

# ANDY LEA & MIKE WARD'S BIG STREAM

## Ricky pulls it off again



**REFERRING** to Ricky Gervais' *After Life* as a "comedy" has always felt insultingly inadequate.

Balancing out the laughs - of which these six new episodes, rest assured, still have plenty - it's given us moments of heartbreaking poignancy and desperate sadness.

Along with those, this second series has a further significant dimension. Tony has started being extra-sweet to people.

He's always had that in him, of course. He's a decent, sensitive guy. But the death of his beloved wife Lisa (Kerry Godliman) had left him such a wreck that in series one what we mostly saw was a bloke lashing out (albeit very funnily, that's the paradox).

That anger is still simmering, his suicidal thoughts remain, but Tony is at least trying a more positive tack. Whether it'll ultimately help him move on remains to be seen.

**AFTER LIFE: SERIES TWO (15)**  
★★★★★  
(Netflix Originals from today)

And whether it will be with Ashley Jensen's Emma, the nurse who looks after his dad, only time will tell. I should perhaps stress that *After Life* hasn't turned sickly-sweet. Even this less angry Tony is still very satisfyingly sarky.

He'll never suffer fools gladly. For early evidence, clock the hilarious scene where he's dragged to an allegedly healing yoga class.

Also, Gervais writes so generously for the other actors (the gob-smacking vileness of Paul Kaye's psychiatrist character is now off the scale) that we get ample laughs elsewhere.

*After Life's* second series is every bit as funny and touching as its first, but even more rewarding.

I promise you will not be disappointed. - MW



**HIGHS & LOWS:** Gervais and Kerry Godliman

+ WIN ++ WIN ++ WIN +



### London Kills series 1 & 2

HUGO Speer and Sharon Small head up an elite murder squad in BBC One's gripping, docu-style cop drama.

And we're giving away six box sets, each worth £29.99.

To enter, just answer this question:  
**In which 1997 Yorkshire-set film did Speer star?**

**A) Brassed Off. B) The Full Monty. C) When Saturday Comes.**

Email your answer (with "London Kills" as the subject), plus your name, address and mobile number,

to [starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk) close midnight this Sunday, April 26. Normal Daily Star rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



### MY FAVOURITE STREAM

**Stefan Dennis (Neighbours' Paul Robinson)** "Tiger King (Netflix) is such a wild and crazy story. In these strange times, what you need to shock you out of an isolation slump is a gun-toting redneck claiming to be an animal saviour."

● *Neighbours* airs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1.45pm and 5.30pm on Channel 5.

## Plot twists? I Thor 'em coming



**TOUGH:** Hemsworth's Tyler Rake, left, in action

**EXTRACTION (18)**  
(Streaming now on Netflix)

★★★★  
**THRILLING** action scenes come against a formulaic plot in this fun but forgettable flick.

Thor star Chris Hemsworth drops the magic hammer to play Tyler Rake - yet another tortured, ex-special forces hardnut seeking

redemption after the death of a child.

Ovi (Rudhraksh Jaiswal), son of an Indian crimelord, has been kidnapped by an evil Bangladeshi rival.

Tyler must fight his way through soldiers, cops and goons to get to him in time.

Director Sam Hargreaves makes great use of the

"gun-fu" fighting style, in the same way as in the hit film *John Wick*.

The body count could be higher than in that movie, another film directed by an ex-stuntman.

But while Keanu Reeves dispatched his victims with a knowing wink, it is hard to take Hemsworth's hard man entirely seriously. **AL**

### ACORN TV LAUNCHES

**LAUNCHING** on Wednesday is Acorn TV, streaming shows from Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and other nations.

Highlights include the UK premiere of Emmy-nominated British whodunnit **QUEENS OF MYSTERY**, plus a

raft of recent and classic series including **FOYLE'S WAR**, **KEEPING FAITH** and Agatha Christie's **AND THEN THERE WERE NONE**.

After a 30-day free trial, it costs £4.99 a month or £49.99 annually. Go to [acorn.tv](http://acorn.tv)

## Now available on all leading platforms

**BEASTIE BOYS STORY (NR)**  
(Streaming now on Apple TV+)

★★★★  
IT'S billed as a "live documentary" but this Apple TV exclusive is really just an edited recording of an endearingly shambolic 2019 stage show.

It is directed by pop video legend Spike Jonze and performed by surviving Beasties Adam Horowitz and Michael Diamond.

The artists formerly known as Adam-D and Adrock use archive footage to tell the story of the group they

disbanded after co-founder Adam Yauch died from cancer in 2012.

You will be touched by tributes to their best friend and honest appraisal of their youthful mistakes.

**SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG)**  
(Streaming now on major platforms)

★★★★  
**THIS** likeable animated buddy comedy boasts an original pairing of bickering partners - a peace-loving boffin (voiced by Tom Holland) and an angry pigeon (Will Smith). Smith starts out

voicing Lance Sterling, a cool, tux-wearing superspy but sprouts feathers after swigging one of Holland's experimental potions.

And he keeps getting into a flap on a globetrotting mission to track down Ben Mendelsohn's baddie. **BIRDS OF PREY (15)**  
(Streaming from Monday on major platforms)

★★★★  
**MARVEL'S** *Deadpool* seems to be the model for this irreverent adventure for the Joker's mad girlfriend Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie). There are

striking action scenes but no killer one-liners.

Robbie's loud, mugging performance made me yearn for Adam West's Batman. **SEA FEVER (15)**  
(Streaming now on major platforms)

★★★★  
**ALIEN** hits the high seas as Dougray Scott's fishing trawler is ensnared by an infectious sea monster.

This stylish Irish horror is missing a standout scare, but arguments about self-quarantine should summon up some accidentally topical chills. **AL**



**NO JOKE:** Margot Robbie in *Birds of Prey*