

Ricky Gervais talks to Total Film about the Extras extras...

On the disc, you say that the show is about Andy and Maggie, but it was always going to be remembered for the guest stars...

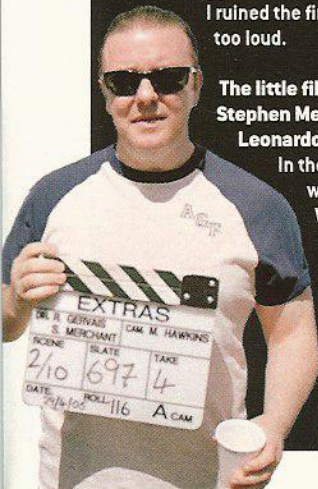
Yeah, that's what the press picked up on. But then they're not going to say, "A new sitcom starring Barry from *EastEnders!*" when Sam Jackson is in it. I think when people watch it again, though, they'll realise that it's an ensemble piece like *The Office*, where the other characters are just as interesting as the stars.

Did the stars refuse to do anything?

Nah, we got their approval on everything early. Ben Stiller did a bit of improv with the old woman, where he broke her jaw, she swallowed her teeth and then he snapped her neck – and I cracked up. I ruined the first take by laughing too loud.

The little film where you and Stephen Merchant try to get Leonardo DiCaprio is ace...

In the hotel room? Yeah, we were hopeless. We were both tired and had had a couple of beers and we were a pair of bumbling fools, basically. We couldn't even get an outside line!
Scott Russon



THE MUPPET SHOW U

SEASON ONE

Out 14 November (£34.99)

Show ★★★★★ Extras ★★★★★

Jim Henson's puppet army had been doing telly guest spots for more than a decade before they got their own variety show in 1976. The Muppets were instant superstars, their weekly prime-time slot an exuberant, felt-covered cavalcade of rowdy slapstick, song-and-dance routines, groany gags and peculiar guest stars (a Swiss mine troupe called *Mummenschanz?* Go figure). Hanging out with Henson's indelible characters is where the fun lies: Kermit's eternal, scrunch-faced exasperation, Statler and Waldorf's heckler double-act and the great Gonzo.

The extras here are fun, if a bit meagre. The Muppet Morsels that can pop up during episodes fill in background anecdotes, but it would have been nice to hear some yakking about Henson's genius.

BEST BIT Miss Piggy makes her porcine passion for Kermit known during a musical number, thus creating TV's greatest unrequited love story...

Matt Mueller

JERRY SPRINGER:

THE OPERA 18

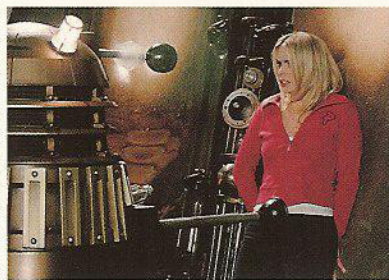
Out 14 November (£19.99)

Show ★★★★★

Extras ★★★★★

From Fringe to West End to infamy, *Jerry Springer: The Opera* began life in early 2001 as a workshop at south London's Battersea Arts Centre.

Word-of-mouth turned it into a hit musical. As several people, including Springer himself, note in the DVD extras, the white-trash talk-show already had all the elements in place for a classical opera – love, betrayal, tragedy, redemption and a baying chorus/audience – it just needed creator Richard Thomas and co-writer Stewart Lee to shape it into a foul-mouthed crowd-pleaser, comprising chicks-with-dicks, scat-obsessed infantalists and wannabe pole-dancers. Included on this disc is the somewhat static taped stage version which aired on BBC2 to hundreds of complaints from Christian groups, plus a 15-minute doc on its evolution, a 20-minute piece on the composing process with Thomas and Lee and a brilliant chat-track, during which they order lunch and go to the bog.
BEST BIT "What the fuck? What the fuck? What the fucking fucking fuck!?"
Emma Morgan



DOCTOR WHO 12

SERIES ONE

Out 21 November (£69.99)

Show ★★★★★ Extras ★★★★★

A few months back teatime telly felt familiar again as the Doctor and his wheezing blue box re-materialised on our screens. Christopher Eccleston's Doctor brought a touch of dash to a character who's roamed the airwaves since 1963 – his leather jacket, goofy grin and sudden seriousness the perfect foil for Billie Piper's surprisingly likeable companion, Rose. The temptation for comedy proved a little too strong at times, but 21st-century *Doctor Who* revitalised what could have been a hokey old formula with sharp scripts, poignant drama and panoramic TV-scale effects.

The quality of the series is reflected in an array of extras that range from commentaries (no Eccles, though) and video diaries to BBC3's series of behind-the-scenes shows, exclusive featurettes and trailers. Fantastic.

BEST BIT A Time Lord, a dark room and an imprisoned enemy in the episode 'Dalek': "Doc-torr? The Doc-toorr? Ex-ter-min-ate!"
Jayne Nelson