

sky NOW



Festive Season on Sky & NOW

2024

What to Watch this Festive Season

The festive season is coming and so is an epic line-up of TV shows and movies on Sky and NOW. In fact, you'll be hard-pressed to find a show that isn't worthy of a place on your must-watch list.

From **festive hits** to a **brand-new Sky Original Christmas special** starring Lee Mack and Chris McCausland, there's plenty to keep you busy this December. Plus, with all your favourite **classic films** available on Sky Cinema and NOW, you'll be fighting over the remote this Christmas.

So, what are you waiting for? Read on for the best TV to watch on Sky and NOW this festive season.

PS. Haven't found anything that takes your fancy? Well, these are just our top picks...there's plenty more coming so keep an eye out as you'll be sure to find something that hits the spot!

NB: Please note TX dates are subject to change



Contents

- 3 Festive hits
- 7 Something for everybody
- 15 Sky Arts
- 18 Festive films
- 22 How to watch

For info on What to Watch this festive season, please contact: Natasza.Tytko@sky.uk

Festive hits *you won't want to miss*

Bad Tidings

Get ready for Sky's 2024 Christmas special, [Bad Tidings](#)!

It's the week before Christmas and Stockport home security expert, Neil (**Lee Mack**) has a problem with his neighbour. Scott (**Chris McCausland**) swaps their bins, complains about Neil's 'project' car on his drive and has had his Christmas lights up all year, shining into Neil's home office. Basically, he's a git. He's also blind, and the rest of the street thinks he's great.

When they try to make Scott the new head of Neighbourhood Watch, Neil can stand it no more. He questions Scott's suitability for the role ("It's Neighbourhood Watch! I mean, hello?") and, in the tit for tat row which ensues, Neil ends up blowing the power. For the whole street. On Christmas Eve.

Everyone, including Neil's wife and teenage daughter, is forced to take their Christmas plans elsewhere, leaving Neil and Scott alone and on guard. When infamous local crime family - The Brennans - decide to rob the entire street in one night ("It's like Santa in reverse"), the odd couple must team up to stop them. They've got no lights, no cameras, no alarms, but one of them is blind, which might be an advantage...

Coming December (Week 52) on Sky Max & streaming service NOW

Contact: badtidings@premiercomms.com

Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact ross.sinclair@sky.uk

Trailer: Available [here](#)



Miracles

Steven Frayne, the magician formerly known as **Dynamo**, is back – with an [epic new show](#) which sees him return to his roots, and wow people like never before by taking his magic back to the streets – stunning huge crowds as he goes. After his dramatic rebirth in the epic conclusion of '[Dynamo Is Dead](#)' last year, Britain's greatest magician is setting out on a journey around the country, unearthing everyday heroes and delivering mind-blowing magic.

Throughout this Sky Original Christmas Special, magic builds to an astonishing climax in which Steven will take the ultimate risk, pushing himself to the limit for a death-defying finale: the miracle to end all miracles. Get ready for a show filled with inspiration, wonder, and pure magic, as Steven Frayne once again defies belief.

Coming 19 December on Sky Max & streaming service NOW

Contact: Lucy.Butterfield@sky.uk

Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact daisy.thomasread@sky.uk



Never Mind the Xmas Buzzcocks

Much-loved comedy quiz show, [Never Mind the Buzzcocks](#), is set to return to Sky Max and NOW for a Christmas special.

Having taken time off to celebrate a nativity of her own, the immaculate **Daisy May Cooper** makes her triumphant return to Buzzcocks for a raucous Christmas special. Joining her, host **Greg Davies**, team captain **Noel Fielding** and series regular **Jamali Maddix** will be comedian **Chris Ramsey**, singer songwriter **Elle Henderson** and Capital Breakfast host **Jordan North**.

Coming 18 December on Sky Max & streaming service NOW

Contact: Molly.Wyatt@sky.uk

Imagery: Available on SEAC [here](#) or contact daisy.thomasread@sky.uk



Something for **everybody** *this Christmas*

Game of Throws: Inside Darts

The world of [darts](#) is more popular than ever - the World Championship held every Christmas at Alexandra Palace sells out in minutes and millions tune in to watch worldwide. In a year like no other, this three-part series for Sky Documentaries offers exclusive access to the world of professional darts.

This celebratory access-all-areas documentary series will track the action from pre-tournament preparation to the final and beyond, following up-and-coming hopefuls to top-seeded players - the likes of **Michael van Gerwen**, **Luke Humphries** and darts wunderkind **Luke "The Nuke" Littler**. We'll also spend time with the families who support them to achieve their dreams, as well as those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to create this global phenomenon.

Darts is one of the most popular sports on TV, yet little is known about the players themselves. This series charts what it's really like to be a darts player in today's world: the ups and downs, the humour, the camaraderie, as well as the sacrifices they make to win the biggest prize in the game.

Coming 30 November on Sky Documentaries & streaming service NOW

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Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact ross.sinclair@sky.uk



Becoming Madonna

Becoming Madonna is an immersive, archive driven film built around a cache of recently uncovered audio tapes in which a young Madonna reflects on her extraordinary life and career.

With rare footage, unseen photos and intimate interviews with family, friends and collaborators, some of whom have never spoken in a documentary before, the film shows this celebrated star as we've never seen her before.

When Madonna arrived in New York City from Michigan with dreams of becoming a professional dancer, it was the start of an incredible journey. This film charts the period 1978-1992 as Madonna dramatically transformed herself from insecure 19-year-old outsider to the most controversial pop star in the world, with the astonishing publication of her erotic photography book 'Sex'.

These were the heady years during which Madonna came of age as a person and an uncompromising artist. Through her fiery conflicts with the conservative establishment in the 80s and 90s, the film powerfully evokes a time where traditional views on sexuality and gender roles were being audaciously challenged and Madonna was always at the vanguard.

Previously unseen archive sheds new light on the personal tragedies that fuelled Madonna's drive, re-examining the early death of her mother and those of her dance teacher Christopher Flynn and close friend Martin Burgoyne, both of whom died during the AIDS epidemic of the 80s. Through their stories, we see Madonna in a new light: smarter, more radical and more vulnerable than anyone at the time gave her credit for.

Coming soon on Sky Documentaries & streaming service NOW

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Based on a True Story S2

The story of the unlikely friendship between a married couple and a serial killer continues with the second season of dark comedy [Based on a True Story](#).

Season two of the series finds new parents Ava (**Kaley Cuoco**) and Nathan Bartlett (**Chris Messina**) three months into parenthood. Focused on taking care of her family, Ava is determined to resist her true crime obsession and return to work as a real estate agent while Nathan trains private tennis clients. But a series of new murders pulls her back in – is Matt (**Tom Bateman**) behind the slayings? Is Ava's sister Tory (**Liana Liberato**), now entangled in a relationship with Matt, in danger?

All episodes available 16 December on Sky Max & streaming service NOW

Contact: Scarlett.Such@sky.uk

Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact stillsdepartment@sky.uk



Wonka

Based on the extraordinary character at the centre of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl's most iconic children's book and one of the best-selling children's books of all time, "Wonka" tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today.

This blockbuster movie stars **Timothée Chalamet** as Wonka.

Coming 6 December on Sky Cinema & streaming service NOW

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Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact StillsDepartment@sky.uk



Stand-Up Specials

To round out the year, Sky Comedy and NOW are bringing all the laughs with a series of comedy specials set to launch on the platform.

Maisie Adam: Appraisal (TX: 7 December): She's five years into her job as a comedian now, so she's due an appraisal. Join her for the ultimate performance review – where you'll either see just why she was awarded Best New Act and nominated for Best Newcomer, or you'll see someone who's ready for 'organisational restructure'.

Micky Flanagan: If We Ever Needed It (TX: December): With his trademark cockney charm and infectious energy, Micky Flanagan discusses life since turning 60, growing older and reflecting on the changes in the world around him, as well as poking fun at his observations on life.

James Acaster: Hecklers Welcome (TX: 10 December): Touring the show throughout 2023-2024, *Hecklers Welcome* sees Acaster recount the formative childhood experiences at the root of his love/hate relationship with performance, whilst obliging himself to embrace any interruptions from the audience.

Paul Chowdhry: Family Friendly Comedian (TX: 20 December): Multi-award-winning stand-up comedian, actor and writer, Paul Chowdhry presents a special, intimate performance of his highly acclaimed show, where he contemplates putting his career as a controversial stand-up comic behind him to potentially land a recently vacated space on daytime TV.

Contact: Molly.Wyatt@sky.uk / Oyinlola.Oyegunle@sky.uk

Imagery: Available on SEAC [here](#) or contact daisy.thomasread@sky.uk



Rob & Romesh vs Darts

We're officially entering our peak darts era. The nation tuned in night after night to watch Luke 'The Nuke' Littler's festive fairytale, as he rewrote history to become the youngest ever player to reach the World Championship Final. And with a record audience of 4.8 million, the game was the most-watched sports event ever on Sky away from the football.

Following his heroic debut, the PDC have granted Rob and Romesh special access to the teenage star – alongside other top players – as he prepares for his redemption run. Not only will the boys learn what it takes to come within touching distance of the crown, they'll need to sharpen up their own skills for a special head-to-head challenge the PDC have arranged, in front of a sold-out Alexandra Palace at this year's World Championship.

Coming this Festive Period on Sky Max & streaming service NOW

Contact: Molly.Wyatt@sky.uk / Oyinlola.Oyegunle@sky.uk

Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact daisy.thomasread@sky.uk



Airborne

Around the planet, animals have done something we can only dream of... conquered the skies. By harnessing the power of air they've dared to defy gravity, opening up a whole new world of opportunity, and danger. In this four-part natural history series, from the team that brought you 'Secret World of Sound with David Attenborough', experience the freedom of a true bird's-eye-view as the creatures of the sky world learn to catch air, snatch in flight meals, find love, and forge new flight paths. Embark on an astonishing aerial adventure like no other and soar alongside them through the most challenging and spectacular environments on the planet.

Airborne showcases the planet's ultimate aeronauts: from majestic Andean condors, parachuting Japanese squirrels, and the fleetingly beautiful spectacle of mayflies emerging on the Tisza River. Witness the aerial assassin that is the Emperor dragonfly, and the delicate dance of love between lovestruck Japanese cranes. Marvel as a tiny orchid bee delicately collects ingredients for his intoxicating and irresistible love potion, strap in as a goshawk navigates dense woodland at high-speed in pursuit of prey and wonder at the balletic sky dance of thousands of starlings above twinkling city lights.

Coming December on Sky Nature & streaming service NOW

Contact: Ellis.Ritchie@sky.uk

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Sky Arts *at Christmas*

Nutcracker: Backstage with English National Ballet

This Christmas, Sky Arts goes behind the curtain with English National Ballet and their world premiere of a brand new production of Nutcracker. Having performed a version of the festive ballet every year since it was founded, this year sees the Company take a fresh approach, and the pressure is on to wow audiences more than ever before.

This new series, *Nutcracker: Backstage with English National Ballet* showcases what it takes to re-invent a globally renowned classic, seen through the eyes of all the key departments involved. Join the Company's own Artistic Director and Choreographer, Aaron S. Watkin, and Olivier Award-winning Choreographer, Arielle Smith, as well Designer, Dick Bird, the principal dancers, musicians, Music Director and costumiers as they unpack their craft and prepare to stage this iconic ballet. Two documentaries follow the meticulous preparations and the all-important rehearsals which build to the opening night. Audiences can then tune in to the full performance of Nutcracker, captured in all its magic at the London Coliseum.

Coming 9 December on Sky Arts and streaming service NOW

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Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or Contact ross.sinclair@sky.uk



The Story of Panto with Gyles Brandreth

For many of us, a trip to the pantomime is our very first experience of live theatre and sparks a lifelong love-affair with the magic of performance. New one-off special, *The Story of Panto with Gyles Brandreth*, will see the author, broadcaster and all-round entertainer reveal some of the surprising origins of this uniquely British art-form.

Panto-aficionado Gyles will immerse himself in every aspect of the genre, from its roots in commedia dell'arte and Victorian music hall to scene painting, slapstick and the making of a pantomime dame. He'll be joined on his merry way (oh yes he will!) by pantomime experts including Julian Clary and Gary Wilmot, celebrating the panto in all its vibrant, joyful glory.

Coming 15 December on Sky Arts and streaming service NOW

Contact: Lucy.Butterfield@sky.uk

Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact jody.kindokilimbumba@sky.uk



Festive films - *enjoyed in the comfort of your
own home*

The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland

Based on Caryl Bexington's bestselling book, comes an all-star Sky Original animation featuring the vocal talents of **Emilia Clarke**, **Gerard Butler** and **Simone Ashley**.

St Nick receives a delayed letter on Christmas Eve from the Princess of Hearts. He and his dedicated team of reindeer set off to Wonderland where they're greeted by the mean and miserable Queen of Hearts who hates all things Christmas... especially presents! Can St Nick, aided by Alice, the Mad Hatter and March Hare, show the Queen the true meaning of Christmas and save the day before it's too late?

Coming 13 December on Sky Cinema and streaming service NOW

Contact: Charlie.Harris@sky.uk

Imagery: Link to SEAC [here](#) or contact jody.kindokilimbumba@sky.uk

Trailer: Available [here](#)



Holiday Touchdown: A Chiefs Love Story

Alana Higman is sure that her family's lifelong history as Kansas City Chiefs superfans makes them a frontrunner to win the team's "Fan of the Year" contest. Derrick, Director of Fan Engagement, is tasked with evaluating how Alana and her family stack up against the other two finalists. As the pair spends time together, it's clear there's a spark between them but when her grandfather's vintage Chiefs good-luck hat goes missing, Alana begins to doubt everything she believed about fate, destiny and even questions her future with Derrick – unless, that is, a little Christmas magic can throw a Hail Mary.

Starring **Hunter King** and **Tyler Hynes**, alongside America's football mum **Donna Kelce**.

Premieres at 3pm on 1 December on Christmas24 (Sky channel 312) with repeats in the following weeks

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Imagery: Contact stillsdepartment@sky.uk



All the details about **how to watch**



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Sky Q

Best satellite TV service

Award-winning set-top-box has all your favourite channels and apps in one place, and a hard drive for recordings.