

# CRACKING GOOD TELLY

## British TV Programs on DVD at the Peabody Public Library

To borrow from a BBC America commercial: their dentistry is suspect, their cows are all mad and their food is inedible, but their television programming is spot on. Unlike American television, British TV relies less on advertising and the profit line; thus, the programs are not usually aimed at the group or groups most likely to spend money on consumer products. Another difference is the 1000+ years of British culture that most Englishmen and women look to with pride (and no real desire to sully with a *Beverly Hillbillies*).

Of course, the average Britisher can be as rude and crude as the next guy in the global village, so you will find that sort of program as well, probably as a matter of the English sense of fair play. You won't find those programs here at the library, however, so what follows is a list of the fine British TV DVDs that we do own and a brief description of each show.

### **Sitcoms**

#### *Are You Being Served?* 1972-1985

If you are familiar with British sitcoms at all, it is probably through PBS and its broadcast of this long-running series. Set in a London department store, it follows the foibles of salespeople in the Men's and Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Department. There was a follow-up series Called Grace and Favour (retitled *Are You Being Served Again?* in the U.S.) that takes place at an inn in the country.

Filled with music hall humor and sexually-laced double entendre, the laughs are cheap but honest and there is an old fashion feeling to the whole program. And I am unanimous in that!

### **Titles in the Collection:**

Are you being served? volume 1  
DVD 548 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 2  
DVD 549 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 3  
DVD 550 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 4  
DVD 551 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 5  
DVD 552 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 6  
DVD 553 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 7  
DVD 554 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 8  
DVD 555 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 9  
DVD 556 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 10  
DVD 557 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 11  
DVD 558 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 12  
DVD 559 COMEDY

Are you being served? volume 13  
DVD 560 COMEDY

The best of Are you being served? v.14  
DVD 561 COMEDY

Are you being served? : the movie  
DVD 547 COMEDY

Are you being served? Again!  
DVD 2343 COMEDY

**Dad's Army** 1968-1977

While Britain's youngest and fittest were at the various fronts during World War II, the country was still being threatened by Germany, parked just across the Channel in Normandy. To ward off (or at least be warned of) any spearhead by the Nazis, the Home Guard was organized to keep a watch on the coastline. Most of the members of this force were either physically unfit or beyond the age of active duty. The premise of *Dad's Army* is the existence of an entire squad (save one) of elderly men in uniform giving their all for the country. Fortunately for us (and luckily for Britain) their all provides more laughs than heroism.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Dad's Army: 18 Hilarious Episodes  
DVD 3945 COMEDY

**Doc Martin** 2004-2011

No, not a show about trendy footwear, but rather a brilliant comedy/drama about a fish – or doctor – out of water. Martin Clunes stars as a brilliant London surgeon who develops a bad case of homophobia, meaning he can no longer tolerate the sight of blood. He is forced to relocate to a small village in Cornwall, working as a general practitioner. While splendid as a surgeon, he is a disaster at being a person and has soon offended everyone in town with his gruff and antisocial ways. The series shows him as he tries to navigate the waters of civility and survive the new life he has been forced into.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Doc Martin collection. Series 1-4  
DVD 3964 COMEDY SERIES 1  
DVD 3964 COMEDY SERIES 2  
DVD 3964 COMEDY SERIES 3  
DVD 3964 COMEDY SERIES 4

**Jeeves and Wooster** 1990-1993

From the classic comedic stories of P. G. Wodehouse comes this series featuring the foibles of upper class English twits during the Jazz Age. Starring the immensely talented duo of Hugh Laurie (Wooster) and Stephen Fry (Jeeves), the series follows the misadventures of the dim-witted idly rich Bertie Wooster and the efforts of his surreally competent valet Jeeves to keep (or, more likely, get) him out of trouble.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Jeeves and Wooster. The complete first season

DVD 2346 COMEDY V.1

DVD 2346 COMEDY V.2

Jeeves and Wooster. The complete second season

DVD 2347 COMEDY V.1

DVD 2347 COMEDY V.2

Jeeves and Wooster. The complete fourth season

DVD 2349 COMEDY V.1

DVD 2349 COMEDY V.2

Jeeves & Wooster. The complete third season

DVD 2348 COMEDY V.1

DVD 2348 COMEDY V.2

**Keeping Up Appearances 1990-1995**

Another classic sitcom that became a hit on American public television, Keeping Up Appearances follows the exploits of society wannabe Hyacinth and her long-suffering husband Richard. The Buckets (pronounced “Boo-kay” by Hyacinth and the regular way by everyone else) live in a modest detached suburban house. Hyacinth, however, wants to be a social climber despite her plebian circumstances and her lower class family. Sister Rose and Daisy plus brother-in-law Onslow provide plenty of laughs as Hyacinth tries to keep them in the background or deny their existence entirely.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Keeping up appearances. 1, My way or the Hyacinth way

DVD 1033 COMEDY

Keeping up appearances. 2, Hints from Hyacinth

DVD 1344 COMEDY

Keeping up appearances. 3, Home is where the Hyacinth is

DVD 1035 COMEDY

Keeping up appearances. 4, Deck the halls with Hyacinth

DVD 1036 COMEDY

Keeping up appearances. 5, Everything coming up Hyacinth  
DVD 1037 COMEDY

Keeping up appearances. 6, Some like it Hyacinth  
DVD 1038 COMEDY

Keeping up appearances. 7, Living the Hyacinth life  
DVD 1039 COMEDY

Keeping up appearances. 8, Hats off to Hyacinth  
DVD 1040 COMEDY

**Monty Python's Flying Circus** 1969-1974

Monty Python's brand of anarchic, satirical humor was the perfect adjunct to the swinging sixties. Unlike most shows that preceded it (although the 1951-60 Goon Show was similar), this sketch comedy series was bawdy, silly and thought-provoking all at the same time. Classic skits include Dead Parrot, Lumberjack, Upper Class Twit of the Year and Hell's Grannies.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Title: The complete Monty Python's flying circus

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.1

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.2

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.3

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.4

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.5

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.6

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.7

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.8

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.9

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.10

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.11

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.12

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.13

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.14

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.15

DVD 3859 COMEDY V.16

**Mr. Bean** 1990-1995

The opening sequence of this simple yet hilarious show gives you all you need to know about Mr. Bean. In a beam of heavenly (or alien) light, the fully grown Bean falls from the sky, gets up, looks around in confusion and then happily walks off to confront life. Rowan Atkinson, one of the world's gifted physical comics, has created a man-child of infinite dimension, who is at once charming and off-putting, innocent and mean-spirited and forever causing some sort of trouble. Bean rarely speaks, nor does he have to: his actions say all there is to be said.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Mr. Bean : the whole Bean. Vol. 1  
DVD 3818 COMEDY

Mr. Bean : the whole Bean. Vol. 2  
DVD 3819 COMEDY

Mr. Bean : the whole Bean. Vol. 3  
DVD 3820 COMEDY

**One Foot in the Grave** 1990-2000

Victor Meldrew is sort of the male counterpart of Hyacinth Bucket. He is an unwilling retiree with nothing to do except drive his wife and neighbors crazy with his complaining. Whether it is someone dropping trash on his lawn, taking too long to see him at the doctor's office or something on the nightly news, he always has a sharp comment. Unlike Hyacinth's husband Richard, however, Victor's wife Margaret makes it known just what she thinks of his shenanigans. Whether buried up to his neck in garden dirt or attached at the foot to the neighbor thanks to a bag of concrete, Victor's battle cry, "I don't believe it!" can be heard throughout the six series of this smart comedy.

**Titles in the Collection:**

One foot in the grave. Season 1  
DVD 2610 COMEDY

One foot in the grave. Season 2  
DVD 2611 COMEDY

One foot in the grave. Season 3  
DVD 2612 COMEDY

One foot in the grave. Season 4  
DVD 2613 COMEDY

One foot in the grave. Season 5  
DVD 2700 COMEDY

One foot in the grave. Season 6  
DVD 2701 COMEDY

**Some Mothers Do Have 'Em** 1973-1978

Frank Spencer is more than just a complete klutz. Everything he touches falls apart, and he can't keep a job more than a day. The only thing that keep him going is his long-suffering wife Betty, who somehow manages to cope with his disaster-prone life-style. Starring a young Michael Crawford (who went on to fame as a singer in Andrew Lloyd Weber musicals) and Michele Dotrice, is a hidden gem in British physical comedy shows.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Some mothers do 'ave 'em!  
DVD 3950 COMEDY

**The Darling Buds of May** 1991-1993

This program featured David Jason (from A Touch of Frost) as “Pop” Larkin, the head of an eccentric clan of Yorkshiremen. Based on a series of novels by H.E. Bates, the program follows Pop’s attempts at money making schemes (he has no regular employment), and the problems that entail for the rest of the family. The series is notable for being an early appearance of Catherine Zeta-Jones as a cast regular.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The darling buds of May  
DVD 3946 COMEDY

**The IT Crowd** 2006-2010

Jen is an upbeat career girl ready to make the leap to the big time of Reynholm Industries. In her job interview she lies about her knowledge of IT and is, of course, given the job as manager of that department. What Reynholm's IT consists of is two young, disgruntled and socially inept employees hidden in a sub-basement giving tech support over the phone (mostly, "try rebooting"). The three are thrown together and soon bond in an effort to keep upper management from figuring out what is actually done in the department.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The IT crowd. Season 1  
DVD 3342 COMEDY

The IT crowd. The complete second season  
DVD 3364 COMEDY

The IT crowd. The complete third season  
DVD 3365 COMEDY

The IT crowd. The complete fourth season  
DVD 3401 COMEDY

**The Vicar of Dibley** 1994-2007

Another popular show seen on PBS, this series follows the exploits of a female vicar of the Church of England who has been posted to a parish in a small, conservative rural village. The parish council consists of a variety of individuals who either want to get rid of the new vicar or date her. Dawn French, a talented writer as well as comedian, stars. Is this show funny? No, no, no, no, no, no, no ... yes!

**Titles in the Collection:**

The vicar of Dibley. Series 1  
DVD 1725 COMEDY

The vicar of Dibley. Series 2  
DVD 1726 COMEDY

The vicar of Dibley. Series 3  
DVD 1727 COMEDY



**Waiting for God** 1990-1994

A comedy set in a retirement home, *Waiting for God* tells the story of Diana, a sharp-tongued old curmudgeon and Tom, a happy man who has been sent to the home by his son and daughter-in-law. They join together to give the tyrannical management a good run for the money, bend or breaking the rules and creating general havoc.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Waiting for God. The complete collection  
DVD 3070 COMEDY SEASON 1  
DVD 3070 COMEDY SEASON 2  
DVD 3070 COMEDY SEASON 3  
DVD 3070 COMEDY SEASON 4  
DVD 3070 COMEDY SEASON 5

**Sci Fi**

**Doctor Who** 1963-1989; 2005-

The longest-running show of telly, *Doctor Who* refuses to be sucked into the black hole of television oblivion. Originally a children's show, it has become a worldwide phenomenon that has spawned conventions, toys and do-it-yourself builders of series props. The Doctor is a time traveler who manages to find trouble wherever and whenever he goes. When his body exhausts itself, he can regenerate, which is handy when an actor get tired of the role and is replaced by another.

There are over 75 titles in our collection, covering all 11 incarnations of the Doctor. Please refer to the guide *Life, the Whoniverse and Everything* for a complete listing of episodes arranged by Doctor number.

**Primeval** 2007-2011

When temporal anomalies (time rifts) begin to appear around the country, a team of scientists investigate. What they find are various prehistoric creatures coming into our own time. Created by the same team that did *Walking with Dinosaurs* on public television, this effects-laden series is nonstop adventure.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Primeval. Volume one  
DVD 2575 SCIFI & HORROR

Primeval. Volume two  
DVD 3636 SCIFI & HORROR

Primeval. Volume 3  
DVD 4041 SCIFI & HORROR

**Space: 1999** 1975-1977

It's 1999 and Moon Base Alpha has experienced a catastrophic nuclear explosion that has torn the moon from earth orbit. As it hurtles through deep space, the inhabitants of the base must face a weekly crisis. Starring Martin Landau, Barbara Bain and Barry Morse, this smart and attractive pre-Star Wars space opera was a big hit in American syndication.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Space 1999  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 1&2  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 3&4  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 5&6  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 7&8  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 9&10  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 11&12  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 13&14  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISCS 15&16  
DVD 2220 SCIFI & HORROR DISC 17

**The Sarah Jane Adventures** 2007-2011

This spinoff from Doctor Who follows former companion Sarah Jane Smith, her adopted son and his friends as they investigate aliens in present day Britain. Sarah Jane was considered by most fans to be the Doctor's best companion (she served under Doctors 3 & 4). The untimely death of star Elizabeth Sladen ended the series while it was still quite popular.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The Sarah Jane adventures : the complete first season  
DVD 2403 SCIFI & HORROR

Title: The Sarah Jane adventures. The complete second season  
DVD 2869 SCIFI & HORROR

### **Torchwood** 2006-2011

Another Doctor Who spinoff, this one from the second series of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century revival, the series follows the activities of the Torchwood Institute. Torchwood was founded by Queen Victoria to investigate and take suitable action against alien activity in the country. Ironically, the Queen founded it as a result of an encounter with the Doctor. John Barrowman stars, reprising his Doctor Who role as Captain Jack Harkness.

#### **Titles in the Collection:**

Torchwood the complete first season  
DVD 1981 SCIFI & HORROR

Torchwood. The complete second season  
DVD 2332 SCIFI & HORROR

Torchwood : children of earth  
DVD 2795 SCIFI & HORROR

### **Mystery and Police Dramas**

#### **Cadfael** 1994-1998

Returning from the crusades, a world-weary warrior enters the Benedictine monastery of Shrewsbury and becomes Brother Cadfael, a herbalist and healer for the monks and the surrounding town and countryside. Because he has the time, and also the rational thought processes of a man of science, he often finds himself called upon to solve crimes. Starring Derek Jacobi, the series is based on the landmark series of books by Ellis Peters.

#### Titles in the Collection:

Cadfael. Set 1, Disc 1-4  
DVD 3369 DRAMA

Cadfael. Set 2, Disc 5-7  
DVD 3370 DRAMA

Cadfael. Set 3, Disc 8-10  
DVD 3371 DRAMA

Cadfael. Set 4, Disc 11-13.  
DVD 3372 DRAMA

**Foyle's War** 2002-2010

Denied entrance to WWII as a combatant, Detective Inspector Foyle of the Hastings police is forced to patrol the channel city solving crimes. With the help of a wounded sergeant and a female driver, they find that war does not always bring a people together in a positive way. Many of the investigations involve troops – both English and others – stationed in the area.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Foyle's war. Set 1  
DVD 2822 DRAMA SET 1

Foyle's war. Set 2  
DVD 2822 DRAMA SET 2

Foyle's war. Set 3  
  
DVD 2822 DRAMA SET 3

Foyle's war. Set 4  
DVD 2822 DRAMA SET 4

Foyle's war. Set 5  
DVD 2822 DRAMA SET 5

Foyle's war. Set 6  
DVD 3081 DRAMA DISC 1  
DVD 3081 DRAMA DISC 2  
DVD 3081 DRAMA DISC 3

**Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** 1996-1998

A lady on a pension decides to become a private investigator. With the help of a teenaged boy, she takes on a variety of cases. The title role is played by Patricia Rutledge, best known as Hyacinth Bucket.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Hetty Wainthropp investigates. The complete collection  
DVD 3823 DRAMA

**Inspector Lewis** 2007-

This classy and intricate series of mysteries is actually a spinoff from the Inspector Morse series of television programs and books. Kevin Whately reprises his role as Richard Lewis, a DI (formerly Sergeant under Morse) in the Oxford police department. He is aided by DS James Hathaway, a former seminarian and forensic pathologist Clare Holman. Much like Morse, Lewis finds himself investigating scholars, upper class rich, tourists and students.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Inspector Lewis. The pilot and complete 1st series  
DVD 2904 DRAMA PART 1  
DVD 2904 DRAMA PART 2

Inspector Lewis. Series 2  
DVD 2868 DRAMA DISC 1  
DVD 2868 DRAMA DISC 2  
DVD 2868 DRAMA DISC 3  
DVD 2868 DRAMA DISC 4

Inspector Lewis. Series 3  
DVD 3375 DRAMA DISC 1  
DVD 3375 DRAMA DISC 2  
DVD 3375 DRAMA DISC 3

Inspector Lewis, Series 4

DVD On Order

Inspector Lewis, Series 5

DVD On Order

**The Last Detective** 2003-2007

DI “Dangerous” Davies is the laughingstock of the precinct. His wife has separated from him, giving him occasional visitation rights to the dog, and his best friend is a neurotic mess. What has Davies done to earn all this scorn? He is a nice guy, someone who cares to do the right thing rather than be ruled by the “me first” clause; in other words, he is a man out of his time. Despite it all, as the series move along he earns the grudging respect of his wife and his alcoholic boss.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The last detective

DVD 2618 DRAMA

**Midsomer Murders** 1997-

In the sleepy county of Midsomer, murder is afoot. Almost every week. Several of them. Over the years, this fictional congregation of picturesque villages and country homes has seen more mayhem than most war zones. DCI Tom Barnaby and his sergeant are based in the county seat, but travel far and wide to investigate the eccentric variety of suspects. Full of gentle humor and vicious rural inhabitants, there is a reason this program has run so long. Try it out, if you dare.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Midsomer murders. Set one

DVD 1837 DRAMA V.1

DVD 1837 DRAMA V.2

DVD 1837 DRAMA V.3

DVD 1837 DRAMA V.4

Midsomer murders. Set two

DVD 2477 DRAMA VOL.1

DVD 2477 DRAMA VOL.2

DVD 2477 DRAMA VOL.3

DVD 2477 DRAMA VOL.4

Midsomer murders. Set three

DVD 2478 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2478 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2478 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2478 DRAMA VOL.4  
DVD 2478 DRAMA VOL.5

Midsomer murders. Set four

DVD 2479 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2479 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2479 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2479 DRAMA VOL.4  
DVD 2479 DRAMA VOL.5

Midsomer murders. Set five

DVD 2480 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2480 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2480 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2480 DRAMA VOL.4  
DVD 2480 DRAMA VOL.5

Midsomer murders. Set six

DVD 2481 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2481 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2481 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2481 DRAMA VOL.4  
DVD 2481 DRAMA VOL.5

Midsomer murders. Set seven

DVD 2482 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2482 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2482 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2482 DRAMA VOL.4

Midsomer murders. Set eight

DVD 2572 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2572 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2572 DRAMA VOL.3

Midsomer murders. Set nine

DVD 2560 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2560 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2560 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2560 DRAMA VOL.4

Midsomer murders. Set ten

DVD 2561 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2561 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2561 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2561 DRAMA VOL.4

Midsomer murders. Set eleven

DVD 2562 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 2562 DRAMA VOL.2  
DVD 2562 DRAMA VOL.3  
DVD 2562 DRAMA VOL.4

Midsomer murders. Set twelve

DVD 2578 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 2578 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 2578 DRAMA V.3  
DVD 2578 DRAMA V.4

Title: Midsomer murders. Set thirteen

DVD 2820 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 2820 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 2820 DRAMA V.3  
DVD 2820 DRAMA V.4

Midsomer murders. Set fourteen

DVD 3043 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 3043 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 3043 DRAMA V.3  
DVD 3043 DRAMA V.4

Midsomer murders. Set fifteen

DVD 3082 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 3082 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 3082 DRAMA V.3  
DVD 3082 DRAMA V.4



Midsomer murders. Set sixteen

DVD 3379 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 3379 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 3379 DRAMA V.3  
DVD 3379 DRAMA V.4

Midsomer murders. Set seventeen

DVD 3457 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 3457 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 3457 DRAMA V.3  
DVD 3457 DRAMA V.4

Midsomer murders. Set eighteen

DVD 3792 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 3792 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 3792 DRAMA V.3

**Miss Marple** 1984-1992

Agatha Christie's sleuthing busybody, Miss Jane Marple, has been played by a number of actresses over the years. Joan Hickson is the lead in this series from the BBC. It consists of a number of television movies filmed over the years rather than a consistent series.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Title: Agatha Christie's Miss Marple  
DVD 1814 DRAMA VOL.1  
DVD 1814 DRAMA VOL.2

**Murder Most English** 1977

Colin Watson penned a number of novels set in the fictional town of Flaxborough featuring an upright, proper and decent detective named Purbright. Several of these witty and perceptive books were turned into the series Murder Most English, starring Anton Rogers as the Purbright and Christopher Timothy (from All Creatures Great and Small) as his sergeant.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Title: Murder most English  
DVD 3956 DRAMA V.1

DVD 3956 DRAMA V.2

DVD 3956 DRAMA V.3

**P.D. James: the Essential Collection** 1983-1998

Commander Adam Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard is an enigma: he never speculates on a case until he feels he has all of the facts in hand. Grand Master P. D. James created a unique and classic detective in Dalgliesh and Roy Marsden has translated him exactly onto the screen. The early episodes of this series is recorded on video tape, so they look a bit odd. This does not detract from the stories, however.

**Titles in the Collection:**

P.D. James. The essential collection

DVD 3958 DRAMA DISCS 1-4

DVD 3958 DRAMA DISCS 5-8

DVD 3958 DRAMA DISCS 9-12

DVD 3958 DRAMA DISCS 13-15

**Pie in the Sky** 1994-1997

Henry Crabbe is a portly police officer who has been wounded in the line of duty; he would love to retire and devote his time the gourmet restaurant he has opened. His boss, however, will not sign off for his pension since he does not want to lose Henry's deductive powers and expose himself as incompetent. Moving between the restaurant (famous for Henry's steak and kidney pie) and various suburban crime scenes, the series gives viewers a look into normal English life. The show stars Richard Griffith in the title role. Most people will recognize him as Uncle Vernon from the Harry Potter films.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Pie in the sky. Series 1

DVD 2705 DRAMA VOL.1

DVD 2705 DRAMA VOL.2

DVD 2705 DRAMA VOL.3

Pie in the sky. Series 2

DVD 2921 DRAMA VOL.1

DVD 2921 DRAMA VOL.2

DVD 2921 DRAMA VOL.3



DVD 3959 DRAMA DISCS 13&14

**Sherlock Holmes** (Jeremy Brett) 1984-1994

Like David Suchet's Poirot, Granada Television's rendering of the complete Holmes canon has given us the definitive Baker Street detective in Jeremy Brett. Unlike many filmed versions of the great detective, these stories stick to stories written by Arthur Conan Doyle, working on the accurate assumption that there is no improving on them.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Sherlock Holmes. The complete Granada television  
series

DVD 3010 DRAMA VOL.1

DVD 3010 DRAMA VOL.2

**Sherlock Holmes** (Ronald Howard) 1954-1955

This early TV series starred Ronald Howard, the son of famed actor Leslie Howard (Ashley Wilkes in *Gone With the Wind*). The excellent cast also included Howard Marion-Crawford as a capable Watson and Archie Duncan as a comedic Lestrade. Most of the stories are original including one with cowboys and Indians.. One well-done Doyle work is *The Redheaded League*.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

DVD 1348 DRAMA

**A Touch of Frost** 1992-2010

David Jason stars as DI Jack Frost, an irascible copper who cannot keep a partner or a lady friend. He has few supporters in the department, despite getting the job done in the most competent fashion. The Manchester suburb of Denton is his patrol, and the murders do pile up over fifteen series. A powerful portrait of a damaged but essentially good man, there are ample touches of humor to help the stories go down easily. Frost's boss, Superintendent Stanley "Horn-rimmed Harry" Mullett, is one of the most hilariously incompetent police administrators portrayed in any media.

**Titles in the Collection:**

A touch of frost. Season 4

DVD 2325 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Season 5  
DVD 2326 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Season 6  
DVD 2327 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Seasons 7 & 8  
DVD 2328 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Seasons 9 & 10  
DVD 2329 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Seasons 11 & 12  
DVD 2470 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Season 13  
DVD 2471 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Season 14  
DVD 2745 DRAMA

A touch of Frost. Season 15  
DVD 3380 DRAMA

**Wire in the Blood** 2002-2008

Veteran mystery writer Val McDermid created the character of Dr. Tony Hill, a police psychologist that gets inside the brain of suspects as he aids the police in tracking down dangerous killers. A darker series than most listed here.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Wire in the blood. The complete first season  
DVD 2930 DRAMA

Wire in the blood. The complete second season /  
DVD 2931 DRAMA

Wire in the blood. The complete third season  
DVD 2932 DRAMA

Wire in the blood. The complete fourth season  
DVD 2933 DRAMA

### **Classic Television Films and Limited Series**

#### **BBC Classics Jane Austen Collection** 1971-1979

This collection of six mini-series from the 1970s includes Persuasion, Emma, Sense and Sensibility, Northanger Abbey, Mansfield Park and Pride and Prejudice. These shows were stock BBC house productions and did not feature big-name stars, although a few later rose to fame such as Mollie Sugden (Mrs. Slocum) and Robert Hardy.

#### **Title in the Collection:**

Emma  
DVD 4221 DRAMA

Mansfield Park  
DVD 4222 DRAMA

Northanger Abbey  
DVD 4224 DRAMA

Persuasion  
DVD 4223 DRAMA

Pride and prejudice  
DVD 4225 DRAMA

Sense and sensibility  
DVD 4220 DRAMA

#### **Bleak House** 1985, 2005

Charles Dickens' great novel about the injustices of the English legal system are represented by two BBC productions, both of which have shown on PBS Masterpiece Theatre. One, from 1985

stars the lovely Diana Rigg, with Denholm Elliott in the other starring role. The second is from 2005.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Bleak House (1985 version)  
DVD 1317 DRAMA

Bleak house (2005 version)  
DVD 1850 DRAMA

**Brideshead Revisited** 1981

Considered by many to be the finest mini-series ever made, Brideshead Revisited in the Evelyn Waugh story of friendship between two different people over a number of years. Stars are Jeremy Irons, Diana Quick, Anthony Andrews, Claire Bloom and John Gielgud.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Title: Brideshead revisited  
DVD 1716 DRAMA V.1  
DVD 1716 DRAMA V.2  
DVD 1716 DRAMA V.3  
DVD 1716 DRAMA V.4

**David Copperfield** 1999

Charles Dickens was incorporating many scenes from his early life when he wrote David Copperfield. This faithful version stars Daniel Radcliffe as young David, Bob Hoskins as Macawber and Maggie Smith as Betsy Trotwood. Also starring Zoe Wanamaker and Ian McKellen.

**Titles in the Collection:**

David Copperfield  
DVD 3034 DRAMA

**I, Claudius** 1976

Based on the 1934 novel by Robert Graves, this thirteen part mini-series tells the story of Claudius, the fourth Emperor of Rome. Possessing a severe stutter, Claudius is dismissed as an idiot and ignored when not being ridiculed. As a result, he is privy to many state secrets. The

story begins with Augustus and follows the sordid lives of subsequent emperors Tiberius and Caligula.

**Titles in the Collection:**

I, Claudius

DVD 387 DISC 1 DRAMA

DVD 387 DISC 2 DRAMA

DVD 387 DISC 3 DRAMA

DVD 387 DISC 4 DRAMA

DVD 387 DISC 5 DRAMA

**The Jewel in the Crown** 1985

This adaptation of Paul Scott's Raj Quartet follows the waning days of British rule in India, premised on an unjust rape charge. Stars are Tim Pigott-Smith, Peggy Ashcroft, Wendy Morgan and Geraldine James.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The jewel in the crown

DVD 3684 DRAMA DISCS 1&2

DVD 3684 DRAMA DISCS 3&4

**The Old Curiosity Shop** 1979

Next to Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters, BBC seems to love Charles Dickens more than most authors. This adaptation of his story of Little Nell and her gambling grandfather stars Natalie Ogle and Trevor Peacock.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The old curiosity shop

DVD 1316 DRAMA

**Documentary**

**Ancient Lives** 1984



Archaeologist John Romer brings a touch of humor and showmanship to the subject of Egyptology. After the discovery of an entire village that housed the workers and artists who labored on the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Title: Ancient lives

DVD 2872 DOCUMENTARY V.1

DVD 2872 DOCUMENTARY V.2

**Days That Shook the World 2003-2006**

Through dramatic reconstruction, eyewitness accounts, and archive footage, each episode pieces together the stories of the moments in history - human tragedies, scientific breakthroughs, and calamitous events that have profoundly affected the world

**Titles in the Collection:**

Days that shook the world. The complete first season plus the pilot

DVD 3173 DOCUMENTARY

Days that shook the world. The complete second season

DVD 3174 DOCUMENTARY

Days that shook the world. The complete third season

DVD 3175 DOCUMENTARY

**The First World War 2003**

A four-disc set presenting an overview of the Great War based on the book by Oxford professor Hew Strachan. A decidedly British point of view, but that is still less biased than most points of view extant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Title in the Collection:**

The First World War: the complete series

DVD 1132 DOCUMENTARY

**Monarchy 2004-2007**

Controversial English historian gives a grand tour of the British Monarchy from 400 A.D. up to the present queen. While the presenter is a supporter of the idea of monarchs and all the trappings that go with them, this is still a good survey of English kings and queens.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Monarchy. The complete series

- DVD 3151 DOCUMENTARY DISC 1
- DVD 3151 DOCUMENTARY DISC 2
- DVD 3151 DOCUMENTARY DISC 3
- DVD 3151 DOCUMENTARY DISC 4
- DVD 3151 DOCUMENTARY DISC 5

**Other Series**

**The Adventure Collection** 2008

This megaset of 14 discs includes some of the best docudramas produced by Granada Television. Titles are Shackleton, Napoleon, Longitude, The Last Battalion, Benedict Arnold and Horatio Hornblower. Stars include Kenneth Branagh, John Malkovich, Aiden Quinn, Jeremy Irons, Kelsey Grammar and Isabel Rossellini.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The Adventure Collection

- DVD 2476 DISC 1 DRAMA (Hornblower: The Duel)
- DVD 2476 DISC 2 DRAMA (Hornblower: The Fire Ships)
- DVD 2476 DISC 3 DRAMA (Hornblower: The Duchess and the Devil)
- DVD 2476 DISC 4 DRAMA (Hornblower: The Wrong War)
- DVD 2476 DISC 5-6 DRAMA (Longitude)
- DVD 2476 DISC 7-9 DRAMA (Napoleon)
- DVD 2476 DISC 10-12 DRAMA (Shackleton)
- DVD 2476 DISC 13 DRAMA (The Last Battalion)
- DVD 2476 DISC 14 DRAMA (Benedict Arnold: A Question of Honor)

**All Creatures Great and Small** 1978-1990

James Herriott's beloved series of books chronicling his days as a Yorkshire veterinarian come to life in this popular series from the BBC. Starring Christopher Timothy, Peter Davison and Robert Hardy.

**Titles in the Collection:**

All creatures great & small. The complete series 1 collection  
DVD 2658 DRAMA

All creatures great & small. The complete series 2 collection  
DVD 2659 DRAMA

All creatures great & small : the complete series 3 collection  
DVD 2660 DRAMA

All creatures great & small. Complete series 4 collection  
DVD 2661 DRAMA

All creatures great & small : the complete series 5 collection  
DVD 2757 DRAMA

All creatures great & small : the complete series 6 collection  
DVD 2758 DRAMA

**Ballykissangel** 1996-2001

Heartwarming is an overused term in media, but it can safely be used for this and perhaps one other series (All Creatures Great and Small) without risk of ridicule. The series follows life in a small Irish village from the point of view of an English priest who has been transferred there.

**Title in the Collection:**

Ballykissangel. Series one  
DVD 2905 DRAMA

Ballykissangel. Series two  
DVD 2906 DRAMA

Ballykissangel. Series three  
DVD 2907 DRAMA

Ballykissangel. Series four  
DVD 2908 DRAMA

Ballykissangel. Series five

DVD 2909 DRAMA

Ballykissangel. Series six

DVD 2910 DRAMA

**Edward the King** 1975

A miniseries that follows the life of Albert Edward, the heir to Queen Victoria's throne. The powerful queen has not done anything to prepare her son for the throne, so he ends up being something of a profligate. The series stars Annette Crosbie, Timothy West, John Gielgud and Robert Hardy.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Edward the King

DVD 1851 DRAMA PT. 1

DVD 1851 DRAMA PT. 2

DVD 1851 DRAMA PT. 3

DVD 1851 DRAMA PT. 4

DVD 1851 DRAMA PT. 5

DVD 1851 DRAMA PT. 6

**The First Churchills** 1969

Tells the story of the 50-year marriage of John and Sarah Churchill, the first Churchills to make their mark on British politics. Set in the turbulent 17<sup>th</sup> century, the series follows the ups and downs of the Protectorate, the Restoration monarchy and, finally, the Glorious Revolution.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The first Churchills

DVD 945 V.1 DRAMA

DVD 945 V.2 DRAMA

DVD 945 V.3 DRAMA

DVD 945 V.4 DRAMA

**Island at War** 2004

It is not well known to Americans that there is more to Great Britain than the two big islands we see on the map. In the English Channel are several small, inhabited islands, the best known being

Guernsey and Jersey (of cattle fame). During World War II these islands were actually invaded and occupied by the Germans. This series tells that story.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Island at war

DVD 961 V.1 DRAMA

DVD 961 V.2 DRAMA

DVD 961 V.3 DRAMA

**The Prisoner** 1967-1968

This short-lived series from the 1960s has become a cult phenomenon in the ensuing years. Enigmatic and haunting, the story of prisoner #6 unfolds a bit at a time. He attempts to retire as a spy and suddenly finds himself on an island in a village from which he cannot escape. Unfortunately, the fans of this program cannot escape the fact that no ending was written. Starring Patrick (Secret Agent Man) McGoochan.

**Titles in the Collection:**

The prisoner. The complete series

DVD 3882 DRAMA DISCS 1&2

DVD 3882 DRAMA DISCS 3&4

DVD 3882 DRAMA DISCS 5&6

DVD 3882 DRAMA DISCS 7&8

DVD 3882 DRAMA DISCS 9&10

**Riley : Ace of Spies** 1983

A twelve part series, this is the story of Sidney Riley, a British spy during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He managed to infiltrate the German General Staff and work against the Bolsheviks in Russia. Starring Sam Neill, Leo McKern, John Rhys-Davies and David Suchet.

**Titles in the Collection:**

Reilly : the ace of spies

DVD 3964 DRAMA DISC 1

DVD 3964 DRAMA DISC 2

DVD 3964 DRAMA DISC 3

DVD 3964 DRAMA DISC 4

**Rough Diamond** 2005-2007

Called The Diamond Geezer in Great Britain, this small series of four movie-length episodes stars David Jason as Des, an aging jewel thief who refuses to retire. He plots elaborate heists with the aid of his son and his friends. The victims are unscrupulous types who get what they deserve.

**Title in the Collection:**

Rough diamond

DVD 3042 DRAMA V.1

DVD 3042 DRAMA V.2

**Smiley's People** 1982

A follow-up to the highly successful Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, this rendering of the John LeCarre novel brings Alec Guinness back to the small screen to reprise his role as George Smiley, head of the "Circus."

**Titles in the Collection:**

John Le Carré's Smiley's people

DVD 841 DRAMA