

SPITTING IMAGE RETURNS SEPTEMBER 11 AFTER RECORD BRITBOX UK SUBSCRIBERS, FOUR-YEAR RECORD 4.4 MILLION VIEWING FIGURES FOR COMEDY ON ITV, AND 200 MILLION GLOBAL VIEWS ONLINE



Watch clips from series 1 [HERE](#)
Download the new picture above [HERE](#)

Following the successful return of the show last autumn, *Spitting Image* is set to hit BritBox UK on 11th September, with The Times saying it still has “*fire lurking in its belly ★★★★★*”, The Guardian credited that it had, “*lost none of its savagery or willingness to shock ★★★★★*”, the Radio Times hailed it as a “*triumphant return*”, while The Sun described it as the “*funniest and most ferocious take on events you’ll see all week.*” With new puppets of prominent figures already rolling off puppet production line including: Olivia Colman, Sajid Javid, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Tom Cruise, Tom Daley, Jess Phillips, Ariana Grande, Gary Lineker, Bill Gates, Ellen DeGeneres, and Raheem Sterling, to name a few, to add to the existing cast of hundreds puppets of global figures including: Joe Biden, Boris Johnson, Cristiano Ronaldo, Prince Andrew, Harry Kane, Vladimir Putin, Harry & Meghan, Beyoncé, Angela Merkel, Dwayne Johnson, Gareth Southgate, Ed Sheeran, Jürgen Klopp,

Elon Musk, Adele, Covid-19, James Corden, Emmanuel Macron, Mark Zuckerberg, Donald Trump, and Dominic Cummings.

With the world getting smaller and more turbulent, last year celebrated *Spitting Image* co-creator Roger Law returned to head up the show's creative team, while multi-award-winner Jeff Westbrook (*The Simpsons*, *Futurama*) joined as Showrunner, leading the international writing team on the iconic British satirical take on global events. A next generation of satirical writers and voice artists are working with established talent to drive a new wave of 'public service satire'. Writers on the show include: Al Murray, Bert Tyler-Moore (*The Windsors*), Bill Odenkirk (*The Simpsons*), Brona C. Titley (*The Tracey Ullman Show*), Jason Hazeley & Nico Tatarowicz (*Charlie Brooker's Screenwipe/Murder in Successville*), Karl Minns (*Russell Howard's Good News*), Keisha Zollar (*Astronomy Club*), Laura Major (*Famalam*), Matt Forde, Patric Verrone (*The Simpsons*), with many more joining the growing team. Voice artists include: Billy West (*Futurama*), Debra Stephenson (*The Impressions Show*), Debra Wilson (*Family Guy*), Tom Stourton (*Pls Like, Horrible Histories*), Eshaan Akbar (*Mock The Week*) Indira Varma (*Game of Thrones*), Jess Robinson (*The Imitation Game*), John DiMaggio (*Futurama*), Lewis MacLeod (*Dead Ringers*), Lobo Chan (*Killing Eve*), Luke Kempner (*The Imitation Game*), Matt Forde (*The Political Party*) and Phil LaMarr (*Pulp Fiction*), with many more joining as the puppet cast grows. The show is ultra-topical with scripts being written and new puppets made as close to each episode as possible.

Produced by Avalon (*Taskmaster*, *Starstruck*, *The Russell Howard Hour*, *Breeders*, *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver*), development of puppets for series two is already underway with Joe Biden, Boris Johnson, Prince Andrew, Vladimir Putin, Harry & Meghan, Beyoncé, Angela Merkel, Dwayne Johnson, Ed Sheeran, Jürgen Klopp, Elon Musk, Adele, Covid-19, James Corden, Emmanuel Macron, Mark Zuckerberg, Donald Trump, and Dominic Cummings just some of the global figures that fell under the show's legendary gaze for the debut hit series. A next generation of satirical writers and voice artists were assembled to drive a new wave of 'public service satire'. In keeping with the 80s and 90s, scripts were written and new puppets made close to delivery to ensure each week's episode was as topical as possible.

Internationally, it was also announced earlier this year that a bespoke German language version would be made for Sky Germany "Spitting Image: The Krauts' Edition", including the globally resonating content from the English language version (redubbed by Germany's leading voice artists), with new topical local sketches (written by German comedy writers) added – all filmed in the UK-based *Spitting Image* studio as close to transmission to ensure maximum topicality. The debut of the first series drew the second-best channel audience figure in Finland for its time slot and was hailed by the leading Finnish newspaper as being, "As vicious and risqué as before" and successfully launched in Belgium with a 22% of total TV audience share, as well as seeing millions of views in the USA via YouTube.

Produced by Avalon, Executive Producers are Jeff Westbrook, Joanna Beresford, Jon Thoday, Richard Allen-Turner and Roger Law. BritBox Commissioning Executive is Nana Hughes.

Spitting Image will return 11th September 2021 exclusively on BritBox UK

What the press said about series 1...

"lost none of its savagery or willingness to shock." ★★★★★

Mark Lawson, The Guardian

"Throughout, the puppets and the impressions are pleasures in themselves... Spitting Image still has some fire lurking in its belly." ★★★★★

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

"so far its resurrection is pleasingly familiar to those who remember the original... they haven't, despite early reports, held back on the viciousness... in general, a B-plus"

Euan Ferguson, The Observer

"TV GOLD: The Boris sat-nav sketch and Keir Starmer's Shadow Cabinet/donkey sanctuary eeh-awing down the phone to him"

"TV GOLD: The Keir Starmer "Foxman" sketch and Meghan Markle's 'exfoliating butt chutney'"

Ally Ross, The Sun

"with its Trumpian body part, hideously tweeting, one of the (horribly, brilliantly) unforgettable moments of this year's TV."

David Butcher, The Radio Times

"a hit show... Spitting Image has provided some rare laughs... we need those puppets back soon."

Ian Burrell, The i

"some sublime moments... You can happily enjoy all that creativity while you wait for the next joke to pull in." ★★★★★

Sean O'Grady, The Independent

"congratulations on Spitting Image, we've just been watching it this morning, we could barely do the first half hour of the show, I mean seriously... thanks goodness it's back... it's as fresh as a daisy this one ... it's hilarious"

Chris Evans, Virgin Radio

"the much-missed satirical puppet show made a triumphant return" ★★★★★

Mark Wareham, The Mail on Sunday

★★★★★

Mike Mulvihill, The Daily Mail

★★★★★

Mike Ward, Daily Star

★★★★★

Simone Andrews, The Daily Mail

★★★★★

Daily Star on Sunday

"the superb new Spitting Image series on BritBox... the sharpest, funniest and most ferocious take on events you'll see all week."

Eleanor Relf, The Sun

"The first series of BritBox's Spitting Image revival went out with a bang... triumphant return as one of BritBox's first original titles, with a whole host of new distorted puppets... the platform's subscribers will undoubtedly miss the show's weekly political parodies."

Lauren Morris, Radio Times

"Trump's puppet is spot-on, looking like a swollen tuna in a wig."

James Jackson, The Times

"Better latex than never"

The Guardian

"bitingly funny puppet sketch show...Laughs when we need them most"

Sunday Mirror

"it can go to places other comedies can't"

Jack Seale, Radio Times

"... it's finally here. One of the most influential British satirical shows of all time"

Henry Mance, Financial Times

"it's very very funny"

Gaby Roslin, BBC Radio London

"hit revival"

Steve Wright, BBC Radio 2

"I couldn't agree more with the success it's having over here"

Richard Arnold, ITV Good Morning Britain

"I watched some of this last night, with some trepidation having loved it in my youth, but I actually really enjoyed it and laughed more than I thought I would... I very much enjoyed the New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden as the practically perfect Mary Poppins"

Rachel Burden, BBC Radio 4

"it certainly did not disappoint... it was cracking, I loved it, I highly recommend people watching it... absolutely brilliant"

Ayesha Hazarika, Times Radio

"satirical sidesplitter... We need them kept on their toes now more than ever."

Andy Halls, The Sun

"it's strangely comforting that Spitting Image can return and still (as the Twitter furore and the USA's hesitation to even screen it prove) have that power to wind folk right up! Welcome back, guys!"

★★★★

Jack Bottomley, Starburst Magazine

"has certainly got plenty of people laughing"

Total TV Guide

"it's more vicious than ever"

Ralph Jones, NME

"The first thing to say about the revived Spitting Image is that it works. This will come as a relief to those, including your reviewer, for whom the original show was a vital part of the 1980s and 90s"

Robert Hutton, The Critic

"I did watch the relaunched Spitting Image (BritBox), and some of it was quite funny. The satire of Dominic Cummings and Boris Johnson had a certain truth about it."

David Mellor (quoted in The Times)

"The show has been a huge hit with viewers due to its hilarious portrayal of likes of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Michael Gove, Dominic Raab and Priti Patel."

Lucy Murgatroyd, The Sun

"has truly found its moment by accurately caricaturing the physiognomical state of Donald Trump (candyflossed barnet, tan not so much Palm Beach as Nagasaki)... Long may its comedic genius be with us."

Gavin Docherty, Daily Express

"ingenuity, along with the signature grotesque caricatures its talented puppetry department keep producing."

Ivan Radford, VODzilla

"its targets are once again gleaned from far and wide across the social spectrum... having merciless fun poked straight into them... the buffoonery and entitlement of Trump and Johnson ceaselessly demolished."

Brian Donaldson, The List

"The puppets are as brilliant as always"

Gerard Gilbert, The i

"I really enjoyed it again this time around... I love the look of the puppets, I like the fact that there's still a lot of savagery there, they're pretty merciless"

Fiona Shepherd, The Scotsman (on BBC Radio Scotland)

"some of it was very funny"

Bruce Dessau, Beyond The Joke/Evening Standard

"To these eyes, it's been a welcome revival: toothier than most TV comedy – bolstered by A-list writers and voice artists – with outstanding puppetcraft to marvel at"

Mike McCahill, Reader's Digest

On Twitter...

"Just watched Spitting Image. Was so worried I'd be disappointed or it'd be lame. Thank God, it's anything but. It's really funny."

Lewis Goodall
(Policy Editor at BBC Newsnight)

"Loving Spitting Image so far."

Tim Stanley
(Historian, Columnist & Leader Writer at The Daily Telegraph)

"I thought the best sketch of the last Spitting Image was the Nancy Pelosi one – nice example of how satire doesn't have to lean left"

Henry Mance
(The Financial Times)

"The new Spitting Image series is funny because it follows the first rule of political satire: Be unspeakably rude to everyone."

Keith Humphreys
(Journalist at Washington Post/Professor at Stanford University)

"The new Spitting Image puppet of Dominic 'I was only testing my eyesight' Cummings is sublime."

Piers Morgan

"The first time I can recall a Spitting Image puppet [shares Piers Morgan puppet] to be actually quite flattering."

Gary Lineker

"Politicians and celebrities will be cringing behind the sofa. Spitting Image is back and as unforgiving as ever."

Kay Burley

"Xi Jinping, TikTok and the Jinping Shuffle c/o Spitting Image. #China"

Stephen McDonell
(BBC China Correspondent)

"The new Spitting Image on BritBox had a properly funny piss-take of Klopp last weekend BTW. Taking the piss out of his humility and self-deprecation. With a really good impression. Proper satire. He would love it...This was the first Spitting Image (new era) take on Klopp. Which was ... spot on... Trump absolutely grotesque: which is accurate. The arsehole tweeting is just horrible, and funny. Priti Patel and Gove too. Boris J an idiot; Cummings a wacko alien. Biden a lame duck. Starmer struggling for relevance. All-round satire"

Nick Harris
(The Mail on Sunday/SportingIntelligence.com)

"Unfortunately, it'll be hard for Americans to watch 'Spitting Image'. The television network NBC has backed out of broadcasting the series at the last moment, apparently for fear of offending people. Which is of course the point of the show."

John Simpson
(BBC News)

"Spitting Image should just set this [the real Trump speaking around US Election] to the music from Chariots of Fire and run it in full"

Tim Shipman
(The Sunday Times)

"am not going to miss the Spitting Image guest for anything!"

Tim Levell
(Programme Director at Times Radio)

"The Spitting Image take on Jacinda Ardern's coronavirus brutality cloaked in Kiwi kindness is brilliant. And very very funny."

Dan Wootton
(TalkRadio/The Sun)

"Michael Gove Visits Mistress Priti Patel's Boudoir. WATCH & GIGGLE: <https://youtu.be/gfddokPlu8QVia> Spitting Image"

Peter Tatchell
(Human Rights Campaigner/Director of The Peter Tatchell Foundation)

"Just watched first ep of Spitting Image – The Guardian gives it 4 stars I give it 5 !! Absolutely hilarious and of course hugely offensive"

Derren Litten
(Creator of Benidorm)

"I recommend you watch Spitting Image"

Mike Gapes
(Former Member of UK Parliament)

"In case you've not realised yet, the new Spitting Image is brilliant. Annoying all the right people. It lampoons Trump and Pence and Boris sure, that's easy. But also Ardern, Starmer and Harris. That's less easy, and they're even funnier."

Rupert Beale
(Group Leader, Cell Biology of Infection at The Francis Crick Institute)

"very good gags ... Matt Hancock's puppet might replace Matt Hancock"

Toby Earle
(TV Journalist)

"wickedly offensive"

Darren Scott
(SFX Magazine)

"Back to its absurd, irreverent and deliciously crude best. So pleased to have it back."

Adam Fowler
(TV Reporter)

"Spitting Image is every bit as brilliant as I hoped it would be"

Neil Wilkes
(Co-Founder of Digital Spy/Editor of Sports Mole)

"Spitting Image, watched first episode last night. Trump, Boris and Cummings are in a class of their own. Absolutely brilliant."

Graeme Bandeira
(Newspaper Cartoonist)

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Dan Lloyd – DLloyd@avalonuk.com

Perrine Davari – PDavari@avalonuk.com

Sylvia Brendel – publicity@britbox.co.uk

Notes to editors

About Avalon:

Avalon is a multi-award-winning talent management, television production and live promotion group with offices in London, Los Angeles and New York.

Avalon, Artist Rights Group (ARG) and The Agency represent a prolific roster of artists including comedians, actors, presenters, writers and directors. Avalon's numerous ground-breaking returning television shows currently in production include: *Not Going Out* (BBC), the UK's longest running sitcom on air; *Taskmaster* (Channel 4), the BAFTA-winning hit entertainment format showing in 100 countries; multi Emmy-winner, *Last Week Tonight* with John Oliver (HBO); *The Russell Howard Hour* (Sky), the network's most successful entertainment show launch since 2010; *Starstruck*, a new sitcom from the 2018 Edinburgh Comedy Award winner Rose Matafeo (HBO Max/BBC); *Everything's Gonna Be Okay*, from creator Josh Thomas (Freeform); *Breeders*, a sitcom starring Martin Freeman and Daisy Haggard (FX/Sky); a new series of the iconic British satirical puppet show, *Spitting Image* (BritBox UK); and multiple comedy specials for Amazon Prime Video, HBO Max and Netflix.

Other landmark Avalon shows include BAFTA winning and multi Emmy nominated *Catastrophe* (Amazon Prime Video/Channel 4), *Fantasy Football League* (BBC/ITV), multi BAFTA-winning TV *Burp* (ITV), and *Workaholics* (Comedy Central USA). Avalon also distributes its catalogue of programmes to over 150 countries worldwide. Avalon has produced many globally successful podcasts and is at the top of the UK iTunes chart with the multi-award-winning *Shagged. Married. Annoyed* by Chris and Rosie Ramsey.

As a leading promoter of live comedy, Avalon produced *Newman and Baddiel: Live at Wembley*, the UK's first arena comedy show; *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, the first West End show to win all four UK 'Best New Musical' awards; and has continued to produce and promote live shows globally, as well as promoting more winners and nominees of the prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award than any other company.

For Avalon news visit: www.avalonuk.com/press or follow [@avalonent](https://twitter.com/avalonent)

About BritBox UK

BritBox is a digital video subscription service created by the BBC and ITV. The service brings the very best in past, present and future British programming and award-winning content to viewers all in one place for £5.99 per month in HD. British TV boxsets from All 4 and British films from Film 4 are also available. The service includes high quality factual and entertainment content from

Channel 5 plus original British comedies from Comedy Central UK. BritBox features the biggest collection of British content available on any streaming service, and brand new commissions for British production companies specifically created for BritBox. BritBox also offers expert curation and playlists that will enable viewers to easily find programmes they know and discover new favourites via web, mobile, tablet, connected TVs and streaming devices including Fire TV, Apple TV, Freesat & Chromecast. Content on BritBox can be downloaded and viewed offline where rights allow.

For more assets and imagery, please visit www.itv.com/presscentre/britbox

Follow BritBox UK on social media:

www.facebook.com/BritBoxUK www.instagram.com/britbox_uk
<https://twitter.com/BritBoxPressUK>