldiers of Rome

After five successful series, multi award-winning comedy Plebs ends with a feature-length 85 minute special that will premiere on ITVX.

Marcus, Grumio, Jason and Aurelius join the army in peacetime, hoping to win respect, romance and discounts at participating restaurants. But when war's declared, they're sent to fight on the front line for a cause they don't believe in. Now their main interest is the struggle for survival...

The journey takes our new recruits from their humdrum lives in Rome to the army garrison and tribal villages on the Empire's edge.

Shot in Bulgaria and Wales, the backdrop of war allows their adventures to unfold on an epic scale.

Returning as the four Plebs are Tom Rosenthal, Ryan Sampson, Jon Pointing and Tom Basden, along with Karl Theobald as series regular Landlord. Joining them for the finale are Patrick Baladi (*The Office/Breeders*) as Roman commander General Diomedes, Tori Allen-Martin (*London Kill/Here We Go*) as warrior queen Barbronelda and Kåre Conradi (*Norsemen*) as Barbarian leader Segimundus.

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Plebs: Soldiers of Rome Q&A panel at ITVX Content Showcase



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Plebs: Soldiers of Rome Q&A panel quotes

Tom Rosenthal plays Marcus
Co-writer Tom Basden plays Aurelius

Tom, what can your fans expect from this?

Tom R: More of the same but longer, really!

Tom B, what's it like in comparison to writing the shorter episodes to writing the feature length?

Tom B: Well in some ways there are obviously similarities. We know the characters really well and we love writing for the actors that we've been lucky enough to have over the years, and who are just so fantastic, so there's a kind of shorthand you get with that. But I think with this we want to do something on a much bigger scale, something that felt really epic. So as you can see this, we go off to war in this special. And it kind of gave us an opportunity to do all of the kind of jokes and ideas and big action sequences that we've sort of been hoping. So I think in some ways it was like a kind of culmination of everything that we've been doing. It felt like a chance to sort of write a very long version of the show, but also really transplant the show somewhere really different and exciting and just make it feel much bigger and grander.

Harder, easier, or different?

Tom B: Harder probably. I don't know. I think the funny thing is when you write a war film, you can write something and go, "I've no idea if we can do that". Because it will be like sort of 3,000 barbarians come over the hill, and you're like, "well is that even possible?"

Was it a nod to Blackadder Goes Forth?

Tom B: Not directly, but then I think there's kind of homages to a lot of war films from the past. We like playing with those sort of like kind of Apocalypse Now, Platoon kind of references a little bit, so there's definitely, for people who like this genre of war movies, they'll spot little things that we've done as a way to sort of to tip our hat to those.

Plebs: Soldiers of Rome Q&A panel quotes

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Tom, who has been the best cameo in the series?

Tom R: I think my favourite actually has to come from the special we've just released. Not just because my memory's very bad, but I mean, Kåre Conradi who you might not know, he's one of Norway's premier actors, he gives an incredible turn in our special. Hanging out with him was very incredible because he's like a very refined man, who's like a theatre actor...

Plebs: Soldiers of Rome ITVX Content Showcase images



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Plebs: Soldiers of Rome red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Tom Rosenthal plays Marcus

Co-writer Tom Basden plays Aurelius

Simon Leifer, producer and co-writer

The Plebs finale is dropping on ITVx on its launch day. How does that feel?

Tom B: It's quite an honour. It's great that we're going to be part of something new and obviously that's going to generate a lot of interest in it and bring people to it. That they are fans of our show and therefore, you know, using us in that way, I think we're really pleased by that.

ITVX is meant to be an edgier alternative to ITV. How does Plebs fit into that?

Tom B: I think it's a naughty show, I think that's fair. There's blood and guts in the special and I think we have a lot of fun with all the tropes of going to war.

The Plebs finale is an 85-minute special. Are you going out with a bang?

Simon Leifer: Yeah, there's, there's war there's an ambush sequence. There's a chase sequence through the woods. It's an adrenaline ride as well as being emotional and romantic and hopefully funny as well.

You're filming war scenes. Are there weapons?

Tom: Oh, yeah, we had weapons training. I got to wield a sword. I mean, sure, the sword was made safe for my hands, so it looks a lot more threatening than it really was.

Tom B: I got to shoot an arrow. It was fantastic, incredible. I can really see the appeal of war. I mean, it's really fun. But I think war pre-guns was probably really entertaining. I wouldn't want to do war now.

Plebs: Soldiers of Rome red carpet interviews from ITVX Content Showcase

Is the finale in any way an homage to the finale of Blackadder, when the characters went to war?

Tom B I guess things like Blackadder and things like Monty Python are an inspiration to us.

Simon Leifer: But not specifically. While we were writing that, we knew that we wanted to put the boys in a real life or death situation, and that we had always thought about putting them in the army, but we didn't want to waste it on just a single half-hour episode. We wanted to do a movie with it. And then I guess as soon as we have this British comedy sensibility with war, then Blackadder comes to mind.

Tom B: With something like Blackadder Goes Forth, it's episodic, which means that they're spending the whole time avoiding the war. And with us, because it's a movie, we just throw them into it quite early on and they get out of their depth and that makes it it's a very different kind of different feeling.

How does it feel to bring Plebs to an end?

Tom: It's very emotional. And I was surprised about how emotional I got. I cried a lot. When we left Bulgaria – half the shoot was in Bulgaria and the other half in Wales – I cried.

Simon Leifer: He was crying nearly all the way through. We had to have makeup standing by to dab his beard, because he cried all the way through his takes and all the way through everyone else's.

Tom: Plebs is my whole life, man. I've got nothing else!

Tom B: Yeah, it's, it has been a big part of all of our lives, especially when we're filming out in Bulgaria. It's quite intense.

Simon Leifer: And speaking for myself, I really enjoyed filming with them. And we feel when we get together, the process is really fun. We're in Bulgaria, it's usually sunny. We're getting to a comedy that we enjoy. And we're together and we became aware when we were doing the finale about how rare that is, how much of a privilege it is to get to do that – you know, come up with silly stuff and someone pays you to go and film it with people that you like and respect.

Tom B: The idea that people enjoy watching it is completely irrelevant. I mean, that's great, but it's a bonus.