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Creative forward look



The 2026 slate is the culmination of two years of delivery against our Fast Forward strategy and represents the strongest creative proposition on Channel 4 for over a decade.

This year we're making a series of deliberate, confident bets:

- A bigger commitment to exceptional British drama than we have ever taken before
- A renewed focus on original British unscripted IP, at a time when much of the market is retreating from risk
- A continued willingness to commission braver, more provocative content that audiences will not find elsewhere

Scripted

When we launched Fast Forward in 2024, the single biggest change to our slate was the expansion of our Drama portfolio, with the ambition of transforming Channel 4 into a true destination for high-quality scripted content.

2026 is the year that ambition lands on screen. Accompanied by Marketing and Creative's 'Here For The Drama' campaign, we will launch a number of major dramas, including the adaptation of Barbara Taylor Bradford's *A Woman of Substance*; Russell T Davies's thriller *Tip Toe*; Jack Thorne's *Falling*, starring Paapa Essiedu and Keeley Hawes; and *Maya*, a darkly comic, witness-protection thriller led by Daisy Haggard and Bella Ramsey.

The range of top writers and performing talent reflects our ambition for bold, entertaining British drama that resonates with broad audiences.

Backing new British formats and reinventing entertainment

Alongside Scripted growth, we remain committed to investing in new original British IP from independent producers and emerging talent across the UK.

Our 2026 schedule features exciting new Factual Entertainment and Reality programming designed to entertain and inform in equal measure.

New commissions for 2026 include *Secret Genius*, with Alan Carr and Susie Dent; *Handcuffed: Last Pair Standing*, led by Jonathan Ross; survival experiment *The Hunt: Prey vs Predator*; and the ambitious social format *Apocalypse*.

These sit alongside returning hits such as *Virgin Island*, *The Jury: Murder Trial*, *The Piano*, and a new companion show, *Your Song*, searching for unsung vocal heroes.

Our schedule continues to balance innovation with scale, with established audience favourites including *Gogglebox*, *Married at First Sight*, *The Great British Bake Off*, and *Taskmaster*.

Comedy remains a priority, with new series designed to give the next generation of funny talent a platform to grow, including *It Gets Worse* (Leo Reich); *Make That Movie* (Sam Campbell); and *Break Clause* (Lara Ricote). In Unscripted, rising voices such as Munya Chawawa and Obah Butler will front new documentaries, while Channel 4.0 continues to lead the market in creator-led content for young audiences on YouTube.

Representing unheard voices

From Russell T Davies's *Tip Toe* – which sounds the alarm on homophobia – to Welsh-language opera film *Fires of the Moon (Tanau'r Lloer)*, a new Northern Ireland police access series, and a returnable Scottish hotel access series, our 4 All the UK commissioning strategy will showcase content that represents the breadth of the UK.

We will reaffirm our leadership in disability representation through extensive coverage of the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games – fronted by an all-disabled presenting team – and we will examine public attitudes towards disability through a high-profile, new social experiment.

Patience, one of our most successful 2025 launches will also return, led by autistic protagonist Patience Evans.

Our slate also explores race, ethnicity, and power, including *Free Nelson Mandela*, a new landmark documentary charting Mandela's journey from activist to revolutionary to leader, alongside further documentaries and drama examining contemporary cultural and political forces.

Diversity is also embedded within our biggest formats, with *The Great British Bake Off*, *Married at First Sight*, and *Gogglebox* continuing to authentically reflect modern Britain.

Challenging with purpose

Channel 4 will continue to tackle difficult subjects, hold power to account, and challenge conventional thinking.

Regularly co-anchored from Leeds, *Channel 4 News* will continue to deliver trusted and high-quality journalism across linear and digital platforms, reaching audiences – and particularly young people – where they consume their news. Across Factual and Current Affairs, docudrama *Dirty Business* highlights the shocking sewage scandal that has plagued Britain's waters, *Molly vs the Machines* takes a timely look at the impact of tech companies on young people's mental health, and we also have a hugely impactful yet-to-be-announced police access series that will make waves. Flagship Current Affairs programmes *Dispatches*, *Unreported World*, and *UNTOLD* will continue to tackle urgent national issues, supported by the growing reach of Channel 4 Documentaries on YouTube.

It's been a privilege beyond words to lead Channel 4's talented and passionate commissioning team over the last nine years through such a transformative period. With a bumper drama slate, bold new formats and a number of spiky conversation-starters, our 2026 slate is among the noisiest and most creatively ambitious in years – delivering Channel 4's public purpose at scale and when I step down in autumn I look forward to watching its continued success under Priya's leadership.



From blue chip history like *The Tony Blair Story* to polemical drama like *Dirty Business*, from ambitious new formats including *Handcuffed: Last Pair Standing* and *Apocalypse*, to moment-defining drama like Russell T Davies's *Tip Toe*, the 2026 slate is bold, purposeful, and unmistakably Channel 4."