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and beyond



**sky** cinema

The home of Sky Original films

This new line up of 15 Sky Original films is an exciting mix of British and American titles with high profile stars due to air in 2021. They join previously announced original films, including **Twist** with two-time Academy Award winner Sir Michael Caine, **Dragon Rider**, voiced by Felicity Jones and Patrick Stewart and **To Olivia** starring Hugh Bonneville and Keeley Hawes.

# The United States vs. Billie Holiday

**Sky Cinema and NOW TV**

TX: 26 February 2021

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In the 1940's, the US government targeted beloved jazz icon Billie Holiday as part of their war on drugs, to prevent her from performing her heart-wrenching ballad "Strange Fruit," a defiant cry against lynching.

Directed by Lee Daniels, written by Suzan-Lori Parks and starring Andra Day

# The Glorias

**Sky Cinema and NOW TV**

TX: 7 March 2021

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In this non-traditional biopic, Julie Taymor crafts a complex tapestry of one of the most inspirational and legendary figures of modern history, based on Gloria Steinem's own memoir *My Life on the Road*. **The Glorias** (Julianne Moore, Alicia Vikander, Lulu Wilson, Ryan Keira Armstrong) traces Steinem's influential journey to prominence – from her time in India as a young woman, to the founding of *Ms.* magazine in New York, to her role in the rise of the women's rights movement in the 1960s, to the historic 1977 National Women's Conference and beyond, crossing paths with a number of iconic women who made profound contributions to the women's movement, including Dorothy Pittman Hughes (Janelle Monáe), Flo Kennedy (Lorraine Toussaint), Bella Abzug (Bette Midler), and Wilma Mankiller (Kimberly Guerrero).

**The Glorias** is directed by Julie Taymor who has co-written the screenplay alongside Sarah Ruhl, and is produced by Page Fifty-Four Pictures, in association with FilmNation Entertainment and Artemis Rising Foundation.

# Creation Stories

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: 20 March 2021

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**Creation Stories** charts the true story of the rise and fall of Creation Records and its infamous founder Alan McGee; the man responsible for supplying the “Brit Pop” soundtrack to the ‘90s, a decade of cultural renaissance known as Cool Britannia. From humble beginnings to Downing Street soirées, from dodging bailiffs to releasing multi-platinum albums, Creation had it all. Breakdowns, bankruptcy, fights and friendships... and not forgetting the music. Featuring some of the greatest records you have ever heard, we follow Alan through a drug-fuelled haze of music and mayhem, as his rock’n’roll dream brings the world Oasis, Primal Scream, and other generation-defining bands.

**Creation Stories** is written by Irvine Welsh and Dean Cavanagh, directed by Nick Moran and produced by Burning Wheel Productions. The film stars an incredible line up of British stars including Ewen Bremner, Jason Isaacs, Jason Flemyng, Suki Waterhouse, Thomas Turgoose, Siobhan Redmond and Richard Jobson.

# Six Minutes to Midnight

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: 26 March 2021

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Summer 1939, Hitler’s power is growing and tensions between the UK and Germany are at boiling point. The Augusta Victoria College, a finishing school for daughters and god-daughters of the Nazi elite on the south-coast of England, is under close scrutiny after the mysterious disappearance of their teacher Mr Wheatley. The school governess, Miss Rocholl (Judi Dench), hires journeyman teacher Thomas Miller (Eddie Izzard) to replace Wheatley and help prepare the girls for the Anglo-German fellowship. Thomas slowly raises the suspicions of Ilse Keller (Carla Juri), the girls’ German tutor, who has secrets of her own. Caught in the crossfires, Thomas is framed for murder and goes on the run to clear his name and uncover Ilse’s true plan for the girls. Can he stop her before it’s too late?

**Six Minutes to Midnight** is a period thriller inspired by real events, directed by Andy Goddard (**Downton Abbey, Carnival Row, Set Fire to the Stars**) and starring Eddie Izzard, Judi Dench and Jim Broadbent alongside Carla Juri, David Schofield, James D’Arcy and Celyn Jones.

Written by Celyn Jones (**Set Fire to the Stars, The Vanishing**), Eddie Izzard and Andy Goddard, the film is produced by Andy Evans, Ade Shannon and Sean Marley for Mad as Birds, along with Laure Vaysse for Motion Picture Capital and Sarah Townsend for Ella Communications. Zygi Kamasa and Emma Berkofsky are Executive Producers for Lionsgate UK along with Pauline Burt and Adam Partridge for Ffilm Cymru Wales and Christina Papagjika and Matt Salloway for West Madison Entertainment.

# Antebellum

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: April 2021

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A terrifying new thriller, **Antebellum** centres on Veronica Henley (Janelle Monae) a PHD sociologist and best-selling author whose books explore the disenfranchisement of black people in the US. She's devoted to her loving husband and young daughter Kennedy, both of whom she must leave to travel to New Orleans, where she's to speak at a conference. There, her empowering words remind the audience members that though black people are often expected to be seen and not heard, their time is now. What Veronica does not yet realise is that fate has chosen her to save us from our past. Veronica uncovers a horrific secret that connects her to a Civil War era enslaved woman,

Eden (also played by Monae), who toils under inhuman circumstances in a perfectly manicured cotton field amidst stifling omnipresent heat, as the Civil War rages around her. Across time and in different worlds, Eden and Veronica find themselves enveloped in life-altering circumstances.

**Antebellum** is written, produced and directed by Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz in their feature directorial debuts, teamed with Lionsgate and QC Entertainment – the producer of the seminal horror films **Get Out** and **Us**.

# Breaking News in Yuba County

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: Spring 2021

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After her husband goes missing, Sue Buttons (Allison Janney), an under-appreciated suburban wife, gets a taste of being a local celebrity as she embarks on a city-wide search in Yuba County to find him. In an effort to prolong her new-found fame, she stumbles into hilarious high jinks as her world turns upside down, dodging a wanna-be mobster (Awkwafina), a relentless local policewoman (Regina Hall), her half-sister (Mila Kunis) a local news reporter desperate for a story, and her husband's dead-beat brother (Jimmi Simpson), who all set out to uncover the truth behind the disappearance.

Directed by Tate Taylor, written by Amanda Idoko and produced by AGC Studios, Nine Stories, The Black List, and Wyolah Films, **Breaking News in Yuba County** is a dark and twisted comedy that explores the outrageous lengths some will go to in order to garner some much-desired attention.

# The Secrets We Keep

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: Spring 2021

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In a small U.S. town, far from the horrors of the Nazi labour camp where Maja (Noomi Rapace) was held with other Romani prisoners, she and her American husband Lewis (Chris Messina) have built a cosy life. But Maja's encounter with a nightmarishly familiar stranger (Joel Kinnaman) brings Maja spiralling back to a night she has tried to forget. Fearful that her tragic past has come back to haunt her, she begins to stalk the man, hoping to convince herself she is wrong. But can she be sure? Deciding that it's him, she kidnaps him, drives him to her home, and insists that her husband help her interrogate the man. Begging for his life, the prisoner swears she has the wrong man, as Lewis watches in horror as Maja torments her captive, only offering to release him if he confesses. Meanwhile, the man's wife (Amy Seimetz) presses the police to launch a manhunt for her missing husband, putting pressure on Maja and Lewis to bring the situation to an uncertain conclusion.

At once a gripping thriller and a thought-provoking examination of the aftermath of violence, *The Secrets We Keep* asks whether revenge can heal tragedy and if solace is ever possible. Directed by Yuval Adler, who has co-written the screenplay alongside Ryan Covington, **The Secrets We Keep** was financed by Stuart Ford's fast-growing independent content studio AGC Studios in partnership with Ingenious Media and Fibonacci Films. Lorenzo di Bonaventura (**The Meg, the Transformers franchise**) and Erik Howsam (**Only the Brave, G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra**) of Di Bonaventura Pictures produced along with AGC's Ford, Greg Shapiro, and Adam Riback of Echo Lake Entertainment. Greg Clark, Andrea Scarso and Jamie Jessop served as executive producers.

# Kindred

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: Summer 2021

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When her boyfriend Ben (Edward Holcroft) suddenly dies in an accident, mother-to-be Charlotte (Tamara Lawrence) collapses upon receiving the news. She wakes up in Ben's family home, a crumbling old manor house in the middle of nowhere with Ben's overbearing mother, Margaret (Fiona Shaw) and his controlling stepbrother, Thomas (Jack Lowden). They are determined to care for her, at least until the baby arrives. Grief stricken and increasingly haunted by visions possibly brought on by the pregnancy, Charlotte accepts their help. However, as the days

go by, she begins to doubt their intentions and her suspicions grow. Are they drugging her and keeping her captive, with the aim of taking her unborn baby? As her visions intensify and the haze of lies grows, Charlotte decides that her only option is to break free from this family once and for all – but at what cost?

Produced by Reiver Pictures, **Kindred**, is a psychological thriller rippling with suspense. Joe Marcantonio (**Red Light**) directs and has co-written the screenplay alongside Jason McColgan.

# Extinct

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: Summer 2021

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Siblings Op and Ed are flummels - cute, furry, donut-shaped animals who live on an island in the Galapagos in 1835. Ed, desperately wants to fit in with the community while Op constantly creates havoc, with his impulsive behaviour getting the two of them banished. Undeterred, Op leads Ed up the far side of the mountain to the forbidden zone, where they find, and plummet through, a mysterious time portal where they learn, to their horror, that flummels become extinct in 1835. Op and Ed must undertake a tumultuous time-hopping adventure in order to return to their own time and save their species.

Extinct stars Rachel Bloom (**Trolls, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend**), Adam Devine (**Pitch Perfect, Modern Family**), Zazie Beetz (**Deadpool, Atlanta**) and Ken Jeong (**The Hangover, Crazy Rich Asians**). Director David Silverman (**The Simpsons Movie**) partners with writers Joel Cohen, John Frink, Rob Lazebnik on **Extinct**, production of China Lion Entertainment in co-production with Tolerable Entertainment, Huayi Tencent Entertainment, H. Brothers Entertainment and HB-Wink Animation, in association with Cinesite.

# The Comeback Trail

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: Summer 2021

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**The Comeback Trail** boasts a host of film legends including Robert DeNiro, Morgan Freeman, Tommy Lee Jones, and Zach Braff. B-movie producer Max Barber (DeNiro) alongside his nephew and partner Walter (Braff), run into trouble with mob gangster Reggie Fontaine (Freeman). In an attempt to pay off their debts, Barber and Walter set up the drunk and aging cowboy movie star, Duke Montana (Jones) for an insurance scam on the set of their latest film, 'The Oldest Gun In The West'. Barber's and Walter's quick

money scheme doesn't go to plan in the way they imagined, but they wind up getting more than they ever hoped for.

George Gallo (**Bad Boys, Middle Men**) directs **The Comeback Trail** which he has written alongside Josh Posner (**Persephone: Pictures at the End of the World**) in association with Storyboard Media, and Cloudburst Entertainment.

# Every Breath You Take

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: Summer/Autumn 2021

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Oscar-winning actor Casey Affleck (**Manchester By The Sea, Gone Baby Gone, Ocean's Eleven** franchise) will be joining Sam Claflin (**Me Before You, The Hunger Games, Enola Holmes**), Golden Globe-nominated Michelle Monaghan (**Kiss Kiss Bang Bang, Gone Baby Gone, Trucker**) and multi-European Award-winning Veronica Ferres (**Crisis, Love Wedding & other Disasters**) in the upcoming feature film from director Vaughn Stein (**Terminal**).

Psychiatrist, Phillip (Affleck) finds his life in turmoil following the sudden suicide of his patient. When he invites his patient's surviving brother (Claflin) into his home to meet his wife (Monaghan) and daughter, his family life and career are suddenly torn apart.

**Every Breath You Take** is being produced by Richard B. Lewis of Southpaw Entertainment (**The Space Between Us, August Rush, Backdraft, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**) with Veronica Ferres (**Salt & Fire, Hector & the Search for Happiness**) of Construction Films and Morgan Emmery and Jean-Charles Levy of Trinity Media Financing. Affleck will executive produce alongside Tannaz Anisi and Gregory R. Schenz of 13 Films and Southpaw Entertainment's Gabrielle Jerou-Tabak.

# Monster Family 2

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: October 2021

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Have you recently saved the world? Think that entitles you to a lifetime's supply of happiness? Think again! Everyday life has a nasty tendency to bring you back down to earth. A year after the happy ending of **Monster Family**, the Wishbone Family are struggling with their various shortcomings. It's good news then that the wedding of the witch Baba Yaga and the hunchbacked butler Renfield will provide a much-needed distraction. However, two-and-a-half seconds before they can exchange their vows, the two lovebirds are abducted by supercool Monster Hunter Mila Starr.

The Wishbones have only one choice, if they want to save Baba Yaga and Renfield they must transform into monsters again. However even as

their monster selves they struggle when faced with Mila, who firmly believes that she is on a mission to save the world with her parents. But things are not as they seem as Mila discovers the sinister truth behind her parents' mission.

**Monster Family 2**, stars Jason Isaacs, Emily Watson, Nick Frost, Jessica Brown Findlay, Ethan Rouse and Emily Carey. Presented by Timeless Films, **Monster Family 2** is directed by Holger Tappe, and written by David Safier and Abraham Katz.

# Save The Cinema

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: Winter 2021

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An all-star British cast including Samantha Morton (**Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them**), Tom Felton (**Harry Potter**), Jonathan Pryce (**The Two Popes**), Adeel Akhtar (**Enola Holmes**), Erin Richards (**Gotham**), Owain Yeoman (**Emergence**), Susan Wokoma (**Enola Holmes**), Colm Meaney (**Gangs Of London**), Rhod Gilbert (**Have I Got News For You**) and Keith Allen (**Kingsman: The Golden Circle**).

This feel-good story is based on the efforts of one woman bringing together a community to save the local cinema.

Set in the 90's, **Save The Cinema** is inspired by the life of Liz Evans, (Samantha Morton), a hairdresser and linchpin in the local community in the small town of Carmarthen in Wales. Her mission is to stop The Lyric Theatre being demolished by bulldozers and turned into a shopping centre. With the threat of demolition becoming ever more likely, Liz and friends barricade themselves in the cinema and with the help of postman turned local councillor Richard (Tom Felton), they come up with a grand plan.

To revitalise the cinema and stop the council taking the heart of the community away, a desperate Liz persuades Richard to write to Hollywood to ask for a helping hand. A phone call later and an influential filmmaker agrees to offer a very special treat for Carmarthen, but does this help save the future of The Lyric?

**Save The Cinema**, a Sky Original film, is directed by Sara Sugarman (**Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen**) and written by Piers Ashworth (**Fisherman's Friends**) from a story by Lorraine King. It is produced by Matt Williams, Piers Tempest and Karl Hall at FAE Film & Television and executive produced by Julia Stuart at Sky. Sky is majority funding the film in association with Head Gear Films, LipSync and Ffilm Cymru.

# A Boy Called Christmas

Sky Cinema and NOW TV

TX: December 2021

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The origin story of Father Christmas is re-imagined in Gil Kenan's live action **A Boy Called Christmas**. An ordinary young boy called Nikolas sets out on an extraordinary adventure into the snowy north in search of his father who is on a quest to discover the fabled village of the elves, Elfhelm. Taking with him a headstrong reindeer called Blitzen and a loyal pet mouse, Nikolas soon meets his destiny in this magical, comic and endearing story that proves nothing is impossible...

Directed by Academy Award® nominee Gil Kenan (**Monster House**), **A Boy Called Christmas** boasts an all-star cast including Jim Broadbent (**Paddington 1 & 2**, **The Iron Lady**), Zoe Colletti (**Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark**), Toby Jones (**Infamous**, **Tinker Tailor Soldier**

**Spy**), Sally Hawkins (**The Shape of Water**, **Paddington 1 & 2**), Michiel Huisman (**The Haunting of Hill House**, **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**), Henry Lawfull (**Les Misérables**), Maggie Smith (**Downton Abbey**, **Harry Potter**), Rune Temte (**Captain Marvel**, **The Last Kingdom**), Indica Watson (**The Missing**, **Sherlock**) and Kristen Wiig (**Bridesmaids**, **Wonder Woman 1984**).

Oli Parker (**Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again**, **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**) and Gil Kenan have adapted the screenplay from the bestselling book by Matt Haig, the first of five books in the acclaimed series, all of which are published by Canongate Books (**Life of Pi**, **Under the Skin**, **How to Stop Time**).

# Jolt

**Sky Cinema and NOW TV**

TX: TBC

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Kate Beckinsale stars in this female driven action-comedy as Lindy, a woman with serious anger management issues. Diagnosed with a rage disorder, Lindy uses a special electrode device to shock herself anytime she feels the urge to act out her murderous fantasies. Unable to find love in a world that fears her unique condition, she finally falls for a man who accepts her for who she is, only to find him murdered the next day. Enraged, she goes on a revenge-filled mission to find the killer, while also being hunted down by the police as the prime suspect.

Starring Kate Beckinsale (**Underworld, Van Helsing**), Stanley Tucci (**The Devil Wears Prada, The Hunger Games**), Jai Courtney (**Suicide Squad, Terminator Genisys**), Bobby Cannavale (**Ant-Man, Blue Jasmine**), Laverne Cox (**Orange is the New Black, Promising Young Woman**), David Bradley (**Harry Potter, Hot Fuzz**) and Ori Pfeffer (**Hacksaw Ridge**), **Jolt** is written by Scott Wascha, directed by Tanya Wexler (**Hysteria**), and produced by Millennium Media.

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A Discovery of Witches



# Drama

**Wolfe**, **The Midwich Cuckoos** and **Extinction** join a line-up of high-quality Sky Original dramas already announced including **This Sceptered Isle** starring BAFTA and Emmy award-winning actor Kenneth Branagh, **Landscapers** starring Academy Award®-winner Olivia Colman, new prison break drama **Intergalactic** and returning favourites **Britannia** and **Temple**.

The following Sky Original dramas were commissioned by Zai Bennett, Sky's Managing Director of Content and Cameron Roach, Director of Drama at Sky Studios, alongside Manpreet Dosanjh, (**Wolfe** and **The Midwich Cuckoos**) and Gabriel Silver (**Extinction**), both Commissioning Editors for Sky Studios.

# Wolfe

(6x60) Sky One and NOW TV

TX: Autumn 2021

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Starring Babou Ceesay (**Guerilla, Rogue One**) in the title role, the series also stars Amanda Abbington (**Sherlock**), Natalia Tena (**Harry Potter, Game of Thrones**), Naomi Yang (**Poisonings, Brave New World**), Adam Long (**Vera, Happy Valley**) and Shaniqua Okwok (**Small Axe, Anthony**).

**Wolfe** centres around lauded Forensic Pathologist Professor Wolfe Kinteh (Ceesay) - North England's finest crime scene expert. Wolfe runs the local university forensics department working hand-in-hand with the police to investigate crime scenes and pass on his laser sharp insight to the next generation of crime fighters. Half genius, half liability - he's worth the hassle as he gets results. Wolfe Kinteh is a doting dad and a family man. Well, he would be if his wife Val (Tena) would let him move back into the family home. Wolfe attacks life with a mercurial approach as he deploys his scientific brain to each new case, but what works so well on a crime scene, at home - not so much. He's propped up by a team whose lives are as complicated as their mentor's. There's child prodigy Maggy (Yang),

middle-aged single mum Dot (Abbington), team entomologist and closet nerd Steve (Long) and new recruit Dominique (Okwok), Dominique is as bright as a button but carrying the baggage of a very dark past. It's no coincidence that she's ended up here, in this team. Dominique is here for a reason which puts her in opposition to Wolfe and one of them is going to come out of this a lot worse off.

Each week Wolfe is propelled into a new environment to piece together the parts- in some cases literally - to solve the crime. One thing is for sure though, he won't be doing it in a way anybody expected.

Wolfe is written by Paul Abbott, Cat Jones, Georgia Lester, Furquan Akhtar and Freddy Syborn. Wolfe is directed by Adrian Shergold (**Mag Dogs**) and Sean Spencer (**Panic**). The series is executive produced by Paul Abbott, Martin Carr and Paul Coe (**No Offence**) and will be produced by AbbottVision in association with Sky Studios. The series is produced by Emma Burge (**Shameless**).

# The Midwich Cuckoos

(8x60) Sky One and NOW TV

TX: 2022

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**The Midwich Cuckoos** is a modern television adaptation of John Wyndham's classic science fiction story, written and created by David Farr (**The Night Manager, Hanna**). The eight-part series updates the novel to the present day and relocates it to a commuter town in the south of England forty miles outside London.

Midwich is a sleepy commuter town in contemporary southern England, and a great place to bring up children. One September evening a part of the town falls suddenly unconscious. Humans, animals, all pass out on their feet; without warning, without reason. For twelve hours no one can get into the Blackout Zone. No phones work, satellite cameras can't see in, and what is happening inside is a total mystery. Then suddenly everything returns to normal. But not quite. For something truly inexplicable has happened.

Every woman of child-bearing age has fallen pregnant. The spawn of these pregnancies are The Midwich Cuckoos, a group of chillingly unusual "children". They will change this community forever, dividing loyalties, threatening lives both within the town and beyond and requiring a terrifying sacrifice in order to prevent them causing catastrophe.

Based on the novel by John Wyndham, the series is adapted for the screen by David Farr (**The Night Manager, Hanna**), with Alice Troughton (**Baghdad Central, Cucumber, A Discovery of Witches**) as lead director. The series is written by David Farr, Namsi Khan, Laura Lomas and Sasha Hails. Produced by Route24 (which is backed by ITV studios) and Snowed-In Productions in association with Sky Studios, executive producers are Marc Samuelson and Robert Cheek for Route 24 and Ruth Kenley-Letts and Neil Blair for Snowed-In Productions.

# Extinction

(8x60) Sky One and NOW TV

TX: 2022

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**Extinction** is a propulsive action thriller which follows the story of a man who begins to re-live time after witnessing the world end. When George (Paapa Essiedu) is recruited into an organisation of people who share his ability and harness it to stop global catastrophes, George goes rogue in a bid to save the woman he loves. Unfolding over eight blistering episodes, **Extinction** is a tense, gripping exploration of memory, fate, and the limits of love and self-sacrifice, all shot through with the trademark wit of writer Joe Barton (**Giri/Haji**). The series also stars Tom Burke (**Strike**), Anjali Mohindra (**The Bodyguard**), Caroline Quentin (**Men Behaving Badly**), Rudi Dharmalingam (**The Split**) and Charly Clive (**Pure**).

**Extinction** is written by Joe Barton, who is also executive producer for the series, alongside Johnny Capps and Julian Murphy for Urban Myth Films. The series is directed by Marco Kreuzpaintner, internationally acclaimed director of Amazon Prime series **Beat**, who also serves as executive producer. It is produced by Adam Knopf. **Extinction** is produced by Urban Myth Films in association with Sky Studios.

# This Sceptred Isle

(5xTBC) Sky Atlantic and NOW TV

TX: 2022

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BAFTA and Emmy award-winning actor Kenneth Branagh will play U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson in **This Sceptred Isle**, a five-part drama charting the events surrounding the U.K. Prime Minister, the government, and the country in the face of the first wave of the global pandemic.

**This Sceptred Isle** tells the tale of some of the most devastating events to ever befall the United Kingdom, and of a Prime Minister leading in these unprecedented times. The drama will trace the impact on Britain from this once in a generation pandemic, and the response of scientists, nurses, and doctors as they worked tirelessly and heroically to contain and overcome the

virus. It is based on the first-hand testimony of people from all walks of life; from Number 10 Downing Street, the Department of Health, The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), and from hospitals and care homes across the country.

**This Sceptred Isle** is co-written by Michael Winterbottom (**Welcome to Sarajevo**, **Wonderland** and **24 Hour Party People**) and Kieron Quirke. It is directed by Michael Winterbottom who will also Executive Produce alongside Richard Brown (**Passenger**). Melissa Parmenter (**Revolution Films**) will produce alongside Josh Hyams and Anthony Wilcox. The series will be produced by Fremantle, Passenger & Revolution Films.



# Documentaries

These five new Sky Original documentaries join a raft of factual programming already coming to Sky Documentaries, Sky Crime and Sky Nature in 2021, including **Murder at the Cottage**, a five-part series examining the murder of television producer Sophie Toscan du Plantier in West Cork, Ireland, **Bruno v Tyson**, a feature length film charting the sensational highs and lows of two of boxing's biggest icons and landmark natural history series **Shark with Steve Backshall**, revealing the world's most feared predators as you've never seen them before.

The following Sky Original documentaries were commissioned by Zai Bennett, Sky's Managing Director of Content and Poppy Dixon, Director of Documentaries and Factual.

# Liverpool Narcos

(3x60) Sky Documentaries and NOW TV

TX: Spring 2021

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In the 1980s, Liverpool became the epicentre of a drugs boom that was to change Britain forever. The waves of first cannabis, then heroin, ecstasy and cocaine that flooded the city didn't just offer new opportunities for the underworld – they changed everything, above and below the ground.

Britain's most independent-spirited city, Liverpool was home to some of the biggest dealers, distributors, couriers and debt collectors. And above them, the kingpins who lived like minor royalty, driving Rolls Royces on the streets of Liverpool.

With unprecedented access to some of the biggest players, this is the story of how drugs went mainstream

and dealing became a multi-billion pound business, told by the people who would become pioneers of a new global trade – as well as those who dedicated their lives to catching them.

Cinematically shot, incorporating both documentary and drama, the series is directed by Anthony Philipson (**8 Days: To the Moon and Back**) and produced by Blast! Films (**Reported Missing, Jade: The Reality Star Who Changed Britain and Forensics: Real CSI**) and Sky Studios. NBCUniversal Global Distribution will handle international sales of the series.

# The Bammers: Murder at the Farm (w/t)

(3x60) Sky Crime and NOW TV

TX: Summer 2021

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From Mindhouse Productions comes a forensic look at a complex case that remains in the public eye even after 35 years.

On 7th August 1985, local police entered a secluded Essex farmhouse to find five dead bodies – a young mother Sheila Caffell, her twin sons, and her parents. They'd been shot and killed. Initially it appeared to be the scene of a tragic murder-suicide committed by the troubled mother, Sheila. But fresh evidence would emerge to put Sheila's brother Jeremy Bamber firmly in the frame. Arrested, charged, and convicted of all five murders, he was sent to prison for life. However, for the last 35 years, Bamber has been fighting his conviction from his maximum-security prison cell, consistently maintaining his innocence.

**The Bammers: Murder at the Farm** will use first-hand testimony and unseen archive footage to re-examine the shocking events at White House Farm, while also exploring evidence that has emerged since the original trial.

**Louis Theroux said:** *"A big part of wanting to start a production company a little over a year ago was to make programmes that I don't appear in. This is a great example of the kind of thing I hoped we might be able to do."*

*"It's a story that's socially important, with a powerfully compelling narrative, and the intention is to tell it in a way that is both sensitive and creatively ambitious. It's obviously a big responsibility taking on a subject that's touched the lives of so many people in such a tragic way. But I'm confident we can make it much more than a true crime documentary. This is a story not only about the criminal justice system but about family and adoption, class and religion, mental health and the undeserved stigma around it."*

Mindhouse Productions is a London-based independent television production company founded in 2019 by filmmakers Louis Theroux, Arron Fellows and Nancy Strang.

# Positive

(3x60) Sky Documentaries and NOW TV

TX: Winter 2021

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Produced by the award-winning team at Arrow Pictures, **Positive** marks Britain's 40-year struggle with HIV/AIDS. Told by the key players who confronted this terrifying disease, **Positive** is the definitive and ultimately uplifting story of the disease that changed Britain.

Across three episodes, **Positive** will tell the story of the arrival of HIV/AIDS in Britain through interviews with some of the earliest HIV patients and real-life heroes, including healthcare workers and activists on the front line, working tirelessly to conquer the disease. It also includes brilliant and rarely seen archival footage.

The story of HIV/AIDS permeates key moments in the recent history of our country – from the turbulence of the miners' strike to the long battle for same sex marriage. Through **Positive**, audiences will witness the making of modern Britain.

John Smithson is the Creative Director for Arrow Pictures.

# Gangs of Macaque Island

(5x60) Sky Nature and NOW TV

TX: Winter 2021

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Building on the success of last summer's Gangs of Lemur Island on Sky Nature, comes follow up series, **Gangs of Macaque Island**, from Sky Studios backed production company True to Nature.

**Gangs of Macaque Island** is a light-hearted animal docu-soap, following the daily lives of rival black-crested macaque troops in the remote forests of Sulawesi's Tangkoko National Park in Indonesia. The five-part series will reveal tales of family conflict, power struggles and new-parenthood, focusing on the key characters within each group, including alphas struggling against young pretenders and mothers who will stop at nothing to protect their young. With

overlapping territories, battles between gangs to secure enough food and safeguard the future of the troop, are ever present.

From volcanic slopes, to tropical beaches, the docu-soap promises a dramatic, entertaining and insightful glimpse into the complex world of these intelligent and endearing primates.

**Gangs of Macaque Island** is produced by True to Nature and Sky Studios. NBCUniversal Global Distribution will handle international sales of the series.

# Chernobyl '86

(1x90) Sky Documentaries and NOW TV

TX: 2022

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Directed by Emmy Award winner James Jones, **Chernobyl '86** tells the story of Chernobyl through newly discovered archive footage and original interviews with those who were there.

For thirty-five years the story of what happened in April 1986, when the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant melted down, has enthralled and horrified. Radio programmes and scripted dramas have all told their version of events and it's clear an enduring fascination exists for the human tragedy and broader significance of this nuclear disaster. But there has not been a documentary that tells the full true story of this cataclysmic, world-changing event in such remarkable close-up detail – until now.

The extraordinary archive was shot at great risk in the hours, days, weeks and months after the accident by a handful of cameramen positioned inside of the plant. These cameramen lived side by side with the 'liquidators' who went to incredible and often fatal lengths to try to prevent another explosion. The reality of their bravery and sacrifice is more harrowing than any drama can portray.

**Chernobyl '86** is produced by Top Hat in association with Sky Studios.



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Breeders

# Original Comedy & Entertainment

These new Sky original commissions join returning comedy favourites **Breeders** (Martin Freeman, Daisy Haggard), **Code 404** (Stephen Graham, Daniel Mays) **Intelligence** (David Schwimmer, Nick Mohammed), **Hitmen** (Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins) and **Brassic** (Joe Gilgun, Michelle Keegan) as well as **The Dierdre O’Kane Show** and BAFTA Award-winning **A League of their Own** (Jamie Redknapp, Freddie Flintoff, Romesh Ranganathan) and **The Russell Howard Hour**, on air in 2021.

# Russell Howard's Back to the Future Stand Up Show (wt)

(3x60) Sky One and NOW TV

TX: Summer 2021

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Russell Howard will be travelling around New Zealand and Australia in this new travelogue punctuated by stand-up comedy.

Russell Howard is the first stand-up comedian from the Northern Hemisphere to perform in New Zealand since the global lockdown. Whilst on tour we will see Russell explore the country punctuated by stand-up comedy, meet locals, and experience quintessentially Kiwi activities before embarking to Australia in this new travelogue.

The series was commissioned by Zai Bennett, Managing Director of Content at Sky and Phil Edgar-Jones, Director of Sky Arts and Entertainment at Sky. Shirley Jones is the Commissioning Editor. Produced by Avalon (**Taskmaster, Breeders, Last Week Tonight With John Oliver, The Russell Howard Hour, Spitting Image**) and Executive Produced by James Taylor, Jamie Isaacs and Jay Taylor

# Safe Space

(8x60) Sky One and NOW TV

TX: 2022

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A new comedy drama series starring BAFTA winning comedian Greg Davies (**Man Down, Cuckoo, Taskmaster**). Michael Leer (Greg Davies) is a psychotherapist in a small market town in England. A likable eccentric and one of life's listeners, on the surface Michael is a safe pair of hands. But unbeknownst to them, Michael's clients are sharing their innermost secrets and fears with a fantasist who will no longer sit in the shadows. The advice Michael Leer dispenses is that which suits his own desperate need to control them. For Michael's clients their 'Safe Space' is no longer safe at all.

**Safe Space** was commissioned by Zai Bennett, Managing Director of Content and Jon Mountague, Director of Comedy at Sky Studios. Written and created by Greg Davies and Stephen Morrison. **Safe Space** is Produced by Avalon (**Taskmaster, Breeders, Last Week Tonight With John Oliver, The Russell Howard Hour, Spitting Image**), Executive Producers are Greg Davies, James Taylor, Jon Thoday, Richard Allen-Turner and Toby Welch. Pilot directed by Richard Laxton (**Mrs Wilson, Mum, Burton and Taylor**) and produced by Spencer Millman (**Man Down**).

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