

Your Weekly Guide to TV Entertainment

• For the week of December 23 - 29, 2017 •



Charlotte Ritchie,
Helen George and
Emerald Fennell star
in "Call the Midwife"

Merry midwives

A Christmas tradition continues with a special holiday episode of "Call the Midwife," airing Monday, Dec. 25, on PBS. Participating in the convention of many British dramas, the series has created a standalone Christmas special each year since its conception. This year's special sees the midwives of Nonnatus House brave the "Big Freeze" of the winter of 1962 to dutifully care for the mothers and babies of Poplar in East London.



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Christmas 'Call'

A holiday tradition continues for 'Call the Midwife'

By Sarah Passingham
TV Media

A premiere holiday tradition continues on PBS with a special Christmas Day episode of the popular British drama series "Call the Midwife." The midwives of Nonnatus House return to care for the babies and mothers of Poplar in London's East End as they brave the coldest winter in 300 years. Settle down in front of the fire to catch what's sure to be another heartwarming "Call the Midwife" holiday special, Monday, Dec. 25, on PBS.

Executive producer Pippa Harris revealed at the BFI & Radio Times Television Festival that the special this year sees the characters experience the "Big Freeze" of the winter of 1962, which hit the U.K. with heavy snow and blizzards throughout December of that year. The busy midwives surely have a lot to handle between the extreme weather and their dedicated patient care. This year's chilly theme is a far cry from 2016's Christmas special, which sent the midwives to assist the struggling Hope Clinic in South Africa.

Actress Jenny Agutter ("Logan's Run," 1976) has portrayed Sister Julienne, the compassionate, steadfast Sister-in-charge of Nonnatus since the series' conception. Sister Julienne is in full form this Christmas, and has tasked herself with reuniting a family for the holiday. "Royal Shakespeare Company: Henry IV" (2014) actor Jennifer Kirby, a relative newcomer to the show, returns as nurse Valerie Dyer, who helps a young couple with a traumatic birth during the winter storm. Nurse Dyer joined the midwives during season 6, when she rose to the occasion in assisting them after an explosion. As a former Army nurse and local Poplar girl, she was keen to become a midwife to care for her community, and soon joined the others at Nonnatus.

Also starring are Charlotte Ritchie ("Siblings"), Helen George ("Hotel Babylon") and Emerald Fennell ("Chickens"), reprising their roles in the show as the midwives of Nonnatus House. Like Agutter, George has been

with the show since the beginning, and her character Trixie Franklin has taken audiences on an emotional roller-coaster. Fans have seen Franklin through devastating breakups, alcoholism and treatment, and had the pleasure of watching her create meaningful friendships with the women of Nonnatus, helped by her nosey, busybody nature.

"Call the Midwife" doesn't just tell stories of difficult and joyous births in London's poverty-stricken East End. The show has expanded the narrative of the series beyond the source material of author and nurse Jennifer Worth's Midwife book trilogy to explore issues facing the community of Poplar and beyond. Over its six seasons, the series has become known for tackling touchy topics with compassion. Nonnatus House has been the framing device for stories exploring faith, poverty, prejudice, disability and equality that are told through the midwives and members of their community. Though the series is set in 1950s and '60s

London, the issues addressed have just as much impact and relevance today.

One such storyline handles homosexuality and how attitudes toward it in mid-century London affects one of the main characters on a very personal level. It is revealed that Patsy Mount's (Fennell) close friendship with surgical nurse Delia Busby (Kate Lamb "Red Heart," 2011) developed into a romantic relationship in season 4 of the show. The two experience the oppression of the time, forced to keep their relationship a secret from loved ones and out of the public eye. Like most tales told in "Call the Midwife," the drama of Mount and Busby is balanced with happy endings. After being separated due to an injury, Busby returns to work as a nurse, train as a midwife and live with her girlfriend.

One of the most controversial episodes of the show tackled domestic abuse to mixed opinions from the audience upon its air date.

Though the fans may have criticisms of the show, they are a driving force for creator Heidi Thomas. In an

interview at BBC Showcase 2016, she recalled her nerves when the show began, saying: "I don't think anyone was more surprised than us that we got eight million viewers on the air overnight." She continued: "I think it's not just the size of the audience, it's the loyalty, the passion you get from them." Those passionate fans have contributed to high series ratings for its entirety, keeping it enthusiastically renewed by its network and ensuring that they will receive more "Call the Midwife" for years to come, so long as showrunners have stories for the women of Nonnatus House to tell.

The stories Thomas tells through the characters of "Call the Midwife" have hit home for the writer in many ways. The series is a family affair for the creator, as her husband, actor Steven McGann ("Emmerdale"), portrays Dr. Patrick Turner in the show. McGann revealed in his autobiography that he first fell for Thomas after reading a script of hers, and the difficulty of seeing her through medical emergencies had a profound effect on the long-married couple. Following her health scare, Thomas was inspired by her experience with the diligent nurses that she encountered throughout her recovery to create "Call the Midwife" with all of the heart that has kept audiences in love with the show over six years.

Save room this Christmas for PBS's "Call the Midwife" holiday special, airing Monday, Dec. 25.

Jenny Agutter as seen in "Call the Midwife"



Video releases

The Mountain Between Us

When a storm grounds both of their flights, Ben (Elba), a doctor scheduled to perform an emergency surgery, and Alex (Winslet), a photojournalist on her way to her own wedding, hire a local pilot (Bridges) for an uncharted flight that they hope can get them to their destinations on time. Things take a turn for the worse when the pilot suffers a medical emergency mid-flight, crashing the plane on a mountainside, wounding both of his passengers and killing himself in the accident. For Ben and Alex, the situation couldn't be more dire, with deep snow, frigid temperatures and dangerous wildlife all working against them as they fight to make their way back to civilization.

Director: Hany Abu-Assad.
Stars: Idris Elba, Kate Winslet, Beau Bridges. 2017. 112 min. Action.

Flatliners

Medical student Courtney (Page) has a deep interest in both death and the concept of the afterlife, and she persuades two of her fellow students, Sophia (Clemons) and Jamie

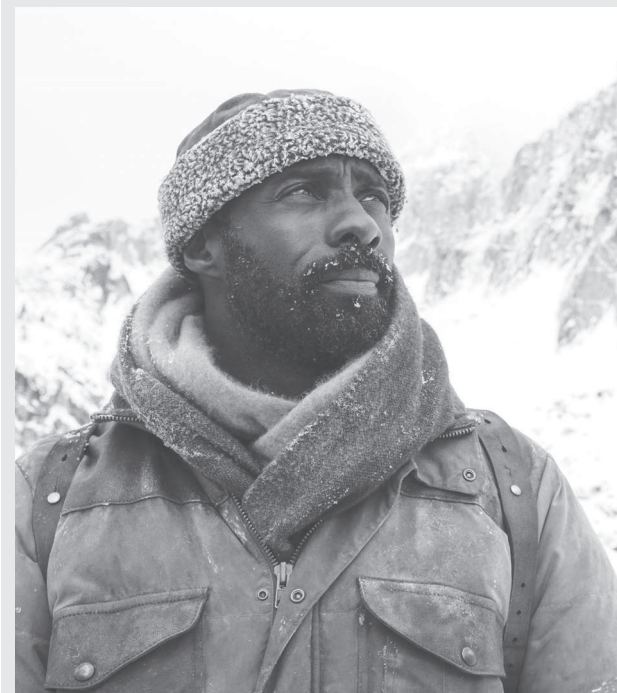
(Norton), to help her explore what happens after death. Using medical equipment, they stop Courtney's heart for 60 seconds before reviving her, and while dead, she finds herself reliving past events, which she vividly remembers upon being revived. Soon, she and her friends are frequently "killing" and reviving one another, but when the darker parts of their past begin returning to haunt them, the lines between the living and the dead begin to blur in terrifying ways.

Director: Niels Arden Oplev.
Stars: Ellen Page, Diego Luna, James Norton, Kiersey Clemons, Nina Dobrev, Kiefer Sutherland. 2017. 110 min. Drama.

Killing Gunther

Gunther (Schwarzenegger) is the deadliest and most successful assassin in the world, but even his well-honed skills are put to the test when an elite team of killers for hire assembles with one single-minded goal: to kill Gunther. Luckily for him, the attempts on his life are almost laughably inept, especially for a killer whose own skills have been honed through years of use.

Director: Taran Killam. Stars: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Cobie Smulders, Allison Tolman, Hannah Simone, Bobby Moynihan, Taran Killam, Scott McNeil, Aaron Yoo. 2017. 92 min. Action.



Idris Elba stars in "The Mountain Between Us"

Cooking this week

SATURDAY

4:00 p.m. WGBH (2) French Chef WENH (11) The French Chef Classics Classic French Chef episodes featuring Julia Childs.
FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy explores the amazing destination Disneyland.
TRAV (67) Food Paradise We find eight great Mexican food restaurants.
4:30 p.m. WGBH (2) French Chef WENH (11) The French Chef Classics Classic French Chef episodes featuring Julia Childs.
5:00 p.m. WGBH (2) French Chef WENH (11) The French Chef Classics Classic French Chef episodes featuring Julia Childs.
FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives **TRAV (67) Food Paradise** Make-your-own lobster tacos in Brooklyn.
5:30 p.m. WGBH (2) French Chef WENH (11) The French Chef Classics Classic French Chef episodes featuring Julia Childs.
6:00 p.m. WGBH (2) French Chef WENH (11) The French Chef Classics Classic French Chef episodes featuring Julia Childs.
FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy is celebrating southern home cooking.
6:30 p.m. WGBH (2) French Chef WENH (11) The French Chef Classics Classic French Chef episodes featuring Julia Childs.
7:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy is cruising the lone star state.
8:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy fires up big tie barbecue all over the country.

SUNDAY

5:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Iron Chef: Behind the Battle Chef Michael Symon competed without a sous chef.
TRAV (67) Food Paradise Discover the best stuffed foods in the nation.
6:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Iron Chef Showdown Chefs Brian and Ryan battle to face Iron Chef Izard.
TRAV (67) Food Paradise Enjoy some of America's tastiest BBQ dishes.
7:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Guy's Grocery Games The final four compete to win \$40,000 for charity.
TRAV (67) Food Paradise A ghost pepper burger in Texas.
8:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Guy's Grocery Games Chefs make a wintertime favorite with eight items.
TRAV (67) Food Paradise Proteins that satisfy every carnivorous craving.

MONDAY

6:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Holiday Baking Championship
TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods America Andrew finds a taste of the Wild West in Denver.
7:00 p.m. WGBX (16) The Great British Baking Show Mary and Paul detail how to make a perfect mince pie.
FOOD (40) Holiday Baking Championship The last three bakers show off their decorating chops.
TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods America Hunting grouse to making moose head soup.
8:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Holiday Baking Championship The final bakers compete to be Holiday Baking Champion.
TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations Andrew samples traditional Newfoundland cuisine.

TUESDAY

6:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Chopped Four remaining champs return to claim the grand prize.
TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations Andrew introduces the welcoming dishes of Amman.
6:30 p.m. TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations Andrew digs into Brooklyn, New York's, iconic eats.
7:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Chopped The finalists are given hamburger buns for dessert.
TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations Crab hot pot; pork dumpling soup; stinky tofu.
7:30 p.m. TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations Andrew explores the favorite foods of Pittsburgh.
8:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Chopped A basket ingredient with a 'secret' history.
TRAV (67) Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations Andrew highlights iconic Berlin street foods.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Iron Chef America: Tournament of Champions Chef Geoffrey Zakarian battles Chef Michael Symon.
7:00 p.m. WGBX (16) The Great British Baking Show For the first time, there's a baking burglary.
FOOD (40) Iron Chef America: Tournament of Champions The top two finalists battle in Kitchen Stadium.
8:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Iron Chef Showdown Chefs Brian and Ryan battle to face Iron Chef Izard.

THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Beat Bobby Flay Ian Boden matches up with NYC chef Danielle Duran.
6:30 p.m. FOOD (40) Beat Bobby Flay Sophie Flay and Alton Brown surprise Bobby.

7:00 p.m. WGBX (16) The Great British Baking Show The remaining bakers undertake phyllo pie.
FOOD (40) Chopped Time management gets a competitor in trouble.
8:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Chopped Chefs find duck tongue in their first basket.

FRIDAY

3:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy tries meals done fresh and a little different.
3:30 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Sweet potato pancakes; a soft-shelled crab BLT.
4:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy Fieri visits an oyster bar in New Orleans.
4:30 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Revisiting favorites from past episodes.
5:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy visits a Peruvian restaurant in Chicago.
NESN (51) Dining Playbook With Bill & Jenny Covering sports and food in New England.
5:30 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy visits unique comfort food places.
6:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Some standout veggie and meat dishes.
6:30 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy gets into some righteous barbecue in Dallas.
7:00 p.m. WGBX (16) The Great British Baking Show The remaining bakers face biscuits and traybakes.
FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy seeks out the tastes of Europe.
7:30 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Taking childhood favorites to a gourmet level.
8:00 p.m. FOOD (40) Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Dumplings; ramen; cheeseburger pizza; roast beef.

Newburyport Daily News, MA: Food Dec 23, 2017 to Dec 29, 2017



Baking is made easy in 'Baked in Vermont'



Gesine Bullock-Prado hosts "Baked in Vermont"

By Andrew Warren
TV Media

Is there anything quite like the smell of freshly baked goods coming out of the oven? That warm, mouthwatering scent that fills countless homes at this time of year is definitely one of my favorites, and while the smells that are no doubt filling Gesine Bullock-Prado's kitchen don't make their way through the TV screen (where's my Smell-O-Vision television?), by the look of her baked goods, they probably smell absolutely amazing.

The acclaimed pastry chef, baking instructor and cookbook author has been sharing some of her top baking tips all month in "Baked in Vermont," on Food Network. She believes that anyone can bake with just a bit of knowledge and some confidence — not to mention lots of flour and butter — and she's invited audiences into her Vermont home, where she shares tips and tricks to help make baking accessible to even the clumsiest of cooks.

In this week's episode, airing Saturday, Dec. 30, Prado invites some friends over to make tasty apple cider together in her barn. Always the perfect host, she bakes

up an amazing apple-inspired brunch to share with her guests — and invites us along, too. First on the menu are poached eggs on English muffins with hollandaise: all made from scratch, of course.

On the sweeter side of things are a batch of apple cider doughnuts, served alongside a latticed apple slab pie. Of course, any good spread of tasty treats also needs an equally good thirst quencher, and Prado's sparking apple cider cocktail certainly fits the bill.

Baking may have a reputation for being mostly sweets, but all month Prado's been sharing tips on how to make perfect savory pastries. She's made fluffy cheese puffs, succulent steak hand pies and an incredible hearty pork pie. Of course, that doesn't mean that the sweet side of things has been neglected. Quite the contrary. With gingerbread cookies, a decadent interior cake and even homemade caramels all having found a home in her kitchen, this is a baker who gives both the savory and sweet sides of baking their due.

Gesine Bullock-Prado makes baking seem so easy, and with her sage advice it usually is. The latest episode of "Baked in Vermont" airs Saturday, Dec. 30, on Food Network.



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ACROSS

- 1 Snap and Crackle's companion
- 4 Letters on a Soyuz rocket
- 8 Funny kind of gift
- 11 Nev. neighbor
- 12 MGM mascot's sound
- 13 ___ fide (in bad faith)
- 14 Teachers' org.
- 15 Better than all the rest
- 17 ShriII
- 19 Beast of burden
- 20 Ultimate object
- 23 Channel that's soon to be rebranded as Paramount Network
- 26 Singer Gorme
- 27 Part of a laugh
- 28 Famous American explorer
- 29 Oven emanation

DOWN

- 1 Captain Kirk, these days
- 2 Greek theaters
- 3 Early late-night name
- 4 "Top Gun's" (1986) top gun
- 5 The heads of some old "SNL" characters
- 6 Mystery writer John Dickson ___
- 7 Long-running game show "The ___ is Right"
- 8 Israeli model-

- 32 He played a bit of a geek in "Stranger Things": Sean ___
- 34 Ryder, who plays a worried mom in "Stranger Things"
- 36 From ___ Z
- 37 Hit 2017 film starring the actors named in 1 and 8 Down
- 42 Put into another language
- 44 Grand ___ Opry
- 45 Actress Diana, who was nicknamed "The Blonde Bombshell"
- 46 Like the Empire in "Star Wars"
- 47 Jon Snow and Tyrion Lannister's home
- 48 Get the picture
- 49 Stagger
- 50 ___ Diego

- turned-actress who starred in "Furious 7" (2015)
- 9 Brewpub offering
- 10 Gallivant
- 13 "Homeland" star Patinkin
- 16 Creepy plant
- 18 Neighbor of Iran: Abbr.
- 21 "How to Murder Your Wife!" (1965) star Virna ___
- 22 Low-fat
- 23 "Jaws" (1975) and "From Russia with Love" (1963) star Robert
- 24 ___-mutuel (betting system)
- 25 Some pots and pans
- 30 Mars has two of them
- 31 Landers and others
- 32 "Agent Carter's" Carter
- 33 Michigan's ___ Canals
- 35 "Will & Grace" surname
- 36 Bandleader Shaw
- 38 Roof overhang
- 39 Scale that measures hardness
- 40 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
- 41 Light on Broadway
- 42 QBs' goals
- 43 Caviar

Solution on page 7

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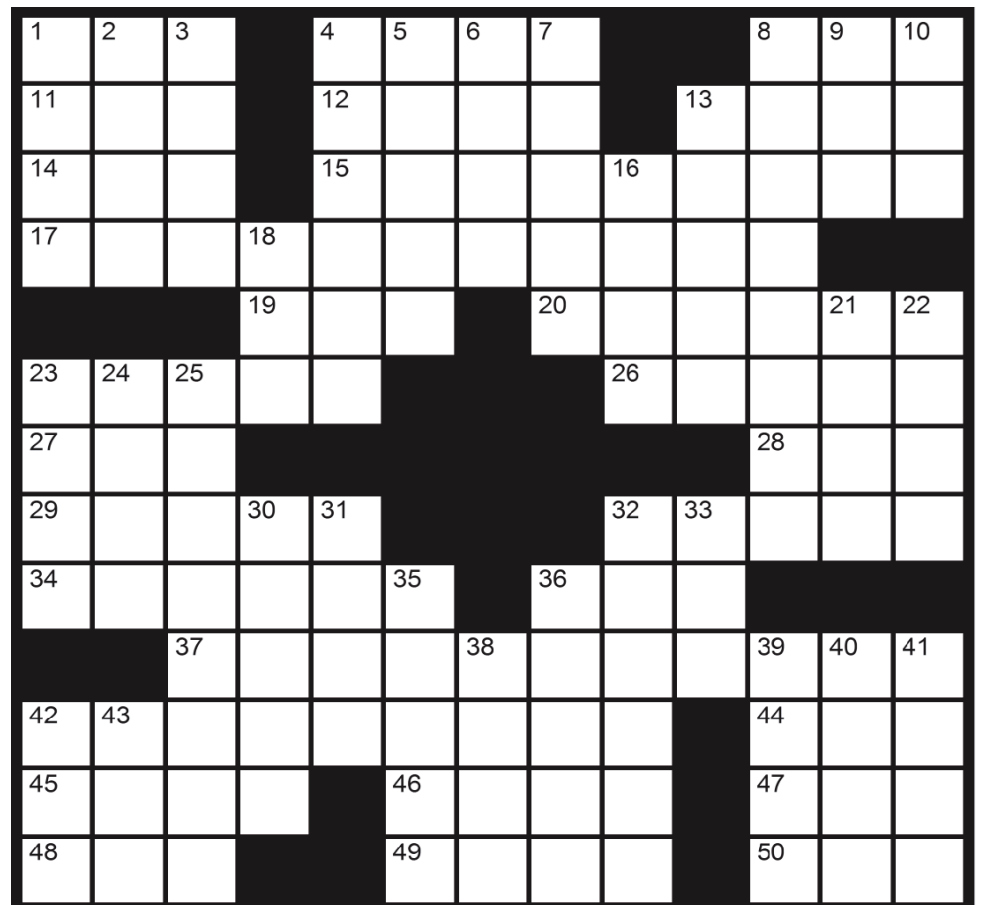
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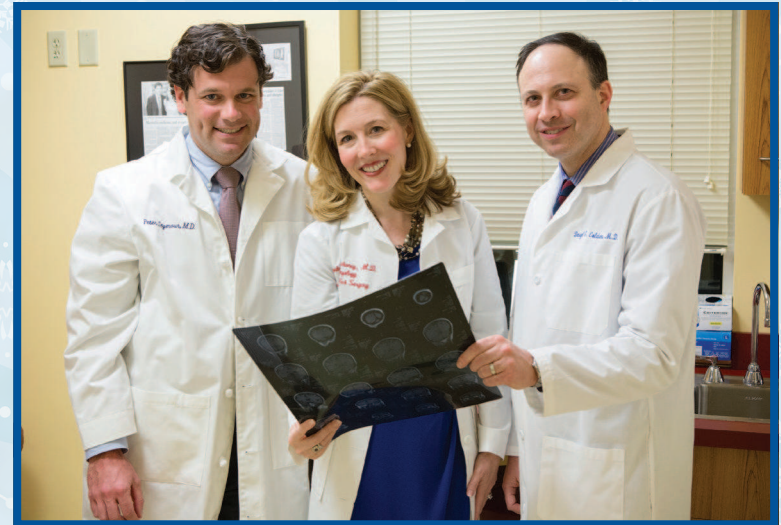


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