

Russell HOWARD'S GOOD NEWS

RUSSELL HOWARD returns to BBC Three this spring with a brand new series of Russell Howard's Good News. The hit show's debut run was the most requested BBC Three programme on iPlayer last year, and the channel's most successful studio-based entertainment show ever drawing in 2.5 million viewers a week. With each episode put together just days before transmission, there's no knowing what will feature in the first show, but the new series will see RUSSELL turn news-junkie once again as he puts his spin on the week's headlines, as well as highlighting some of the more overlooked stories that have caught his eye as he sifts through the papers, news websites and TV news channels.

Russell Howard's Good News is recorded in front of a live studio audience but viewers at home will have the chance to shape the news agenda by submitting stories online at www.bbc.co.uk/russellhoward (where they will also be able to view exclusive extra features) or via Twitter at www.twitter.com/bbcgoodnews. The series will run for seven weeks, followed by an hour-long best of, which will also feature previously unseen footage.

RUSSELL HOWARD is one of the UK's most successful live comedians having played to more than 58,000 fans over nine nights on his recent UK arena tour which saw the comic visit some of the country's biggest venues, including Wembley Arena and the Manchester Evening News Arena. RUSSELL also has two bestselling DVDs to his name, 2008's Russell Howard Live and 2009's Russell Howard Live – Dingedodies, both of which were the fifth highest selling stand up titles of their respective years.

In addition to being a regular on Mock The Week (BBC Two's highest rating comedy show, which has seen viewing figures of over 5 million per week), RUSSELL has twice appeared on Live At The Apollo (BBC ONE) alongside some of the biggest names in comedy; and will cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End alongside DAVID WALLIAMS, JIMMY CARR, FEARNE COTTON, DAVINA MCCALL, MIRANDA HART and PATRICK KIELTY for this year's BBC Sport Relief.

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What the press said about series one of Russell Howard's Good News

"Howard is energetic, uncynical and, most importantly, very funny."
David Chater, The Times [Playlist]

"We're loving cheeky Russell's series which, as well as giving his take on the big stories, also uncovers some of the more bizarre headlines of the week. Funny stuff."
The Mirror [We Love Telly]

"Expect razor-sharp observations from one of the rising stars on the comedy circuit."
Joe Clay, The Times [T2]

"Howard is more than comfortable working solo, driving the show forward by sheer force of his energy, charm and enthusiasm."
Harry Venning, the Stage

Russell Howard's Good News starts on BBC Three on 25th March 2010

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www.russell-howard.co.uk

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AVALON TELEVISION

Avalon Television is one of the leading producers of award-winning comedy and light entertainment programmes in the UK. Founded in 1993, the independent production house supplies television programming to all the British terrestrial channels and the leading cable and satellite stations, in addition to content for radio broadcasters.

Recent television productions include: a new comedy sketch show written by and starring the multi-award winning creator of *The Pub Landlord*, Al Murray's Multiple Personality Disorder (ITV1); the quadruple-BAFTA and triple *British Comedy Award*-winning Harry Hill's TV Burp (ITV1); Al Murray's Happy Hour (ITV1) - the *British Comedy Award* winning peak-time entertainment show; three series of the *Royal Television Society* and *Rose D'Or* award-winning sitcom Not Going Out (BBC ONE); the acclaimed Touch Me I'm Karen Taylor (BBC THREE); the *Rose d'Or* award-winning Kombat Opera Presents (BBC TWO), a series of contemporary musical comedies from the creator of the multi-award-winning hit musical Jerry Springer - The Opera, with collaborators including STEWART LEE, DAVE GORMAN and TERRY JONES; a feature-length documentary, written by and starring DAVE GORMAN, entitled Unchained America (More 4); Laura, Ben and Him, a multi-character sketch show for ITV2 written by and starring hotly-tipped new writer performers LAURA SOLON, BEN WILLBOND and MAREK LARWOOD; You Can Choose Your Friends (ITV1) - a 90-minute comedy-drama starring the late ANTON RODGERS and JULIA MCKENZIE; a prime-time reality format in the US called Wake Up Call (ABC Network); and The Greg Behrendt Show, a first-run syndication show in the USA produced by Avalon Television and Sony.

Avalon Television also produces radio, with recent projects including: Yes it's the Ashes, ANDY ZALTZMAN'S topical look at the ashes series; The Frank Skinner Show, which goes out on Saturday mornings on Absolute Radio; a sixth series of DAVID BADDIEL'S acclaimed BBC Radio 4 comic-discussion show, Heresy; series six of Out To Lunch (BBC Radio 2), a comedy show for Saturday afternoons hosted by RUSSELL KANE - featuring some of the finest up-and-coming comic talent currently working in the UK; a third series of Banter (BBC Radio 4), hosted by *Sony Award*-winning ANDREW COLLINS, a comedy panel show in which the guests including RICHARD HERRING and RUSSELL HOWARD are asked to hammer out Top Threes in categories covering anything from playwrights to Playstation; series two of Political Animal (BBC Radio 4), a socio-political satire show, hosted and linked by ANDY ZALTZMAN and The Daily Show With Jon Stewart (More 4) regular JOHN OLIVER.

OTHER SHOW CREDITS

The series is produced by MARK IDDON series produced by ROBYN O'BRIEN and directed by PETER ORTON. Executive producers are JON THODAY, RICHARD ALLEN-TURNER, JAMES TAYLOR and KARL WARNER for the BBC.

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