

NEWS

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Bristol-made productions light up this year's festive TV schedule

Eric, Ernie & Me – 9pm, 29 December, BBC Four

Trollied Christmas special – 9.30pm, 24 December, Sky1

The Crystal Maze Christmas Celebrity Special – watch on 4oD now

BRISTOL, 20 December 2017: Productions made in Bristol are set to light up TV screens this festive season, delighting fans of drama, comedy and gameshows.

Premiering on 29 December at 9pm on BBC Four, *Eric, Ernie & Me* celebrates Eddie Braben, the comedy scriptwriter behind the success of Morecambe and Wise. The one hour drama made by Objective Fiction explores the relationship between Morecambe, Wise and Braben, who became known as The Golden Triangle.



Eric, Ernie & Me – image courtesy Objective Fiction & BBC

For over a decade, Braben penned Morecambe and Wise's material, and reshaped the double act into the Eric and Ernie that the nation took to its heart. But it wasn't all sunshine. The film culminates in the pair's iconic 1977 Christmas Show, whilst showing the pressure and pain Braben went through to help create the screen work of Britain's most beloved double act.

The two-week shoot took place in October at sets built in 8,000 sq. ft. of The Bottle Yard's Studio 6 and at locations across Bristol, including Colston Hall, Mariners Drive in Stoke Bishop, Thingwall Park (Fishponds), The Wills Building (Bedminster), St Annes Board Mills Social Club (Redfield), Brislington United Reformed Church and Filwood Community Centre (Knowle West). Bristol Film Office assisted the production team with sourcing a host of locations, setting up recces and unit bases.

Stephen Tompkinson (*DCI Banks, Drop the Dead Donkey*) plays Eddie, Eric Morecambe is played by Mark Bonnar (*Apple Tree Yard, Catastrophe*) with Neil Maskell (*Humans, Utopia*) as Ernie Wise. Rufus Jones (*Stan and Oilly, W1A*) stars as the double act's long term producer John Ammonds; Alexander Macqueen (*Peaky Blinders, Hunderby*) as Bill Cotton,

BBC's Head of Light Entertainment, and Liz White (*Ackley Bridge*, *Our Zoo*) plays Braben's ever encouraging wife Deidree.

Trollied's Christmas special will air on Christmas Eve at 9.30pm on Sky 1, and fans of the channel's longest-running comedy are in for a treat as the one hour special will be followed by a **brand new eight part series**, beginning on Tuesday 2nd January at 10pm.



Trollied series 7 (image courtesy Roughcut TV & Sky1)

Boasting a stellar cast, the series features some new additions including comedy heavyweights, John Thomson (*Cold Feet*, *The Fast Show*), and Sally Phillips (*Bridget Jones*, *Smack The Pony*, *Miranda*). Also joining the cast is 2016's *Strictly Come Dancing* runner up Danny Mac (*Hollyoaks*) and rising star Jess Gunning (*Pride*, *Fortitude*) alongside series favourites BAFTA winner Jason Watkins (*W1A*, *Being Human*), Sarah Parish (*W1A*, *Broadchurch*), Chanel Cresswell (*This Is England*, *The Aliens*) and Stephen Tompkinson (*DCI Banks*, *Wild At Heart*).

The new series picks up with store manager Gavin (Jason Watkins) delighted as the cash tills ring on another busy Christmas Eve at Valco. But as the festivities kick off, a team of low level criminals headed up by none other than Valco's new star employee Tim (John Thomson) have their sights set on the takings, holding the staff in the canteen, leaving it to Gavin to raise the alarm and save the day.

Filming took place on the full-scale 'Valco' supermarket set at The Bottle Yard over nine weeks in the summer. The much-loved sitcom, produced by Roughcut TV, has been entertaining audiences since it began in 2011 with a total of seven series and four Christmas specials made at the Studios to date.

And if you missed **The Crystal Maze Christmas Celebrity Special** – don't worry you can catch it on 4oD now. First shown on Wednesday 14 December on Channel 4, the special programme in aid of Stand Up To Cancer sees Richard Ayoade guide Ellie Simmonds, Nicola Adams, Ollie Locke, Mollie King and Tom Davis around the mighty maze. The show

The Bottle Yard is a partnership initiative with:



was filmed earlier this year in the purpose-built maze spanning over 30,000 square feet of The Bottle Yard Studios, created by original Crystal Maze designer James Dillon.



The Crystal Maze (image courtesy Fizz TV/ RDF West / Channel 4)

Bristol can even be found in the ad breaks – with the **MacDonalds Christmas advert** made on Bristol's Park Street in late October, assisted by Bristol Film Office.

– ENDS –

For further information about The Bottle Yard Studios please contact Tara Milne on 07532 134020 or email taracmilne@gmail.com.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Bottle Yard Studios

The Bottle Yard Studios is a Bristol City Council initiative. The site, which operated for more than 50 years as a former winery and bottling plant, is now an established base for film and television production in the West of England, attracting major UK and overseas productions of all sizes.

The Bottle Yard Studios has eight stages available at competitive rates, just 15 minutes from Bristol city centre. It also offers a giant green screen studio, extensive back lot, workshop areas, production offices, costume and make-up rooms, dressing-rooms, storage, private roadways and parking. On-site tenants deliver a host of services including creative, digital, technical and audio/visual expertise, grips, transport, structural, fire and safety assistance.

Recent productions made at The Bottle Yard Studios include: *Poldark* (BBC One); *The Crystal Maze* (Channel 4); *Three Girls* (BBC One); *The White Princess* (STARZ/ UKTV Drama); *Broadchurch* (ITV); *Trollied* (Sky1); *Ill Behaviour* (BBC Two); *Cheap Cheap Cheap* (Channel 4); *Sherlock: The Abominable Bride* (BBC One); *Crazyhead* (E4/Netflix); *The Living and the Dead* (BBC One); *Andy's Prehistoric Adventures* (CBeebies); *Galavant*; (Disney/ABC Studios); *Wolf Hall* (BBC Two); *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies* (ITV); *We Can Be Heroes* (dir. Claire Downes); *Golden Years* (dir. John Miller).

www.thebottleyard.com

Bristol Film Office

Bristol Film Office, a division of Bristol City Council, is a free service to all productions planning to film in the city. Dedicated to making film, television or commercial photography shoots run as smoothly as possible when on location in Bristol, it is the one-stop-shop for all filming enquiries. It can assist at all stages of production, from initial location and crewing advice to reces and logistical support.

The Bottle Yard is a partnership initiative with:



www.filmbristol.co.uk

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