



Holmes and Watson triumph at Baftas

BBC shows dominate at TV awards ceremony

The X Factor and Downton Abbey are surprise losers

John Plunkett and Josh Halliday

It was appropriate that BBC's acclaimed modern retelling of the Sherlock Holmes story should triumph at the Bafta TV awards last night, on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday.

The updated crime drama beat ITV's Downton Abbey to the best drama series prize and one of its stars, Martin Freeman, won best supporting actor for his role as Doctor Watson.

But Benedict Cumberbatch, who starred as Sherlock Holmes, lost out in the lead actor category to Daniel Rigby, who played Eric Morecambe in another BBC drama, the Victoria Wood-produced comic biopic Eric and Ernie.

Freeman described the show as a "love story" between Holmes and Watson. "Not just a love story - these two people who love and need each other in a slightly dysfunctional relationship, but in a relationship that works," he said.

Cumberbatch said: "It's just terrific. It's validation for what we have been doing, we went in with confidence but to come out with an award is wonderful."

The surprise winner of the awards at London's Grosvenor House hotel was ITV2's "fake tan and fur coats" docusoap The Only Way Is Essex, which beat Sherlock and Downton Abbey to the YouTube Audience Award, voted for by viewers.

Bafta history was made with the first 3D winner, Sky's Flying Monsters 3D. Narrated by Sir David Attenborough, it won the specialist factual prize, beating BBC's Human Planet.

Attenborough, 85, said rumours of his retirement were premature. "I couldn't

believe this would come to me at this stage in my career," said Attenborough. "3D has a lot of problems - the cameras are huge and that's quite a hard problem to solve - so to get it on air and now to win this is a dream come true."

Attenborough, who is making another two 3D documentaries for Sky, added: "I never said I wanted to retire - as long as people want me to stand up and carry on doing these things I will do, I assure you."

Steve Coogan won his third Bafta for The Trip, in which he played himself opposite Rob Brydon. "This is one of the hardest roles I have ever had to prepare for," joked Coogan. "I have spent the best part of 40 years researching it, I still haven't quite found out who it is."

Another BBC2 comedy star, Miranda Hart, lost out in the female comedy performance category to Jo Brand for her BBC4 hospital-set sitcom, Getting On. Brand said: "I am flabbergasted, mainly because over the years I have been so slagged off for my acting ability by the critics. I am getting an awful lot of schadenfreude from all those critics who hate me."

The awards' host Graham Norton won the best entertainment performance prize, but his BBC1 chat show lost out in the entertainment programme category to a surprise winner, ITV's The Cube, which also beat fellow ITV show The X Factor.

Another surprise was the lack of prizes for ITV's Downton Abbey and BBC's Doctor Who.

Former News at Ten presenter Sir Trevor McDonald received the prestigious Bafta fellowship award. McDonald said it was the responsibility of news broadcasters to "make accessible to as wide an audience as possible the complex issues that arise in national and international politics".

TV producer and Comic Relief co-founder Peter Bennett-Jones, who received Bafta's special award, revealed that the charity had raised a record £102m in 2011 and demonstrated the "positive power of television".



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Bafta highlights

Best actor Daniel Rigby, Eric and Ernie
Best actress Vicky McClure, This Is England '86
Supporting actor Martin Freeman, Sherlock
Supporting actress Lauren Socha, Misfits
Entertainment performance Graham Norton, The Graham Norton Show
Single drama The Road to Coronation Street
Drama series Sherlock (pictured above)
Drama serial Any Human Heart
Continuing drama EastEnders
Factual series Welcome to Lagos

Specialist factual Flying Monsters 3D
Single documentary Between Life and Death
Features Hugh's Fish Fight
Current affairs Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children
News coverage ITV News at Ten: The Cumbria Murders
Entertainment programme The Cube
Comedy programme Harry and Paul
Situation comedy Rev
Bafta special award Peter Bennett-Jones
Bafta fellowship Sir Trevor McDonald

Erotic Magrittes to go on show in Liverpool

Maev Kennedy

A loan from a very private collector of rare drawings, which have never been exhibited in Britain before, is causing headaches for Tate Liverpool. The problem might surprise those who know René Magritte only as the artist of bowler hats and umbrellas, the most buttoned up and respectable member of the surrealist movement.

The drawings, which in Magritte's native Belgium have been seen only once in a small exhibition, could be politely described as erotic. Although beautifully drawn, and with an impeccable literary pedigree, they are undeniably first cousin to the kind of graffiti that might be found on a bike shed wall.

"We might make them a little boudoir of their own," said Christoph Grunenberg, director of Tate Liverpool and joint curator of the most comprehensive exhibition of Magritte's work staged in Britain. "We don't want to cordon them off or put them behind a curtain - but we don't want to force everyone who comes to the show to walk right into them."

The Tate will exhibit all six explicit drawings, including a tiny man walking towards a giant vagina, and a winged phallus flying across a dawn sky. Magritte produced them in the 1940s for a proposed illustrated edition of Madame Eduarda, an erotic novella by the French philosopher and surrealist Georges Bataille. In the event, the book was never published.

They reflect an unexpectedly laddish sense of humour in an artist who painted in a three-piece suit.

"We want to allow people to avoid them if they wish - but we think most of our visitors will find them very interesting," Grunenberg said.

René Magritte: The Pleasure Principle is at Tate Liverpool from 24 June to 16 October