

MIKE WARD'S BIG STREAM

MUD LAUGHS: Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May race across Madagascar



Treasures on a hunt

The Grand Tour Presents: A Massive Hunt ★★★★★
(Amazon Prime Video from Friday)

THE Indian Ocean island of Madagascar is where Clarkson, Hammond and May are headed for their latest lunatic adventure.

Why? Well, because they're on the hunt for ancient treasure, said to have been buried there by an infamous 18th century pirate, shortly before he was hanged.

(Of course they are, it's a motoring show, why wouldn't they be?)

As ever, they've taken on a challenge that requires them to drive across some seriously hazardous terrain, in this case to reach a spot where they're hoping this booty is buried.

It's thought to include a 7ft golden cross, studded with rubies.

May takes on the role of code-cracker, attempting to decipher a bunch of ancient

symbols that he reckons will reveal vital clues (even though these symbols have left others stumped for the best part of three centuries).

Hammond, meanwhile, provides surprising levels of pirate-y expertise.

And Clarkson? Clarkson thinks the mission is a total waste of time.

"In all of human history, not a single ounce of buried treasure has ever been found," he points out. "Ever."

But how does he feel about the pirate bit? Surely Hammond has a point there. Eighteenth-century pirates are kind of romantic and interesting, right?

"They're not," Clarkson grunts. "They're just floating burglars."

This special may not be full of surprises - different exotic destination, same chaotic consequences - but it won't disappoint fans.

WIN + WIN + WIN



HIT: Anna Friel as Marcella Backland

Marcella DVD boxsets

★ COMING soon to ITV is series three of its edgy cop drama Marcella, starring Anna Friel. Ahead of that, we have six DVD boxsets of series 1 and 2 to give away.



★ For your chance to win one, just answer this question:
In which TV soap did Anna star from 1993-95?
(A) Hollyoaks (B) Brookside (C) Emmerdale

Email your answer (with "Marcella" as the subject), plus your name, address and mobile number, to dailystarcompetitions@gmail.com. Entries close at midnight this Wednesday, December 16.

Normal Daily Star rules apply.

CLASSIC festive episodes of Only Fools and Horses, Gavin and Stacey, Blackadder, The Vicar of Dibley and Ab Fab are among the highlights of **BritBox's Britmas** collection.

The bumper seasonal package also includes some of the most memorable Christmas soap episodes, a collection of top telly pantos, plus hit dramas such as Downton Abbey, Call the Midwife, and All Creatures Great and Small.

Catherine Tate, French & Saunders and Les Dawson have Christmas specials.

APPLE TV+ has announced there'll be a third season of **For All Mankind**, the gripping drama that imagines what life would be like if the space race had never ended - and if the Russians had beaten America to the Moon.

The news comes before we've even seen season two, which launches in February.

The story there will pick up in 1983, at the height of the Cold War.

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WEIRD: David Byrne

AMERICAN UTOPIA (On digital platforms)

★★★ SCOTTISH-born US musician David Byrne, who fronted Talking Heads in the 70s and 80s before going out on his own, wowed a lot of critics last year with this Broadway stage show, the film of which is directed by Spike Lee.

It's an interpretation of Byrne's most recent album, with a generous dollop of older songs chucked in.

There's a hell of a lot of infectious music to enjoy here, performed in a way that's somehow satisfyingly weird.

TINY PRETTY THINGS (15) (Netflix) ★★★★★

I MAY have to reconsider my application to ballet school if

this Netflix thriller is anything to go by. A student at a top Chicago dance institute has suffered a terrible "accident". Does her replacement realise what she's walking into?

THE RIPPER (15) (Netflix from Wednesday)

★★★ THIS documentary series focuses on Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe's mid-70s reign of terror.

Sutcliffe, who died in prison last month, murdered 13 women between 1975 and 1980 - and attempted to kill another nine - before he was caught and jailed for life in 1981.

It's a story not only of an unprecedented manhunt, but of the archaic attitudes that hindered the operation.