

SATURDAY 26 DECEMBER 2020

SAT 19:00 Royal Ballet All-Star Gala (m000qpj1)

The stars of the Royal Ballet perform a very special selection of the best of ballet.

From the ultra-contemporary Untouchable by Hofesh Schechter to the Hollywood glitz of Carousel, there is something for everyone in this glorious gala. The stellar partnership of Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov tackle one of the great classical pas de deux from Don Quixote, and the larger forces of the whole company are seen in Elite Syncopations. Natalia Osipova dances the famous Dying Swan, and choreographers including Wayne McGregor, Christopher Wheeldon and Cathy Marston rub shoulders with Frederick Ashton and Kenneth Macmillan.

The orchestra of the Royal Opera House is conducted by Jonathan Lo.

Presented by Anita Rani.

SAT 20:30 The Two Ronnies Sketchbook (b00cvbpr)
Episode 6

In a television career that has spanned 98 shows, 12 series and more than 30 years in the business, Ronnie Corbett and Ronnie Barker entertained millions with their inimitable brand of comedy - from gags, sketches and unique monologues to spectacular music numbers.

First transmitted as an hour-long version a few months before Ronnie Barker's death in 2005, the Two Ronnies reunite to delve into the backstage stories behind some of their classic moments as they reveal their own personal memories in one of the most impressive comedy catalogues in mainstream entertainment.

This episode contains the popular 'fork handles' sketch.

SAT 21:00 Inspector Montalbano (b0b3tj4f)
Carousel

A local shop is burned down in a clear case of arson. Its owner seems to have disappeared into thin air. Montalbano investigates, but is also kept busy by multiple reports of strange kidnappings in which female victims are abducted and released unharmed shortly after, with all of their possessions untouched and for no apparent reason.

In Italian with English subtitles.

SAT 22:50 Suite Francaise (b06h17c1)

France, 1940. In the first days of the occupation, Lucile Angellier is living in their small quiet town with her mother-in-law as they await news of her husband, a prisoner of war. Parisian refugees and a regiment of German soldiers take up residence in the villagers' homes, and while Lucile initially tries to ignore Bruno von Falk, the German officer staying with them, something develops between them.

SAT 00:30 Top of the Pops (m0001424)

Jakki Brambles, Bruno Brookes and Gary Davies present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 25 December 1989 and featuring Bros, The Beautiful South and Jason Donovan.

SAT 01:30 ... Sings Disney Songs (b018jpk4)

The BBC takes on the Mouse in a brilliant and sometimes baffling medley of styles and eras blending everything from light entertainment to children's TV, celebrating interpretations of Disney tunes over the last 40 years. The Bare Necessities, When You Wish upon a Star and Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah are standout highlights, with more recent pop hits from Celine Dion and Elton John bringing us up to date. Clips come from archive shows including Shirley Bassey, It's Lulu, Top of the Pops, Blue Peter, Brubeck and Louis Armstrong's Show of the Week.

SAT 02:25 How Quizzing Got Cool: TV's Brains of Britain (b084fs6s)

We all love a good quiz. So here's a question - when did ordinary contestants turn into the pro-quizzers of today? Giving the answers are Victoria Coren Mitchell, Judith Keppel, Chris Tarrant, Mark Labbett, Nicholas Parsons and many more. Narrated by Ben Miller.

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020

SUN 19:00 London to Brighton Side by Side (b00f2zxt)

In 1953, the BBC made a point-of-view film from the London to Brighton train. In 1983, they did the same again. This is a film made of both runs at once, with every bridge, siding,

tunnel and station running side by side in unlikely synchronisation.

SUN 19:05 BBC Proms (b0395mzs)
2013

Proms on Four: John Wilson's Hollywood Rhapsody

At the Royal Albert Hall, Katie Derham introduces the ever-popular John Wilson and his orchestra in a celebration of the music of Hollywood. Bernard Herrmann's Psycho, Erich Korngold's Robin Hood, Max Steiner's Casablanca and Miklos Rozsa's Ben Hur are among the film scores featured, performed by the orchestra Wilson describes as 'a symphony orchestra with an old-fashioned dance band in the middle'. With soloists Venera Gimadieva, Matthew Ford and Jane Monheit.

SUN 21:00 Billy Elliot (b007wv29)

Coming-of-age drama about a young boy from a north east mining village who is sent for boxing lessons but joins ballet classes instead, for reasons he cannot explain to himself, let alone ones that his widower father would understand. He is encouraged by his dance teacher, but her ambition for him brings about a family crisis in the Elliot house.

SUN 22:45 Singin' in the Rain (b00kz74z)

Classic Hollywood musical. Top silent screen couple Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont face disaster when their latest movie is made into a talkie, as both the technology and Lina's voice prove problematic.

SUN 00:25 ... Sings Bacharach and David! (b01gxl5w)

The BBC have raided their remarkable archive once more to reveal evocative performances from Burt Bacharach and Hal David's astonishing songbook. Love songs from the famous songwriting duo were a familiar feature of 60s and 70s BBC entertainment programmes such as Dusty, Cilla and The Cliff Richard Show, but there are some surprises unearthed here too.

Highlights include Sandie Shaw singing Always Something There to Remind Me, Aretha Franklin performing I Say a Little Prayer, Dusty Springfield's Wishin' and Hopin', The Stranglers' rendition of Walk on By on Top of the Pops, The Carpenters in concert performing (They Long to Be) Close to You and Burt Bacharach revisiting his classic Kentucky Bluebird with Rufus Wainwright on Later...with Jools Holland.

SUN 01:25 Betroffenheit from Sadler's Wells (b08q8dv1)

Created by Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young, the award-winning Betroffenheit is a boundary-stretching hybrid between theatre and dance that explores the psychological states of trauma, grief and addiction. The title of the piece is a German word that simply translated means shock, bewilderment, dismay and is based on Young's own experience - his teenage daughter, niece and nephew died in a fire whilst on a family holiday in 2009.

Combining tap, salsa, spoken word, song and puppetry with Pite's emotionally charged choreography, Betroffenheit is an ambitious yet witty and tender-hearted exploration of disconnection, isolation and what it means to come to terms with such a tragedy. Described as both raw and riveting, this genre-busting dance-theatre hybrid was the dance critics' top pick of 2016, and won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production. Jonathon Young was also deservedly awarded Outstanding Performance in Modern Dance at the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards. Betroffenheit was recorded during its sold-out performances at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London in April 2017.

MONDAY 28 DECEMBER 2020

MON 19:00 Villages by the Sea (m000c7m1)
Holy Island

Archaeologist Ben Robinson discovers the story of the monks and villagers of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, off the Northumberland coast.

Our coastal villages are often seen as remote places for retreat and relaxation. However, they have often been on the front line of history - from the arrival of Christianity to battles with neighbours and nature; from slave trading to the birth of modern tourism.

From Holy Island, monks spread Christianity to the rest of Northern England and created one of Britain's finest treasures - the Lindisfarne Gospels. Viking attacks caused the monks to flee but the village survived. Today the community has to share their village with thousands of tourists.

MON 19:30 The Joy of Painting (m000qpjh)

Winter Specials

Snowbound Cabin

Bob Ross takes us to an isolated cabin, deep in the woods, on a cold, snowy winter's day.

MON 20:00 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (m000qpjk)

2020: Planet Earth - A User's Guide

Engine Earth

Professor Chris Jackson travels back into deep geological time, charting the Earth's climate as it swings from hothouse to ice house and back again. With the help of spectacular volcanic eruptions and giant snowballs, he shows us how our planet's oldest rocks and fossils provide evidence of radical climate changes throughout its history.

Chris reveals that what drives these changes is the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. For billions of years, volcanic activity increased CO2 levels, and mountain building reduced them. But in the last 100 years, a new kind of geological force is tipping the balance - human activity. For the first time, it is we who are changing the planet Earth's climate, and at a rapid rate, with dangerous consequences unless we act quickly.

MON 21:00 Kenneth Williams: Fantabulosa! (b0074s9v)
Witty drama adapted from Kenneth Williams's own words in his diaries. It's a spectacular journey inside the mind of one of British radio, TV and film's most popular, peculiar and comic performers. And one of its most tragic, too.

Spanning his entire life, this is the story of Williams's career and private life, a behind-the-scenes look at Williams, not only recreating some of his greatest performances, but also giving a candid and poignant insight into his professional hopes, personal upsets and sexual frustrations of a man who was uncomfortable in his own skin.

The screenplay is rude, arch, uncompromising and hilarious. Michael Sheen delivers a tour-de-force performance as 'the man of a thousand voices'.

MON 22:20 Comic Roots (p02rtqvm)
Series 2

Kenneth Williams

Kenneth Williams explores his roots in and around London's St Pancras, where he grew up.

Architecture, poetry, art and music were the formative influences on Kenneth Williams: the slum architecture of St Pancras where he grew up, the liquid poetry of his Gran's fruity anecdotes, the art of the Marcel wave practised by his hairdresser father and the musical knees-up at The Boot pub.

MON 22:50 How Auld Lang Syne Took over the World (b03mh351)

Dougie Vipond will take you on a trip to discover how Scotland's best-known musical export became a worldwide phenomenon. From Ayrshire to Tokyo, via New York City, we'll look at how Auld Lang Syne has been adopted around the world. With some fantastic archive and commentary from well-known faces including Alan Cumming, Sir Cliff Richard and Clare Grogan, we will find out just how Auld Lang Syne became a globe-conquering song.

MON 23:50 Marianne and Leonard: Words of Love (m0008yzz)

The beautiful yet tragic love story between Leonard Cohen and his Norwegian muse Marianne Ihlen. Their love began on the idyllic Greek island of Hydra in 1960 as part of a bohemian community of foreign artists, writers, and musicians. This film follows their relationship, from the early days on Hydra, a humble time of 'free love' and open marriage, to how their love evolved when Leonard became a successful musician.

It was on Hydra in 1968 that director Nick Broomfield, then aged 20, first met Marianne Ihlen. Marianne introduced him to Leonard Cohen's music and also encouraged Broomfield to make his first film. She was an enormous influence on him. Marianne and Leonard's was a love story that would continue for the rest of their lives. Along the way the film tells of the tragedy that befell those that could not survive the beauty of Hydra, the highs and lows of Leonard's career, and the inspirational power that Marianne possessed. Marianne and Leonard died three months apart.

MON 01:30 The Joy of Painting (m000qpjh)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

MON 01:55 Villages by the Sea (m000c7m1)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

MON 02:25 Kenneth Williams: Fantabulosa! (b0074s9v)

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER 2020

TUE 19:00 Villages by the Sea (m000c79y)

Robin Hood's Bay

Archaeologist Ben Robinson reveals the story of smuggling intrigue and bravery on the Yorkshire coast.

TUE 19:30 The Joy of Painting (m000qpkc)

Winter Specials

Snowy Morn

Join Bob Ross at an old log cabin nestled deep in the powdery woods! An intriguing yet simple painting just beckoning you to paint it yourself.

TUE 20:00 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (m000qpkf)

2020: Planet Earth - A User's Guide

Water World

Dr Helen Czerski unpicks the ocean's heating and plumbing systems, showing how whale poo, waterfalls beneath the sea and zooplankton are all vital parts of an engine that distributes heat and nutrients around our planet.

Helen voyages from the cities of the ocean to its deserts, from its deepest depths to its surface, via an alien inner structure that is home to so much of the Earth's life. This planetary life support system plays a critical role in generating weather, providing food and connecting trade routes. The ocean is an underappreciated resource. Helen tells us what we need to know to be good citizens of an ocean planet.

TUE 21:00 Bruce Dickinson: Scream for Me Sarajevo (m000qpkh)

In 1994, Sarajevo was a city under siege. Mortars and rocket-propelled grenades rained onto the city, killing indiscriminately every day. Amongst the madness, two United Nations personnel, a British military officer and another Brit working for the UN fire department, decided it would be fun to persuade a global rock star, Bruce Dickinson of Iron Maiden, to come and play a gig to the population.

Scream for Me, Sarajevo brings that story, in all its madness, to the big screen. A story of musicians who risked their lives to play a gig to people who risked their lives to see them.

TUE 22:15 Metal at the BBC (b00r600p)

Compilation of memorable heavy metal performances from BBC TV shows, including Iron Maiden, Black Sabbath, Judas Priest and Motorhead.

TUE 22:45 Glastonbury (m000qpkk)

2014

Metallica

A look back at the headline set by the rock legends Metallica from the iconic Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury 2014. The quartet were the first metal act to headline the festival since its inception in 1970 and throughout their 90 min set played tracks from their back catalogue including Nothing Else Matters, Enter Sandman, Seek and Destroy plus Thin Lizzy's Whiskey in the Jar.

TUE 00:20 Slipknot Unmasked: All Out Life (m000g6ln)

A unique and fascinating insight into the career and controversies of one of the most successful and contentious heavy metal bands of all time: Slipknot. The film combines new interviews, backstage access and an exclusive live session from the nine-piece group, performing six career-defining tracks at the legendary Maida Vale Studios in front of an intimate audience.

The six tracks, one from each of the band's albums, transport the group, acknowledged by many as one of the most extreme live acts ever, from their usual arena-sized shows to a uniquely intimate and intense setting. The film highlights the group's

phenomenal 25-year career, revealing how one of the most relentless and intense-sounding groups ever have struggled with drink, drugs, depression and the death of a band member, topped the charts, outsold their peers and picked up a Grammy along the way, whilst staying as bold, fearless and exhilarating as ever.

TUE 01:20 The Joy of Painting (m000qpkc)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

TUE 01:50 Villages by the Sea (m000c79y)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

TUE 02:20 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (m000qpkj)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Monday]

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER 2020

WED 19:00 Villages by the Sea (m000c78p)

Walberswick

Archaeologist Ben Robinson discovers the surprising story of this former medieval port on the Suffolk coast.

Coastal villages are often seen as remote places for retreat and relaxation. However, they have often been on the front line of history - from the arrival of Christianity to battles with neighbours and nature, from slave trading to the birth of modern tourism.

Today, Walberswick is a favourite coastal retreat for writers, artists and day trippers. But for centuries, the village lurched from prosperity to poverty. In medieval times, it fought a bitter battle for supremacy against the neighbouring port of Dunwich and finally fell victim to politics, fire and the might of the sea.

WED 19:30 The Joy of Painting (m000qplv)

Winter Specials

The Property Line

Bob Ross paints an old gnarly tree and snowcapped fence to mark the line between home and the edge of the blanketed winter forest.

WED 20:00 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (m000qplx)

2020: Planet Earth - A User's Guide

Up in the Air

Dr Tara Shine takes a deep breath and marvels at something we all take for granted: oxygen. She demonstrates how Earth produces a never-ending supply of this gas - the raw material for all complex life - and investigates what else is in the air that we breathe. One critical component is carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that's causing a dangerous rise in atmospheric warming.

Tara looks at the carbon footprint of a loaf of bread and how hydrogen might be the answer for heating and transport. From developing exciting new technologies to protecting wetlands and forests, the solutions are everywhere. Our ideas and ingenuity can create a better, cleaner and more sustainable future.

WED 21:00 Norman Wisdom: His Story (b00vbmqq)

From street urchin to knight of the realm - the story of Norman Wisdom, who used to be one of the biggest film stars in the UK, portraying a man who rarely stepped out of character in public, and whose highly individual comic style hid the private tragedy of his early life.

The actor's life story is told through the people who knew him well - his son and daughter Nick and Jacqui Wisdom, his daughter-in-law Kim, film director Stephen Frears, actors Ricky Tomlinson, Leslie Phillips and Honor Blackman, and singer Dame Vera Lynn.

WED 22:00 Uncle Vanya (m000qplz)

Sonya and her Uncle Vanya throw their lives into maintaining the crumbling family estate, only visited occasionally by the radical and inspiring local doctor Astrov. However, when Sonya's father, Professor Serebryakov, suddenly returns with his restless, alluring, new wife Yelena, long-hidden truths start to emerge.

As the fractured family are forced to confront their longing, loneliness and each other, can the beauty of life help them find new hope? Following its critically acclaimed opening in London

in early 2020, Sonia Friedman Productions' stunning, five-star Uncle Vanya, Anton Chekhov's masterpiece, was abruptly halted as the world went into lockdown.

Now, as the majority of theatres across the world remain in darkness, Uncle Vanya's ensemble cast overcome the considerable challenges of working in a global pandemic, returning to the Harold Pinter Theatre to film an exciting new hybrid of film and theatre - far more than simply a capture of the play.

Full of tumultuous frustration and hidden passions, but brimming with hope and optimism for the future, Uncle Vanya is a must-see event for our times.

WED 00:30 TOTP2 (m0001vjf)

New Year Special

Steve Wright creates the perfect new year playlist and celebrates with a plethora of performances from the last four decades. Among the featured artists are The Three Degrees, Elton John, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, Europe, Blondie, The Nolans, Lionel Richie, The Bee Gees, Madonna and Kylie Minogue.

WED 01:40 The Joy of Painting (m000qplv)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

WED 02:10 Villages by the Sea (m000c78p)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

WED 02:40 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (m000qpkf)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER 2020

THU 19:00 Pubs, Ponds and Power: The Story of the Village (b0bsrqfw)

Series 1

North East

Archaeologist Ben Robinson unlocks the ancient roots of the Northumberland village of Warkworth. With the help of locals, he discovers clues that point back almost 1,000 years to the Norman conquest when the invaders laid the foundations of a planned community, still visible to this day.

THU 19:30 The Joy of Painting (m000qpms)

Winter Specials

An Arctic Winter Day

Travel to the coldest place imaginable with Bob Ross and find a lonely cabin comfortably nestled on the edge of a glass-smooth frozen pond.

THU 20:00 The Sound of Music (b007bgf8)

Classic film version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway musical. Irrepressible Maria begins to doubt her vocation and leaves her convent to become governess to the seven children of Captain von Trapp, a widower and retired naval officer. She soon turns the captain's orderly life upside down and instils a love of music in the children. Then the Third Reich annexes Austria...

THU 22:45 TOTP2 (m000qpmv)

Party Special

Steve Wright presents a TOTP2 party special featuring Ricky Martin, Showstoppers, Hot Chocolate and Robbie Williams.

THU 23:30 Dawn French Live: 30 Million Minutes (b086knj2)

Dawn French in her critically acclaimed one-woman show, 30 Million Minutes. Filmed during its final West End run in October 2016, it takes the audience on a journey through various delights and riches, with the odd irksome tribulation thrown in, as Dawn speaks about the lessons life has taught her and the things she knows to be true. The evidence is there for all to see. She is already three quarters certifiably daft. The other quarter is utterly bewildered. And the remaining quarter simply can't do maths. With a sharp eye for comic detail and a wicked ear for the absurdities of life, this is a true Christmas treat to see the critically acclaimed comedian at her finest.

THU 01:25 The Joy of Painting (m000qpms)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

THU 01:55 Pubs, Ponds and Power: The Story of the Village (b0bsrqfw)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

THU 02:25 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (m000qplk)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Wednesday]

FRIDAY 01 JANUARY 2021

FRI 19:00 New Year's Day Concert (m000qplj)

2021 - Highlights

Petroc Trelawny hosts the Vienna Philharmonic's annual New Year's Day Concert from the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna. In these uncertain times, the concert will look to send people all over the world a new year's greeting in the spirit of hope, friendship and peace.

Having enjoyed a 50-year musical partnership with the Vienna Philharmonic, Riccardo Muti takes charge of the celebrations for the sixth time in what's bound to be a uniquely poignant occasion. The concert will include the traditional mix of Austrian classics, featuring music by the Strauss family and ending with the ever-popular By the Beautiful Blue Danube and the foot-stamping Radetzky March.

FRI 21:00 Whitney at the BBC (m000qpll)

A celebration of the hits of one of the greatest and biggest-selling stars of all time that looks back Whitney Houston's best performances at the BBC.

This selection of songs, wrapped up in one of soul music's biggest-ever voices, captures how the world sat up and listened when Whitney burst onto the scene in 1985 with Saving all My Love for You. Taking us on a journey, hit by hit, through the 80s, 90s and 00s, this playlist is an absolute must for all her fans, reminding us why audiences fell in love with her time and again, and why her early death in 2012 was such a tragic loss to the world of music.

FRI 21:30 Whitney: Can I Be Me? (b094f49s)

From acclaimed director Nick Broomfield comes a film about one of the greatest singers of all time. Whitney Houston was the epitome of superstar, an 'American princess' and the most awarded female artist ever.

Even though Whitney had made millions of dollars, had more consecutive number ones than The Beatles and became recognised as having one of the greatest voices of all time, she still wasn't free to be herself and died at the age of 48.

Made with largely never-before-seen footage and exclusive live recordings, Whitney: Can I Be Me tells Whitney Houston's incredible and poignant life story with insights from those closest to her.

FRI 23:10 Queens of Soul (b05nhjxs)

The sisters are truly doing it for themselves in this celebration of the legendary female singers whose raw emotional vocal styles touched the hearts of followers worldwide. Featuring the effortless sounds of Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, Gladys Knight, Randy Crawford, Angie Stone, Mary J Blige and Beyonce, to name a few.

The Queens of Soul presents the critically acclaimed and influential female singers who, decade by decade, changed the world one note at a time.

FRI 00:10 Lionel Richie at the BBC (b017sw7e)

A selection of Lionel Richie's greatest moments from the BBC archives, from his first Top of the Pops appearance with The Commodores in 1979 to highlights from his 2009 concert at the BBC's Maida Vale studios.

FRI 01:10 How Auld Lang Syne Took over the World (b03nh35t)

[Repeat of broadcast at 22:50 on Monday]

FRI 02:10 Bruce Dickinson: Scream for Me Sarajevo (m000qpkh)

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Tuesday]