

# DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY RETURNS HOME TO CARDIFF FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH THE QUEEN

**The Royal Variety Performance** returns to ITV1 with a glittering line up of international stars and home grown talent, all performing for **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** and His Royal Highness **The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G.K.T.**

Topping the bill is the woman with the biggest voice in show business – DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY. Recorded at The Wales Millennium Centre, it will be a triumphant home coming for Dame Shirley as she returns to Cardiff's Tiger Bay to bring the spectacular night of entertainment to a close.

Also playing to a home crowd will be vivacious Welsh singing sensation CHARLOTTE CHURCH, along with one of the biggest names in classical music - opera star KATHERINE JENKINS.

And having made his Royal Variety Performance debut in 1959, SIR CLIFF RICHARD will celebrate a career that has spanned over 45 years by performing a medley of his greatest hits.

Star of her own award winning Television Series CATHERINE TATE will be bringing viewers the best of British comedy, along with everybody's favourite funny man and reigning King Of The Jungle JOE PASQUALE.

Brand new comedy comes in the form of BBC New Comedy Award winner ALAN CARR.

Musically there's something for everybody as WILL YOUNG exclusively performs his next single with the Royal Variety Performance Orchestra, McFLY make their Royal Variety Performance debut, whilst IL DIVO get us in the festive mood with an exclusive performance of a Christmas favourite.

Top variety talent from around the world includes award-winning New York sensation THE BLUE MAN GROUP who will be making their UK television debut. The Blue Man Group will be performing with other stars to create several unique 'one night only' not to be missed performances.

Further performances include the world's premier roller skating act, THE SKATING WILLERS, whilst the awe-inspiring Polish CAESAR TWINS fly direct from Australia to perform a routine from their sell out show.

Two of the greatest operatic stars of our time, Italian tenor ANDREA BOCELLI and Welsh baritone BRYN TERFEL take centre stage for a haunting duet, and in the first televised performance from the West End Hit, GUYS AND DOLLS, the cast will give a special performance of *Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat* – the biggest number from the hit show.

Making a welcome return to the Royal Variety Performance are Blackpool's FUNNY GIRLS who for one night only will be performing with ANDRE PORTASIO from the English National Ballet.

Australian comedians the UMBILICAL BROTHERS and award-winning violinist NICOLA BENEDETTI all form part of the entertainment calendar's most glittering night.

This year's show is produced by JAMES SUNDERLAND and the Executive Producers are SUE ANDREW and ITV's Controller of Entertainment MARK WELLS.

James Sunderland says: "This year's Royal Variety Performance has something for everybody – Music, Comedy, Variety and Spectacle. We're putting artists together in ways never seen before to create unique 'one night only' performances which will be remembered for years. I am delighted that Dame Shirley Bassey will be closing what promises to be an unforgettable night of classic entertainment."

LAURIE MANSFIELD, Life President of the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund – the beneficiaries of the royal Variety Performance – added: "We are thrilled to be bringing the Royal Variety Show to Cardiff for the first time in such a spectacular fashion. This promises to be one of the great nights in entertainment both in the theatre and on television."

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