

**CALL THE MIDWIFE: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

Thursday 27 December 7.30pm



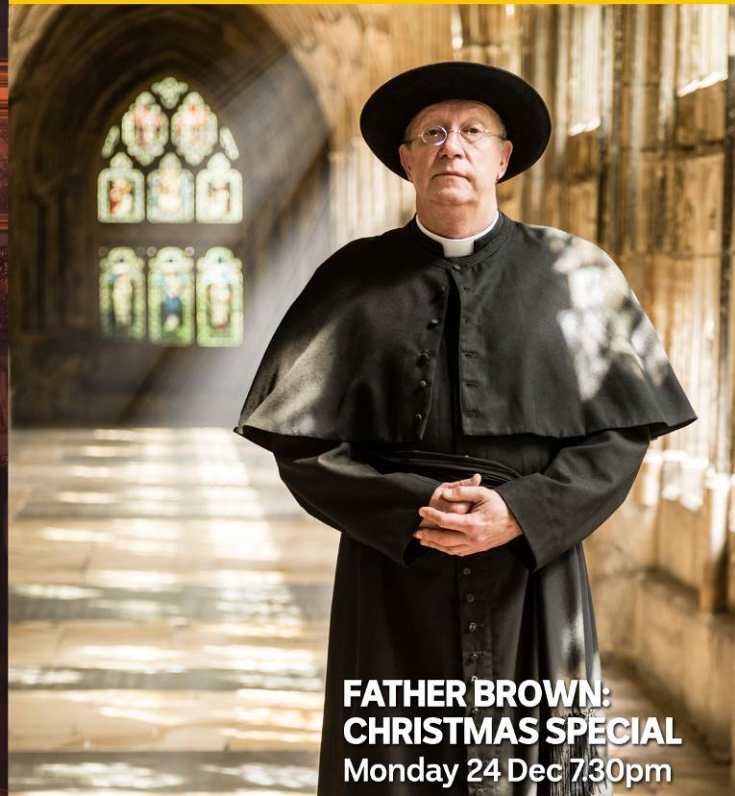
**VICTORIA: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL - COMFORT AND JOY**

Saturday 29 December 7.30pm



# ABC WEEK 52 HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY 23 TO SATURDAY 29 DECEMBER 2018



**FATHER BROWN:  
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**  
Monday 24 Dec 7/30pm



## Royal Variety Performance

Actor and one of the UK's best-loved comics Greg Davies, hosts The Royal Variety Performance, in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Harry and Meghan.

The Royal Variety Performance is held at London's Palladium Theatre. This is the 42nd time that the show has been held at the iconic location.

The show is an unforgettable evening of the best UK and international musical performers, extraordinary theatre and brilliant comedy as well as a number of surprises along the way.

An all-star line-up includes one of the UK's biggest bands, the multi-award-winning Take That, the West End cast of the phenomenal hit musical Hamilton, chart topper George Ezra, award winners Clean Bandit, West End cast of Tina – The Tina Turner Musical and the legendary Andrea Bocelli & his son Matteo.

Also taking to the stage are, Britain's Got Talent winner, comedian The Lost Voice Guy, a special performance from Rick Astley, comedian Rhod Gilbert, the mesmerising Cirque Du Soleil, plus music from Sigrid and cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason. Circus 1903 will be unveiling their unique and beautifully crafted performances with their extraordinary elephant puppetry, and there will be more comedy from stand-up comedians Gad Elmaleh and Rod Woodward.

The event is staged in aid of the Royal Variety Charity, whose patron is Her Majesty The Queen. The money raised from the show helps those people from the world of entertainment in need of care and assistance.

### Short synopsis

UK comic Greg Davies hosts The Royal Variety Performance, in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Global acts including Take That, George Ezra, Rick Astley, Rhod Gilbert, Andrea Bocelli and the cast of Hamilton perform.

### Production details

ITV's Commissioning Editor, Asif Zubairy. ITV Executive Producers: Fiona Clark and Lee Connolly. Executive Producers for the Royal Variety Charity: Laurie Mansfield, Giles Cooper and Phil Dale.

### Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 8646 2580 or [bassett.kim@abc.net.au](mailto:bassett.kim@abc.net.au)

**Program not yet available for preview.**  
**For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**



## Call The Midwife: Christmas Special

It's 1963 and Poplar is covered by a thick blanket of snow as the nuns and nurses of Nonnatus House face the challenge of the coldest winter for three hundred years.

Battling against snow, ice, power cuts and frozen pipes, the midwives brave the elements to provide the best possible care for their patients.

Valerie helps a young couple newly arrived in London, who experience a traumatic birth, and Sister Julianne strives to reunite a family torn apart by a tormenting father.

Stars Jenny Agutter, Judy Parfitt, Helen George, Laura Main, Linda Bassett, Stephen McGann, Charlotte Ritchie, Cliff Parisi, Anita Dobson.

### Short synopsis

It's 1963, the nuns and nurses of Nonnatus House face the challenge of the coldest winter for 300 hundred years to provide the best possible care for their patients.

### Production details

A Neal Street Production.

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**For preview, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**



## Father Brown: Christmas Special

It's December and Father Brown, Mrs McCarthy and Bunty are visited by an old friend as they make mince pies and decorate the presbytery. Sid has returned for Christmas, bearing gifts from Lady Felicia.

Meanwhile as locals walk through the woods, a dog uncovers a partially skeletonised hand in the cold ground. The body is identified as Scarlett Dreyfuss, a woman reported missing after the dress rehearsal of Red Riding Hood in 1946, throwing open a seven year old case. But that doesn't stop the Kembleford Amateur Dramatics Society from holding their auditions for this year's pantomime, Cinderella.

Mrs McCarthy is left disappointed when Bunty is given the role of Fairy Godmother over her, while Father Brown and Sid are left with rather undignified parts. When Scarlett's post mortem is delivered, Inspector Mallory realises that the confession of her supposed killer, gentle giant Benny, is a pack of lies. A terrible miscarriage of justice has taken place - can Father Brown overturn it in time for Christmas?

### Short synopsis

It's December and the discovery of a partially skeletonised hand in the cold ground opens a seven year old case. A terrible miscarriage of justice has taken place - can Father Brown overturn it in time for Christmas?

### Production details

A BBC Studios production

### Contact

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**For preview, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**





### **Victoria: Christmas Special – Comfort & Joy**

As Christmas approaches, Victoria (Jenna Coleman) is uncharacteristically melancholy, bereft without Baroness Lehzen (Daniela Holtz), and the festive season reminds her of her lonely childhood spent isolated at Kensington.

Albert (Tom Hughes), on the other hand, is gripped by an obsession with staging the perfect family Christmas, and ruffles feathers as he transforms the Palace into a magical festive wonderland. But Victoria is furious to find that Albert has invited two very unwelcome house guests - meddling Uncle Leopold (Alex Jennings), and the person that Victoria holds responsible for her miserable Christmas memories: her mother (Catherine Flemming).

Based on a true-life story, Captain Forbes (Ben Lamb) arrives with a gift for the Queen – a young African princess named Sarah (Zaris-Angel Hator). Victoria cannot understand Albert's objection, and welcomes Sarah into the royal nursery, giving her the lavish attention that she feels she was denied as a princess.

'Tis the season for historic enmities to finally climax, new romances to blossom, and sacrifices to be made... but a terrifying ice-skating accident on the frozen lake calls the couple's priorities into question, and Victoria and Albert finally realise that they must leave behind the pain of their upbringings if they are to give their own children the Christmas that they never had.

**Short synopsis**

Victoria is uncharacteristically melancholy as Christmas approaches - a reminder of the lonely childhood spent at Kensington. Albert on the other hand, is gripped by an obsession with staging the perfect family Christmas.

**Production details**

A Mammoth Screen production; Creator /Writer/Exec Producer: Daisy Goodwin; MD of Mammoth Screen/Executive Producer Damien Timmer; Executive Producer: Kate McKerrell; Producer: Paul Frift; Directors: Lisa James Larsson, Geoffrey Sax, Jim Loach, Daniel O'Hara.

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**For preview, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**





## **iview Summer Comedy Binge**

Screening from Friday 7 December on ABC iview

**ABC will keep you entertained and laughing all summer long.**

ABC will keep Australian audiences laughing throughout the long summer days with our annual comedy bonanza of specials, premieres and events in December and January.

The festive fun kicks off with ABC COMEDY's **Summer Comedy Binge on iview**, featuring some of the best comedies that will keep you in stitches.

For two months over summer on ABC iview, you'll find a wealth of Aussie comedy series including; **The Letdown** (series 1), **Rosehaven** (series 1&2), **Sando** (series 1), **Squinters** (series 1), **Superwog** (series 1), **Ronny Chieng International Student** (series 1), **Get Krack!n** (series 1), **Back in Very Small Business** (series 1), **Black Comedy** (series 3), **Comedy Up Late** (series 3 to 6), **Melbourne Comedy Festival 2018**, the **Fresh Blood** pilots and the premiere of the Aussie short comedy series - **What Could Go Wrong?**

International titles include; **Dead Boss**, **Threesome** (series 1&2), **Way to Go** (series 1), **This Country** (series 1&2), **Zapped** (series 1&2), **Plebs** (series 1&2), **Catastrophe** (series 1 to 3), and the premiere of **Hang Ups**.

### **Short synopsis**

ABC iview will keep Australian audiences laughing throughout the long summer days with our annual comedy bonanza of specials, premieres and events in December and January.

### **Contact**

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## **Christmas on ABC KIDS:**

### **Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventures! The Movie**

All aboard! Join Thomas on his most epic journey ever as he leaves Sodor to fulfil his dream of seeing the world!

The action-packed adventure begins when a mischievous little racing car called Ace comes to Sodor and inspires Thomas to embark on an ambitious trip. When Thomas asks the Fat Controller what he thinks about one of his engines being the first to go around the world, the Fat Controller says it is a marvellous idea, and Thomas sets off before he can even catch his breath!

This heroic quest takes Thomas across deserts, through jungles and over dangerous mountains as he travels across Africa, on to South America, up through Central America to the USA, and from there, on to China – traveling full steam ahead across five continents and seeing sights he has never seen before!

On his journey to discover new places and cultures, Thomas makes friends with an adventurous, inspiring and fun African tank engine from Kenya called Nia. But with so much for Thomas to learn about the world, will Nia be successful in teaching him a lesson about the true meaning of friendship?

Featuring a fun-packed plot full of wonder and curiosity, plus tons of animals and several musical songs that will captivate the imagination of young Thomas fans and parents alike, this is the biggest and best Thomas movie to date and one not to be missed!

#### **Short synopsis:**

Join Thomas as he embarks on an epic journey as he leaves Sodor to travel around the world. Travelling full steam ahead across five continents, Thomas discovers magnificent new sights and cultures, & makes new friends.

#### **Production details**

A Thomas & Friends Production. © 2018 Gullane (Thomas) Limited.

#### **Contact**

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Find publicity images and press kits for highlighted and ongoing programs at [abc.net.au/tvpublicity](http://abc.net.au/tvpublicity)

