

25 Hidden Gem British Mysteries & Dramas

Shows You Haven't Watched Yet — But Absolutely Should

Curated by British TV Dramas & Mysteries: Classics and New Favorites · britishtvhub.com

These aren't the shows everyone talks about. These are the ones that deserve a second look — the forgotten gems, the cancelled-too-soon classics, and the quiet masterpieces hiding in plain sight.

1. Hamish Macbeth 1995–1997 · Crime / Comedy

Robert Carlyle as a laid-back Scottish constable who'd rather be left alone. Charming, quirky, and utterly addictive.

2. Middlemarch 1994 · Period Drama

George Eliot's masterpiece brought to life. A sweeping portrait of Victorian England that rivals anything made since.

3. Waking the Dead 2000–2011 · Crime Thriller

Cold case unit led by the volatile DCI Boyd. Darker and more psychologically complex than most crime procedurals.

4. The Cazalets 2001 · Period Drama

A sprawling family saga set against WWII. Criminally underseen and beautifully performed.

5. Jonathan Creek 1997–2016 · Mystery / Comedy

A magic trick designer who solves 'impossible' crimes. Endlessly clever and hugely entertaining.

6. Rumpole of the Bailey 1978–1992 · Legal Drama

Leo McKern as the irascible barrister Horace Rumpole. Witty, warm, and one of TV's great characters.

7. The Lakes 1997–1999 · Drama

Gritty, gorgeous, and deeply human. A young man escaping his past finds trouble in the Lake District.

8. Fingersmith 2005 · Period Thriller

Sarah Waters' Victorian con-artist tale with a jaw-dropping twist. Only 2 episodes — utterly unmissable.

9. Kingdom 2007–2009 · Drama / Comedy

Stephen Fry as a small-town Norfolk solicitor. Gentle, warm, and quietly wonderful.

10. Hustle 2004–2012 · Crime / Caper

A team of long con artists working London. Slick, stylish, and endlessly fun.

14. The Hour 2011–2012 · Drama

Think Mad Men but in a 1950s BBC newsroom. Cancelled after two perfect series.

15. Garrow's Law 2009–2011 · Legal / Period

Based on the real 18th-century barrister who transformed British law. Gripping courtroom drama.

16. Porterhouse Blue 1987 · Comedy / Satire

Tom Sharpe's savage satire of Cambridge college life. Wickedly funny and beautifully cast.

17. The Tunnel 2013–2017 · Crime Thriller

British remake of The Bridge set between England and France. Stephen Dillane is extraordinary.

18. Marchlands 2011 · Supernatural / Drama

Three families, same house, three different eras. Atmospheric ghost story that haunts you after.

19. Cutting It 2002–2005 · Drama

Rival hairdressing salons, messy lives, and great writing. Forgotten gem from the BBC.

20. Restoration Home 2011–2013 · Documentary

Families restoring crumbling historic homes. More gripping than any property show has a right to be.

21. North Square 2000 · Legal Drama

Gritty, realistic barrister drama set in Leeds. Only one series but it's a masterclass.

22. The Bletchley Circle 2012–2014 · Mystery / Thriller

Former WWII codebreakers solve crimes in 1950s London. Sharp, feminist, and brilliant.

23. Five Days 2007 · Crime Drama

A missing mother case told across five non-consecutive days. Devastating and beautifully crafted.

11. The Fades 2011 · *Supernatural*

BAFTA-winning supernatural thriller cancelled too soon. Genuinely scary and brilliantly written.

12. Cranford 2007 · *Period Drama*

All-star cast in Elizabeth Gaskell's gentle portrait of a small Victorian town. Pure comfort viewing.

13. Wire in the Blood 2002–2008 · *Crime Thriller*

Robson Green as a criminal psychologist. Darker than Morse, smarter than most. Hugely underrated.

24. Occupation 2009 · *Drama*

Three soldiers return from Iraq to civilian life. Bold, angry, and necessary. One of the BBC's finest.

25. The Secret 2016 · *True Crime Drama*

James Nesbitt in a chilling true-crime drama about a double murder in Northern Ireland. Unmissable.

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