



TV PREVIEW

# The Amazing Mr Blunden

+ Q&A with writer-director-actor Mark Gatiss and actors Tamsin Greig and Simon Callow, hosted by Mark Kermode.

Starring Simon Callow (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Shakespeare in Love*) as Mr Blunden with Mark Gatiss and Tamsin Greig (*Friday Night Dinner*, *Episodes*) as Mr and Mrs Wickens. It introduces Tsion Habte and Jason Rennie as Lucy and Jamie Allen, alongside India Fowler and Xavier Wilkins as Sara and Georgie Latimer, and Spike Fearn as Tom.

Christmas adventure arrives for London teenagers Jamie and Lucy Allen in the form of a mysterious old man, Mr Blunden, who offers their mum the opportunity to become the caretaker of a ruined country house – one that’s said to be haunted. Within its neglected, overgrown grounds, Jamie and Lucy have an encounter with what appears to be a pair of ghost children. But these spooky kids, Sara and Georgie, aren’t actually ghosts. They’ve travelled forwards in time to seek help, believing they’re going to be murdered by the wicked Mr and Mrs Wickens. And Lucy and Jamie’s strange visitor seems to be the key to it all. With his help, they must travel back to 1821 to save Sara and Georgie and redeem their remorseful new friend – The Amazing Mr Blunden.

Jon Mountague, Director of Comedy, Sky Studios, said: ‘When we learnt that the incomparable Mark Gatiss wanted to update this absolute classic for the 21st century, we thought all our Christmases had come at once. The Amazing Mr Simon Callow and Tamsin Greig complete a trio of national treasures, and introducing an incredible young cast alongside, we couldn’t be prouder – roll on Christmas!’

Mark Gatiss, director, said: ‘To me, everything about *The Amazing Mr Blunden* is magical. A ghost story with a sentimental heart. A costume drama with a time-travelling twist. Scary villains, melancholy, laughter and joy. I first came across the wonderful original film at primary school when it was shown on a battered old projector on that most hallowed of occasions – the last Friday before the Christmas holidays. In our new version, as in the book, the Allen family are very much from the modern world. I can’t wait to share the adventure with a whole new audience’.

skygroup.sky

THE AMAZING MR BLUNDEN

Director: Mark Gatiss  
Executive Produced by: Adorable Media, Can Do Productions, Handmade Films, Jon Mountague  
Producers: Isibéal Balance, Richelle Wilder  
Written by: Mark Gatiss  
Director or Photography: David Higgs  
Editor: Mark Everson  
Production Designer: Chris Richmond  
Costume Designer: Helen Bolter  
Make-up Designer: Jutta Russell  
Composer: Blair Mowat

Cast

Simon Callow (*Mr Blunden*)  
Tamsin Greig (*Mrs Wickens*)  
Mark Gatiss (*Mr Wickens*)  
Tsion Habte (*Lucy Allen*)

Jason Rennie (*Jamie Allen*)  
Xavier Wilkins (*Georgie Latimer*)  
India Fowler (*Sara Latimer*)  
Spike Fearn (*Tom*)  
Vinette Robinson (*Christine Allen*)  
Sam Spruell (*Uncle Bertie*)  
Kitty Archer (*Bella Wickens*)  
Amanda Lawrence (*Meakin*)  
Elliott Levey (*Claverton*)  
Sam Barnett (*Smith*)  
Liz White (*Jill Tucker*)  
Sean Gilder (*Dave Tucker*)  
Katherine Jackways (*Julie*)  
Raj Ghatak (*Dr Hugh*)

UK 2021  
90 mins

A Sky Max production

IN PERSON & PREVIEWS

**Doctor Who: City of Death**  
Sun 5 Dec 12:00  
**Mark Kermode Live in 3D at the BFI**  
Mon 6 Dec 18:10  
**Preview: Titane + Q&A with director Julia Ducournau**  
Mon 6 Dec 20:30  
**TV Preview: The Mezzotint + Q&A with director Mark Gatiss**  
Tue 7 Dec 18:10  
**TV Preview: The Tourist + Q&A with actors Jamie Dornan, Danielle Macdonald, Shalom Brune-Franklin and creatives**  
Tue 7 Dec 20:30  
**Exclusive Preview: Swan Song + Q&A with director Benjamin Cleary, producer Rebecca Bourke and actors Mahershala Ali and Naomie Harris**  
Wed 8 Dec 17:15  
**Preview: Boiling Point + Q&A with director Philip Barantini and actors Ray Panthaki and Lauryn Ajufo**  
Wed 8 Dec 20:30  
**TV Preview: Ghosts Christmas Special + Q&A (guests TBA)**  
Thu 9 Dec 18:10  
**tick, tick... BOOM! + Q&A with director Lin-Manuel Miranda, actors Alexandra Shipp and Robin de Jesús and producer Julie Oh**  
Thu 9 Dec 20:30  
**Patti Boulaye**  
Sun 12 Dec 15:30  
**Woman with a Movie Camera: Bridget Jones’s Diary at 20 + Q&A with director Sharon Maguire**  
Thu 16 Dec 18:00  
**Preview: Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy (Guzen to sozo)**  
Wed 29 Dec 18:00

BUSTING THE BIAS

**Press Reset on Ableism and pre-recorded keynote by Andrew Miller**  
**MBE + Disability On Screen: Past, Present and Future**  
Fri 3 Dec 12:45  
**TAPE Community Music and Film panel discussion + UK Premiere: Approaching Shadows**  
Fri 3 Dec 15:00  
**Love + Q&A**  
Sat 4 Dec 13:30  
**It’s Personal + Q&A**  
Sat 4 Dec 15:15  
**Talking Bodies: A Rehearsed Reading & Q&A**  
Sun 5 Dec 14:00  
**Aimee Victoria + Q&A + The Multi**  
Sun 5 Dec 16:00

REGULAR PROGRAMME

**Member Picks: The Witches of Eastwick**  
Thu 2 Dec 20:45  
**Art in the Making: Kites, Paper Aeroplanes and the Allure of Flight**  
Fri 3 Dec 18:15  
**Projecting the Archive: Hunted (aka The Stranger in Between) + intro by BFI Curator Josephine Botting**  
Tue 7 Dec 18:20  
**Bogarde at 100: The Servant**  
Thu 9 Dec 18:15; Thu 16 Dec 20:45; Mon 20 Dec 14:00 (Seniors’ matinee + Q&A TBC); Tue 28 Dec 18:30; Wed 29 Dec 17:55  
**African Odysseys: Billy Bang Lucky Man + intro by author Kevin Le Gendre, and Q&A with directors Markus Hansen and Jean-Marie Boulet (work permitting)**  
Sat 11 Dec 17:30  
**Silent Cinema: The Virginian + intro by BFI Curator Bryony Dixon**  
Sun 12 Dec 13:00  
**Seniors’ Free Archive Matinee: So Long at the Fair + Q&A (TBC)**  
Mon 13 Dec 14:00  
**Relaxed Screening: The Black Balloon**  
Tue 14 Dec 18:10  
**Projecting the Archive: I Could Go On Singing + intro by BFI Curator Josephine Botting**  
Thu 16 Dec 18:15  
**Terror Vision: The Shout**  
Thu 30 Dec 20:50

A CLASS OF HIS OWN: THE FILMS OF JACK CLAYTON

**Room at the Top**  
Thu 2 Dec 18:10 (+ intro by BFI Curator Josephine Botting); Sat 18 Dec 14:10; Wed 22 Dec 18:10; Wed 29 Dec 14:30  
**The Innocents**  
Sat 4 Dec 20:40; Thu 9 Dec 20:45; Mon 13 Dec 18:10; Thu 23 Dec 14:20; Mon 27 Dec 15:20; Thu 30 Dec 14:30  
**Our Mother’s House**  
Tue 7 Dec 20:40 (+ intro); Mon 20 Dec 18:15  
**The Passions of Jack Clayton**  
Wed 8 Dec 18:10  
**The Pumpkin Eater**  
Wed 8 Dec 20:40; Sat 18 Dec 12:50 (+ pre-recorded intro by critic Lucy Scholes); Tue 28 Dec 12:15; Thu 30 Dec 18:10  
**The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne**  
Fri 10 Dec 20:30; Tue 21 Dec 14:20; Wed 29 Dec 17:50  
**The Great Gatsby**  
Sat 11 Dec 20:20; Mon 27 Dec 12:45  
**Something Wicked This Way Comes**  
Sun 12 Dec 18:30; Tue 21 Dec 20:40  
**Memento Mori + The Bespoke Overcoat**  
Sun 19 Dec 18:00

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