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EastEnder Groves out of Strictly

EastEnder Ricky Groves and dance partner Erin Boag have become the latest couple to leave BBC One show Strictly Come Dancing.

Olympic athlete Jade Johnson was also forced to withdraw from the series after failing to recover from a ligament injury.

Groves, this week's lowest scoring contestant, had performed the Tango with dance partner Erin Boag.

He told the judges he knew he had made mistakes during the routine.

He said: "You make mistakes, you've got to go, maybe it's my time to go."

"I'm not making excuses, I mucked up out there," he added.

Head judge Len Goodman said there were "too many mistakes" and he "kept going wrong", while Bruno Tonioli said the performance ended "very, very badly".

Groves was in the dance off against Footballers' Wives actress Laila Rouass.

Johnson, a two-times Commonwealth Games and European Championship silver medallist, is hoping for a podium finish at the 2012 Olympics in London.

Her injury raised fears the long jumper could jeopardise her long term career if she continued in the competition.

She said: "I'm a competitor and I don't give up easily so I'm absolutely gutted that it means that I can't continue dancing in the show.

"I've had a great time and really enjoyed learning to dance, and I am going to miss training with Ian who has been a fantastic partner.

"I'd like to thank all of the people at home who have been supporting me right the way through."

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Jackson drugs bought in Las Vegas

Michael Jackson's personal doctor bought anaesthetic Propofol in Las Vegas and had it sent to Los Angeles, newly-released court papers show.

Search warrant records show Dr Conrad Murray bought it in May at about the same time he was hired by Jackson.

The coroner investigating Jackson's death has ruled it was homicide, primarily caused by Propofol.

Dr Murray admits administering the drug to Jackson on the day he died - 25 June - but denies any wrongdoing.

He says he had been injecting Jackson with the drug at the singer's rented Los Angeles house each night to help him sleep.

Propofol is a powerful anaesthetic normally administered to patients having surgery in hospital.

WHAT IS PROPOFOL

- A powerful anaesthetic usually used before and during surgery
- Can also be used in small doses to reduce stress or anxiety
- Produced as a white, opaque fluid and administered intravenously
- Marketed under the trade name Diprivan

The newly-released documents were made available following a request from lawyers representing media outlets including the Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times and celebrity website TMZ.

They reveal that investigators found receipts in Dr Murray's Las Vegas office showing that he bought Propofol on 12 May from Applied Pharmacy Services.

Dr Murray, who has not been charged with any crimes, bought five 100ml bottles of the drug costing \$853 (£515).

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said that Dr Murray, who is licensed in Nevada, California and Texas, had not broken any laws in buying Propofol in one state and administering it in another.

Dr Murray's lawyer Edward Chernoff said there were no surprises in the documents.

"The fact that Dr Murray ordered five bottles of Propofol is consistent with what he told investigators," he added.

Los Angeles police are treating Jackson's death as a homicide investigation.

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Midnight record for Twilight film

The sequel to hit teenage vampire movie *Twilight* is expected to score one of the biggest opening weekends ever for a non-summer film, experts predict.

It is thought that *New Moon* will take nearly \$100m (£60m) when it opens in UK and US cinemas on Friday.

The first movie in the series, starring Brit actor Robert Pattinson, made \$69.6m (£41.8m) last year.

Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire holds the current record with takings of \$102m (£61.3m) in 2005.

'Huge expectations'

The new film follows the romance between high school student Bella Swan and vampire Edward Cullen, and her friendship with Jacob Black, a werewolf.

The movie adaptations are based on the series of books by American author Stephenie Meyer.

The books have sold 85 million copies and have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Last year, *Twilight's* US opening of \$69m (£41m) beat the James Bond movie, *Quantum of Solace*, which earned \$67.5m (£40.6m).

And it took \$383m (£229m) worldwide - just ahead of Oscar sensation *Slumdog Millionaire*.

"I have huge expectations for the movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, from the box office division of film website Hollywood.com.

"I'm not going to say it's going to exceed it, but a \$100 million opening weekend, I think, is totally on the cards for this one."

In the UK, fans flocked to selected cinemas on Thursday night, which opened especially to show a midnight viewing of the new film.

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Television queen

By Kevin Connolly

BBC News, Washington

When most American corporations announce the launch of a new business plan, it is done in a statement on Wall Street or at a meeting with a handful of high-powered analysts.

When the corporation in question is Oprah, Inc, the news is delivered in a slightly tearful and clearly heartfelt statement to camera.

We are being given plenty of time to prepare ourselves for the change ahead.

The last edition of the show which is syndicated to 200 markets throughout the US and 140 countries around the world will be broadcast at the end of the 2011 season.

Oprah told her audience that after prayer and careful thought "25 years seems right in my bones and right in my spirit".

It didn't feel quite like Oprah-geddon, as it was described in the blogosphere, but as you watched it you sensed that you were present at a big moment in American television history.

Broadcasting shift

Such is the depth and intensity of America's relationship with Oprah that this is all being reported as the end of an era.

Viewers are reminiscing about the show where she gave every member of the audience a new car or the way she marked the programme's 20th anniversary by taking 1,000 members of staff on holiday to Hawaii.

In truth it is more about changing technologies and business models in the world of broadcasting.

Oprah became rich through keeping hold of the syndication rights to her programme as it was sold to more and more broadcast television stations.

The future, though, is going to belong to other ways of reaching audiences. Oprah has a new venture with Discovery, one of the big players in American broadcasting, which will be launching in 2011.

It seems reasonable to assume that she will be appearing on that new cable channel, The Oprah Winfrey Network, to ensure that it gets the best possible start on America's crowded television landscape.

That is a shift of some significance in the way business is done in American broadcasting.

If the richest woman in American broadcasting thinks it is the moment to get into cable then the industry will sit up and take note.

Straight talk

Audiences, though, are sitting up and taking note because Oprah has made herself a comfortable and predictable part of their lives for 25 years.

This moment of change has become an opportunity for Americans to reflect on what Oprah means, in the way that the birthday of a favourite relative gives you an opportunity to express how much you love them.

Her daunting CV - philanthropist, magazine publisher, broadcaster, literary critic, Oscar-nominated actress and producer - is only part of the story.

Nor does her extraordinary wealth explain it, although she has been described as the only black woman on earth to become a billionaire and was for several years listed as America's only black billionaire.

"Her influence is so great that it amounts to a kind of power"

Part of her power lies in the fact that her life story resonates with her audience, as a kind of exaggerated version of the American dream.

She was born into rural poverty in the south and survived an abusive childhood and a teenage pregnancy to build a stratospherically successful career in television and beyond.

She became a star because of the way she opened up about her problems to her audience. Something in her honesty and her sometimes painfully emotional directness struck home with a certain type of American.

She has spoken of being abused herself - and so when she deals with the issue of abuse for example, it is real in a way that other broadcasters simply cannot match.

Her audience shares her joys and sorrows. It reads the books she recommends, it empathises with her eternal struggle with her yo-yoing weight and it allows the view from her sofa to shape its view of the world.

Political clout

Her influence is so great that it amounts to a kind of power. Her decision to endorse Barack Obama for the presidency long before he was favourite to win was a key moment in the campaign.

He had his own inspirational life story, of course, but in endorsing him Oprah was able to make much of hers too.

"There are those who say that it's not his time," she told one audience. "Think about where you'd be in your life if you'd waited when the people told you to. I wouldn't be where I am if I'd waited on the people who told me it couldn't be."

That was a moment that proved Oprah was unique. Try to imagine candidates for the most powerful job on earth seeking the endorsement of any other TV presenter.

Oprah is of course seen by African-Americans as an icon of black achievement - and so she is.

But she is a genuinely post-racial figure too - one of a very, very small number in a society which remains acutely race-conscious.

In endorsing Mr Obama Oprah was not just recognising another hard-scrabble life story which would move an audience, she was vouching for Mr Obama with a white American audience that was still getting to know him.

Much of what is being written about Oprah would almost have you believing that she is about to quit the national stage, apart from a 2010 series which she promises is going to "knock our socks off".

That really doesn't seem likely. Her new channel will consolidate her position as one of the most important entrepreneurs in American broadcasting.

But it will also give her unrivalled and unlimited opportunities to present and as a shrewd producer she will know she remains her own best asset.

This might be the end of an era for broadcast television, but you can depend on this. In every possible sense of the word, Oprah still means business.

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In pictures

A Sir Terry Wogan and Tess Daly double take, BBC newsreaders performing Beyonce and other highlights from Children in Need

Barbie dolls get naked for art's Turnip Prize

Entries have been invited for this year's Turnip Prize for bad art.

The award, an alternative to the Turner Prize, is presented by the residents of a Somerset village.

In what the organisers have described as "an insignificant development" pieces entitled Wallace and Vomit and Knickerless cage have been submitted.

Judging is due to take place on Monday. A ceremony will then be held to present the prize on 7 December at The New Inn pub in Wedmore.

Raw chicken

According to the rules, there are no barriers to entry into the competition, they simply state: "You can enter anything you like, but it must be rubbish."

Organiser Trevor Prideaux said the sculpture entitled Wallace and Vomit by Sick Puke had a good chance of claiming the prize.

"This is not art it's just regurgitation, which gives it a good chance of winning," said Mr Prideaux.

The entry entitled Knickerless cage by Sue She shows a collection of naked Barbie dolls encaged in wire mesh.

Previous winners of the gong include a raw chicken stuffed with leaves entitled Take a Leaf out of my Chook and sheep's wool stuck on top of a jar entitled Fleeced.

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Children in Need hits £20.3m mark

Top names from the worlds of TV, music and theatre are preparing to take part in Children in Need, the BBC's annual charity TV telethon.

Doctor Who, Strictly Come Dancing and EastEnders stars will be part of the seven-hour show, hosted by Sir Terry Wogan, Tess Daly and Alesha Dixon.

Comic Peter Kay will unveil this year's official single, while JLS, Pixie Lott and Spandau Ballet are set to perform.

The programme kicks off at 1900 GMT on BBC One.

Highlights this year include an exclusive preview of the Doctor Who Christmas episode and a performance from the stars of Strictly Come Dancing.

Sir Terry will appear in a special edition of period drama Lark Rise to Candleford, while the BBC newsreaders will contribute their customary musical skit.

The Dragons' Den team will be seen renovating a community centre in London, while the hosts of The One Show will recreate a scene from Fame.

The show will also include musical contributions from the casts of EastEnders, Hollyoaks and The Bill.

Organisers are hoping to repeat the success of last year's programme, which raised more than £21m on the night and almost £38m overall.

It follows Thursday's transmission of a Children in Need charity concert, held last week at the Royal Albert Hall in London, that featured performances from Take That, Robbie Williams and Sir Paul McCartney.

Children in Need has raised more than £525m for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK since the first appeal was held in 1980.

Earlier this month, Sir Terry said he planned to continue presenting the annual event "until hell freezes over".

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Vatican tries to woo back the art world

By David Willey

BBC News, Rome

Pope Benedict has invited international artists, sculptors, architects, musicians, film directors and even a solitary Italian prima ballerina to meet him under the soaring vaulted ceiling of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel in the Vatican on Saturday to begin a new dialogue between the Catholic Church and the arts.

Five hundred invitations were sent out to leading figures in the arts around the world last September, and more than 250 acceptances have been received at the Vatican.

Among them are such well-known names such as Anish Kapoor, whose current exhibition at the Royal Academy in London is drawing crowds; Zaha Hadid, the Iraqi-born British architect whose striking new Maxxi Museum of Modern Art has just opened in Rome; Daniel Libeskind, the Polish-born American who won the competition for the reconstruction of the World Trade Centre site in New York; and F Murray Abraham, the American movie star of Syrian descent who won an Oscar for Best Actor for his role as Salieri in the Mozart film, *Amadeus*, in 1985.

It is an eclectic list in which Italians outnumber all the foreigners. Among them are sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro; the doyen of film score composers, Ennio Morricone; and opera star Andrea Bocelli.

For the moment, the Vatican is being coy about revealing which artists refused the Pope's invitation or excused themselves on the grounds of a previous engagement.

The Sistine chapel choir will welcome the artists with a motet by the 16th Century composer Palestrina as they troop into the awe-inspiring chapel where Popes are elected, to hear extracts from a letter addressed by the late Pope John Paul II to the world's artists exactly 10 years ago.

Pope Benedict will then give his take on the long-established and rich connections between the Catholic Church as patron of most of the arts represented among his extensive guest list.

Crucified frog

Popes love to lecture their guests. John Paul described artists as "ingenious creators of beauty" in his address on the eve of the new

Millennium, and distinguished between the roles of "creators" and "craftsmen".

"The Church needs art," Pope John Paul wrote, "but can it also be said that art needs the Church" he went on to ask.

In today's growingly secular societies, art sometimes manages to offend the Church.

"The building of these churches, and the pride the parishioners take in them, show that we have a dialogue with the architects of modernity"

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi

A German artist, Martin Kippenberger, who exhibited a sculpture of a crucified frog at an art exhibition in Bolzano in northern Italy last year, got into hot water with the local ecclesiastical authorities.

Pope Benedict's new reaching out to artists is being masterminded by his newly-appointed culture commissar, Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, a biblical scholar, archaeologist and author, who now heads the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Church's commission for Cultural Heritage.

Within months of his appointment, Archbishop Ravasi was suggesting a Vatican cultural presence not only at the Venice Biennale but at the Frankfurt book fair and "an analogous presence in those places where the new artistic vocabulary is elaborated".

Addressing the issue of modern artists, he said in a recent interview with *Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican daily, "experience tells me that there is less a preconceived attitude of rejection [on the artists' part] than their conviction that the Church has long since taken another route. But when we show our interest, the responses we get are mostly positive".

'Devil's work'

The Vatican Museums were opened 500 years ago. A number of factors subsequently weakened the artists' relations with papal patronage.

Unification of Italy in 1870 reduced the Vatican possessions from a large swath across the peninsula to just 110 acres. As art trends gradually turned away from the figurative toward the abstract, many people, priests included, failed to keep up with the taste of art sophisticates.

"Today our problem is to get ordinary people to welcome this type of art. We need to help them to understand that art is part of the spirit," Archbishop Ravasi said.

A number of Roman Catholic churches have been built recently by such renowned architects as Renzo Piano of Italy, Richard Meier from America, and Tadao Ando of Japan - and celebrated by parishioners as well as by architecture critics.

"The building of these churches, and the pride the parishioners take in them, show that we have a dialogue with the architects of modernity," Archbishop Ravasi explains, "but there's another problem here: Often the great modern architects do not want interference with the purity of their buildings."

This architectural purity can conflict with the Church's reliance upon religious symbols.

When a church is too lacking in the traditional symbols of Catholicism, the parish priests tend to take their own initiatives, often with indifferent results, Archbishop Ravasi said.

Changing parishioners' taste will not be easy, he admits, even when a parish priest forsakes craft work for the avant-garde.

He tells the story of his introducing segments of modern music into the Church liturgy on several occasions in Milan.

"The church was filled with young people," he said. "It was a fine experience - but later I received letters of protest from older parishioners, some of whom considered the new music the Devil's work."

A small collection of modern art was first put on view in the Vatican as long ago as 1932. But it was Pope Paul VI who decided in the 1960s to extend the Vatican's huge collection of antique art to include major 20th Century artists.

Before the Sistine Chapel meeting, the invited artists are being taken on a guided tour of this collection which includes works by Francis Bacon, Graham Sutherland, Matisse and Georges Rouault. They will be gently encouraged to make a gift of one of their works to the Vatican collection.

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Lady Gaga joins royal gala show

Eccentric American chart-topper Lady Gaga is to sing for the Queen at the Royal Variety Performance at the Opera House in Blackpool.

The 23-year-old Poker Face star is known for her dramatic stage performances, including sparking fireworks shooting from her bra.

She heads to the Lancashire resort to join singers Bette Midler, Michael Buble and Miley Cyrus.

Comedian Peter Kay will host the event on 7 December.

Urban dance troupe and Britain's Got Talent winners Diversity will also perform in front of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh as part of their prize for winning the TV talent show.

The annual show is staged in aid of the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund, whose patron is the Queen.

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Oprah to end talk show

The Oprah Winfrey Show is to close in 2011 after more than two decades on air, the production company behind the programme has said.

Billionaire Winfrey, one of the most influential women in the US, has hosted the show since 1986.

A spokesman for the star's Harpo production company would not say why she had made the decision, but said she would discuss it on Friday's show.

Winfrey is expected to focus instead on the launch of her own TV channel.

The Oprah Winfrey Show is a media institution in the US, with an average of seven million viewers.

The BBC's Richard Lister in Washington says the show's open atmosphere and frank conversation redefined the talk show genre and made Winfrey the wealthiest black woman in the world.

Authors appearing on the show often become bestsellers overnight and Winfrey's support for US President Barack Obama was seen as crucial to his presidential election campaign.

Oprah is still the highest-rated talk show on US television but audiences are half what they were a decade ago.

Her empire also includes magazines, a radio show and from next year, a television network, so it would seem likely her place in American culture will continue.

OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network, is scheduled for launch in 2011.

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One dead in Cyrus tour bus crash

An accident which involved singer Miley Cyrus's tour bus has killed one passenger, US police have confirmed.

Sergeant Thomas Molnar said the bus - which the teenage singer was not on at the time - overturned as it travelled on a main road in central Virginia.

One of the other nine passengers suffered minor injuries.

The 16-year-old's website said the Hannah Montana star is expected to perform Sunday in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The Disney star is scheduled to play two dates in London next month.

Cyrus, who is the daughter of country singer Billy Ray, began her solo singing career in 2007 with her debut album, Meet Miley Cyrus.

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Magic moments

Oprah Winfrey" border="0" vspace="4" hspace="4">

The Oprah Winfrey Show is to end in September 2011, after 25 years on the air.

From controversies to celebrity sofa-jumping, here are some of the most memorable moments from the chat show's history.

FIRST EPISODE

The very first episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show was broadcast on 8 September, 1986. Initially, the format was more akin to a talk show, covering everyday issues with everyday people.

How to Marry the Man or Woman of Your Dreams was described as "a good old fashioned dating show" by producers. The topic struck a chord with viewers, easing the show on to the road to success.

THE WEIGHT WAGON

To represent her recent 67lbs (30kg) weight loss, in November 1988, Winfrey wheeled out a wagon carrying the same amount of fat. It was to start a national obsession with her yo-yoing weight.

She later described it as her "biggest, fattest" mistake saying: "I had literally starved myself for four months to get into that pair of size 10 jeans. Two hours after that show, I started eating to celebrate - of course, within two days those jeans no longer fit!"

THE GIVEAWAYS

Winfrey has become famous for her gift-giving stunts.

Annually since 2002, a segment entitled Oprah's Favourite Things has seen audience members being given everything from laptops to camcorders, clothes, TVs, DVD players and credit cards loaded with \$1000 (£607).

At the start of series 19 in 2005, Winfrey surprised nearly 300 members of her audience by giving them each a new car - a prize fund worth \$7m (£4.5m).

MICHAEL JACKSON

Winfrey's interview with Michael Jackson in 1993 from his Neverland Ranch is the highest rated single episode of the chat show.

The interview saw the star take Winfrey on a tour of his house and grounds, perform the moonwalk in his private theatre and address many

of the rumours surrounding him including the revelation he suffered from the skin-pigment disorder vitiligo.

TEXAS TRIAL

During a discussion about mad cow disease in 1996, Winfrey commented that she had been put off eating burgers. Two years later, a group of Texas cattle ranchers sued Winfrey for libel.

The entire Oprah Winfrey show had to be moved to Amarillo, Texas, for a month while a trial was conducted. However, a gagging order meant Winfrey was not allowed to mention the trial on her show or explain why she was there. She was later acquitted on all charges in 2002.

TOM CRUISE

The Hollywood star appeared on the show in May 2005 to promote his latest film, War of the Worlds.

However the interview became more famous for Cruise's excitable behaviour as he jumped around the sofa and fell to his knees with declarations of love for his then-girlfriend Katie Holmes.

After repeatedly hugging Winfrey, the star ended up running backstage and dragged an embarrassed looking Holmes back on set to display his affection for her even more.

BLOCKBUSTER INTERVIEWS

A whole host of celebrities and politicians have lined up to either promote their wares or talk about their personal problems on Oprah. In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find a celebrity who has not been on the show.

Recent guests have included singer Whitney Houston, who gave her first major interview for seven years, and opened up about her drug addiction; and Mackenzie Phillips, who alleged she had a 10-year incestuous relationship with her father John Phillips, leader of 1960s group the Mamas and the Papas.

Other heavyweights include Liberace, who made his final public appearance on Oprah on Christmas Day in 1986, dying six weeks later from Aids; and Elizabeth Taylor who refused to answer questions about her marriages and current relationship. Winfrey later described it as her worst ever interview.

Britain's Got Talent and X Factor stars Susan Boyle and Leona Lewis also got a US boost when Simon Cowell brought both of them to Oprah's attention.

JAMES FREY CONTROVERSY

Winfrey began Oprah's Book Club in 1996, where a new novel would be selected each month for viewers to read and discuss. Titles chosen became bestsellers overnight, often selling several million copies thanks to Winfrey's endorsement.

However, the star's endorsement of James Frey's memoir, *A Million Little Pieces*, landed her in controversy in 2005 after a whistle-blowing website revealed that chunks of the book - dealing with his recovery from drug addiction - were fabricated.

Winfrey invited Frey onto the show and forced him to admit he lied about the claims made in his book.

24TH SEASON PREMIERE

The first episode of the latest series saw 21,000 audience members in Chicago surprise Winfrey by breaking out in a synchronised dance routine while the Black Eyed Peas performed their hit *I Gotta Feeling*.

The dance had been taught to the entire crowd earlier in the day.

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Monkey joins Hawley on stage

By Rodrigo Davies

6 Music News reporter

Richard Hawley teamed up with Arctic Monkeys frontman Alex Turner at a gig on Thursday that affirmed Yorkshire's status as an incubator for songsmiths.

Hawley and Turner, both from Sheffield, performed a cover of Arctics' track *The Only Ones Who Know* during the former's headline set at London's Union Chapel.

Turner surprised the audience at the Little Noise Sessions by singing two unnamed songs.

Leeds-raised Corinne Bailey Rae also unveiled new material at the event.

The 30-year-old played the title track from her forthcoming album *The Sea*, as well as another song - *Do It All Again* - that recalls the tragic death of her husband Jason last year.

Confidence

Turner seemed a touch tentative as he performed a stripped-down version of *Fluorescent Adolescent*, from the Arctics' second album.

But he appeared much more at ease when joined by bandmate Jamie Cook on *Secret Door* and *Cornerstone*.

The two tracks from the band's latest album *Humbug* exuded confidence in an acoustic setting, perhaps even more so than in the studio and recent live appearances.

"I know him enough to know that he's a solid kid, a gentle bloke, and funny"

Richard Hawley on Alex Turner

Hawley, meanwhile, turned his hand not only to tracks from his three most recent albums, but also covers of the Elvis Presley track *Crawfish* and, curiously, *Hushabye Mountain* from the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Dexterous as ever both lyrically and musically, Hawley moulded the track to his characteristic croon and it sat surprisingly easily within his set.

Perhaps the most tantalising prospect of the evening was Hawley's suggestion that he and Turner might work together again.

He told BBC 6 Music: "Well, we are gonna, you know... I really want, um... I'm not saying. No, I'm not! I'll get shot."

'Little monkeys'

For a few years there has been a history of respect between Hawley and Arctic Monkeys.

Upon scooping the 2006 Mercury Music Prize, Turner joked that fellow nominee Hawley had been "robbed".

NME magazine, meanwhile, recently revealed when compiling their 50 Albums of the Decade list that Turner had voted for Hawley.

"We're not best mates but I know him enough to know that he's a solid kid, a gentle bloke, and funny," said Hawley of Turner on Thursday.

"I enjoy his company. They're all top lads, little monkeys."

Ahead of the show, Hawley revealed he did not have to go through usual formalities to get the Arctics on board.

"I went to see them when they were in Sheffield the other day and said, 'Fancy getting up with us'

"He said, 'Yeah'. It's not complicated. We don't need to do managers and 'your people talk to my people' and all that nonsense. It's just mates."

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Healthy Forsyth back on Strictly

Veteran TV presenter Bruce Forsyth is well enough to host this weekend's Strictly Come Dancing, after missing last week's because of flu.

A BBC spokesman confirmed the 81-year-old would be back on the BBC One Saturday night show.

Last weekend, his co-presenter Tess Daly was joined by Claudia Winkleman and comedian Ronnie Corbett.

It was the first time Forsyth has missed a show since Strictly Come Dancing began on BBC One in 2004.

It was announced last Friday that the star was not well enough to present and was missing the show "on doctor's orders".

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EastEnders festive scripts stolen

Scripts for Christmas editions of EastEnders have been stolen in a burglary at the home of one of the soap's writers, the BBC has said.

Executive producer Diederick Santer said he is "keen" to recover the laptop which "contains the twists and turns of our exciting EastEnders Christmas".

Actors destroyed their scripts after filming seasonal scenes to minimise the risk of leaks to the press.

This year's specials will focus on dramatic events in the Queen Vic pub.

Jackson return

Precise details about the main storyline have been a closely-guarded secret.

The festive double bill will be screened on Christmas Day and often captures the soap's biggest audience of the year.

In 2007, EastEnders' Christmas special in which the long-running affair between Max and daughter-in-law Stacey was revealed attracted 14 million viewers and was the most-watched programme of the year.

The soap has also announced the return of Billie Jackson, first played by actor Devon Anderson as a six-year-old in 1993.

He will make a comeback to Albert Square along with mother Carol Jackson, sister Sonia - played by Natalie Cassidy - and Robbie Jackson (Dean Gaffney) early next year.

Carol's eldest daughter Bianca, played by Patsy Palmer, made a return to the series earlier this year.

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Herzog to chair Berlin film jury

Berlin Film Festival jury next year" border="0" vspace="4" hspace="4">

German director Werner Herzog will head the jury at the Berlin Film Festival next year, organisers have announced.

Herzog, 67, will head the international panel that selects the winners of the coveted Golden and Silver Bear prizes.

Best known for films like *Fitzcarraldo* and *Grizzly Man*, he was nominated for the best documentary Oscar this year for *Encounters at the End of the World*.

Festival head Dieter Kosslick praised Herzog for making films that "convey the artistic strength of cinema."

"We are very pleased to have this outstanding director as jury president for the 60th anniversary of the festival."

Herzog's sequel to *The Bad Lieutenant*, with Nicolas Cage as an unconventional New Orleans police officer, was premiered at the Venice Film Festival in September.

At the same event he unveiled another work, the quirkily titled *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done*.

The 60th Berlin Film Festival runs from 11 to 21 February 2010.

Last year's jury, headed by actress Tilda Swinton, gave the Golden Bear to Peruvian film *The Milk of Sorrow*.

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Peter Kay confirms tour dates

Peter Kay announces his first solo dates for nearly seven years, with four nights in Manchester next April.

Enigma aberration

Elgar's terrible trombone playing

Queen mother

Eighteen years after the death of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury, the people of Feltham in west London are preparing to honour him with a commemorative pavement star.

Mercury was born Farrukh Bulsara in Zanzibar, 1946, to parents originally from Mumbai.

He went to boarding school in India, and along with his family moved to west London in 1964 where he enrolled in art college and embarked on his musical career.

The star's 87-year-old mother, Jer Bulsara, spoke to BBC Asian Network's Dil Neiyar about her memories of her famous son.

In a bungalow in a quiet Midlands cul-de sac in the Midlands, an 87-year-old year woman looks longingly at pictures of her son.

Her eyes moisten and her chest fills with pride as her fingers caress the images.

"I'm so proud of him," she whispers.

The pictures are of Freddie Mercury and the woman lingering over them is his mother, Jer Bulsara.

"We were in Feltham for quite some time. Freddie used to come and visit us. So it's nice that he is remembered by the people there," she says.

"He really wanted to come to England. Being a teenager he was aware about these things in Western countries and it attracted him," explains Mrs Bulsara.

She says that Freddie was a performer from a very early age.

"He used to love playing records all the time and then sing - any sort of music, folk, classical or Indian music."

But the youngster's cheery spirit was put to the test when he was sent to boarding school in Mumbai. At first he was upset at being separated from his family in Africa and was homesick.

Singing for supper

But he soon made friends with other students and formed a band called The Hectics. He was an accomplished musician and was even happy to perform for his supper.

"Any sort of music in the school he used to play and sometimes he used to play at the weekend because it was [near] a holiday resort.

"So foreigners used to come in the hotel and he was asked to play piano for them, and all just for a free dinner. He used to do that. He used to love it and it was great," beams his mother.

Freddie was 16 when the family moved to Britain. His mother and father, Bomi, were initially keen for him to continue his studies.

"He used to write some of the songs down and tuck them under the pillow before going to college"

Jer Bulsara

"He knew we wanted him to be a lawyer or an accountant or something like that, because most of his cousins were.

"But he'd say, 'I'm not that clever mum. I'm not that clever'".

It soon became apparent to the family that Freddie wanted a career in music, and at their humble terraced home he composed music that would later make him world famous.

"He used to write some of the songs down and tuck them under the pillow before going to college," his mother says.

"I used to tell him, 'Don't you put rubbish underneath or I'll throw it away!'. He used to say 'Don't throw it away, Mum, it's very important,' she laughs.

But he was soon forced to choose between living with his parents and his love of music.

"The neighbours were elderly and said that it was disturbing them. He was a very conscientious man. He knew it was disturbing them.

"I was sad when he left but he said, 'This is the only way to move forward, Mum'.

"I just told him to work hard, do his best and we were here to help him," adds Mrs Bulsara.

Freddie moved to Kensington in central London and from there his musical career took off. But he would continue to visit his parents regularly, even after he'd become a superstar.

"He used to phone me because he used to love home cooking. He'd say, 'Mum, I'm coming home' and he'd come in his Rolls Royce and the neighbours were all excited about it.

"But nobody bothered him, they were all very good and used to respect us and him," she says.

His mother's cooking even sustained Queen during long recording sessions which would stretch late into the night.

"When he used to go to studio for his music he loved the cheese biscuits that I used to bake," his mother says.

Eighteen years after his death, Queen and Freddie Mercury's legacy continue to go from strength to strength, with The X Factor recently paying homage to the band and their songs.

Mrs Bulsara is particularly proud that his former home town is now going to honour her son.

"I thought that they'd have done it earlier a lot earlier. A long time earlier. But anyway I'm very proud," she says.

Hear the full story on [Asian Network Reports](#) at 1230 BST and 1800 BST on Friday, or listen again on [BBC iPlayer](#).

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Artist Jeanne-Claude dies aged 74

Artist Jeanne-Claude, whose dramatic installations included wrapping fabric around the Reichstag in Berlin, has died at the age of 74.

The US artist, who worked alongside and under the name of her husband, Christo, died as a result of complications following a ruptured brain aneurysm.

A statement on the couple's website said he was "deeply saddened", but was committed to continuing their work.

"The art of Christo and Jeanne-Claude will continue," he wrote.

The couple - who met in Paris in 1958, and shared the same date of birth - had lived in New York for 45 years.

Recent work included 2005's *The Gates*, a highly-publicised installation which saw 23 miles of saffron drapes hung from a series of specially designed frames in New York's Central Park.

New York mayor Michael Bloomberg called *The Gates* "one of the most exciting public art projects ever put on anywhere in the world."

"New York City lost one of our great artists," he added.

The pair were well-known for their temporary "wrapping" installations, which saw them encase the Reichstag in Berlin, a Roman wall in Italy and a series of islands off the Florida coast with fabric.

Another project - in 1991 - involved thousands of yellow and blue umbrellas positioned across miles of inland valleys in Japan and California.

Currently unfinished installations include the *Over The River* project, spanning the Arkansas river in the state of Colorado, and *The Mastaba* in the United Arab Emirates, a pyramid-like structure made of 410,000 brightly-coloured oil barrels.

"Each project is a child of ours," Jeanne-Claude once said, adding that their favourite was "the next one".

The artist's body will be donated for scientific research in accordance with her wishes.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

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Blur scoop top UK festival prize

Blur's appearance on the last night of the Glastonbury festival has been named the best headline performance of 2009 at this year's UK Festival awards.

Blur frontman Damon Albarn was also named "festival fitty" at the event, held on Thursday at the O2 in London.

Other awards went to Kings of Leon and Florence and the Machine, recipients of the anthem of the summer prize and best breakthrough act respectively.

Glastonbury was named the best major festival at the annual ceremony.

The all-important prize for best toilets, meanwhile, left Scotland's T in the Park event flushed with success.

'Awe-inspiring'

The reformed Blur's performance at Glastonbury marked their first appearance at the Somerset event since 1998.

Steve Jenner, co-director of the awards, said it had been an "awe-inspiring" show in what he described as "another fantastic festival season".

As previously announced, Katrina Larkin received a lifetime achievement award for her role in establishing the Big Chill festival in Herefordshire.

The student-only Beach Break Live, meanwhile, was named best small festival, picking up an additional prize for promoter of the year.

The female equivalent of Albarn's eye-catching prize was awarded to Lily Allen.

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N-Dubz pair give rape statements

Two rappers from pop trio N-Dubz have made statements to police as witnesses in a case of an alleged rape.

Police talked to Dappy and Fazer - real names Dino Contostavlos and Richard Rawson - after an incident in Skegness.

One woman in her 20s said she was raped and assaulted at Butlins holiday camp, where N-Dubz performed at the Naughty Reunion event on Friday.

Junior Edwards, 22, of north London, has been bailed until 15 February on suspicion of rape and common assault.

Another two women, also in their 20s, said they were assaulted at the holiday camp. All three women are from the London area.

"Efforts were made to contact three remaining men but they apparently had other commitments"

Police spokeswoman

The Mobo award-winning group performed a gig at the holiday camp and the rape was alleged to have happened some time afterwards, during the night.

A Lincolnshire Police spokeswoman said: "Efforts were made to contact three remaining men but they apparently had other commitments."

The third man sought by police as a potential witness is understood to be a member of the group's entourage.

The delay in the rappers giving their statements was due to their busy schedule, their spokesman said.

He added: "Their tour started on Tuesday and today was the first available opportunity they have had to go into their lawyers' office."

The spokesman has previously insisted the band were "100% not involved", adding they were only being sought as witnesses.

About 4,500 people attended the gig, organised by holiday company 2wentys.

Other headlining acts included DJs Pete Tong and Judge Jules.

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Peas manager says sorry to Hilton

The manager of US group the Black Eyed Peas has apologised to celebrity blogger Perez Hilton over an assault outside a Toronto nightclub.

Liborio Molina's lawyer said sorry on his behalf after a court hearing which saw charges dropped in exchange for conditions including the apology.

Hilton told the Associated Press he was pleased that Molina had accepted responsibility for the incident.

Molina admitted punching the 31-year-old in the June incident.

As part of the agreement, he will only contact Hilton through his lawyer, will not come within 100 metres of the Cobra Nightclub and not carry any weapons for a year.

'Regret'

As he left the Toronto courthouse, Molina, 36, said: "Yes, I regret the whole night."

His apology stated: "I apologise for what I did on 22 June 2009, even though you engaged in highly offensive comments..."

"I acknowledge that these kinds of issues should not be resolved through a physical response."

Hilton said that he became involved in a dispute with Black Eyed Peas members Fergie and will.i.am outside the nightclub and was punched by Molina.

He claimed that he was attacked after making critical comments about the band's new release.

He posted on Twitter shortly afterwards: "I am bleeding. Please, I need to file a police report. No joke."

Molina later gave himself up to police in Toronto and was charged with assault.

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Painting in final Archers outing

The late Norman Painting, the voice of Philip Archer, will make his final appearance on long-running BBC Radio 4 drama The Archers on Sunday.

The actor, who died last month aged 85, had played the Ambridge farmer since the show's pilot episode in 1950.

The scenes were recorded just two days before Painting's death.

"It has been of great comfort to me... that he was able to carry on recording right up until the end of his life," said Archers' editor Vanessa Whitburn.

Set in the family kitchen at Glebe Cottage, listeners will hear Phil Archer enjoying Sunday lunch with his grandsons and making preparations for Christmas.

'Mischievous humour'

"It seems fitting that Norman's final scenes should perfectly reflect the character he had brought Phil to become; a grandfather and a family man, with a mischievous sense of humour, and an active interest in the workings of his much-loved farm, Brookfield," said Ms Whitburn.

Painting is featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the longest-serving actor in a single soap opera, but his appearances in recent years had been limited due to ill health.

In 2000, the actor revealed he had been diagnosed with bladder cancer but said it would not stop him recording episodes.

"I see no reason why this illness should prevent me from continuing doing what I love," he said at the time.

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In pictures

Helena Christensen documents climate change

Hudson to play Winnie Mandela

Hollywood actress Jennifer Hudson is to play Nelson Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie, in a film about her life, reports say.

Variety magazine reported Hudson was thrilled about the role and has described Ms Madikizela-Mandela as a "powerful and extraordinary woman".

Ms Madikizela-Mandela played a vital role in freeing her husband after 27 years in jail but has since been linked to a murder and convicted of fraud.

South African film-maker Darrell Roodt will direct the film.

His work also includes world-renowned films *Cry, The Beloved Country* and *Sarafina*.

Hudson is the second international actor set to play a South African icon in recent months.

Hollywood is also preparing to release *Invictus*, a Clint Eastwood film about Mr Mandela in which US actor Morgan Freeman will play South Africa's first black president.

Nelson Mandela and Ms Madikizela-Mandela were divorced in 1996 just four years after his release from Robben Island.

Her role in the release of her ex-husband is celebrated by many South Africans but she is no stranger to controversy.

She was implicated in the kidnap and murder of young activist Stompie Seipei, who was believed to be an informer for the apartheid government - although she has always denied the charges.

She was convicted of theft and fraud in 2003.

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Ferrell 'most overpaid film star'

Hollywood star Will Ferrell has topped a list of luminaries whose returns offer the least value for money.

According to Forbes' list, the movie funnyman made just \$3.29 (£1.29) for every dollar he was paid after a run of box office disappointments.

Ewan McGregor finished second, followed by Billy Bob Thornton, Eddie Murphy and rapper turned actor Ice Cube.

Forbes calculated stars' estimated earnings against the performance of their films to devise their list.

Poor performance

Box office performance, DVD and TV rights sales were all taken into account.

Tom Cruise finished sixth on the list due a series of deals in which he was not paid for movie roles, but was given a slice of the profit.

Forbes said this meant he was paid even if a film failed to recoup its costs, bringing down his average return to just \$7.18 (£4.31).

Eddie Murphy commanded a high salary after successes including *The Nutty Professor*, but his box office sheen has recently faded with the poor performance of recent films, which include the critically mauled *Meet Dave*.

The only female star to make it into the top 10 was Drew Barrymore at seven, whose average return amounted to \$7.43 (£4.46).

Last month, Forbes published a list of the actresses who give the best value for money, in which Australian star Naomi Watts came out on top.

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Nicole Richie treated in hospital

Actress Nicole Richie is responding well to treatment for pneumonia in a US hospital, her publicist has announced.

The 28-year-old admitted herself to the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Earlier this week, a judge granted her request for a restraining order against two celebrity photographers.

Richie, Paris Hilton's co-star in TV show *The Simple Life* and the daughter of singer Lionel Richie, gave birth to a son in September.

She and her partner Joel Madden, a member of rock band Good Charlotte, already have a daughter, who will be two in January.

In 2007, Richie served 82 minutes of a four-day jail sentence for driving under the influence of alcohol.

She announced her first pregnancy just days after receiving her prison term.

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Valentino on Oscar doc longlist

A film about Italian designer Valentino is one of 15 titles eligible for next year's best documentary feature Oscar.

Valentino: The Last Emperor charts the 77-year-old's final days as head of the fashion house that bears his name.

Others films longlisted by the Academy include *The Cove*, about the clandestine slaughter of dolphins in Japan.

But Michael Moore's latest, *Capitalism: A Love Story*, has been omitted from the list, to be whittled down to five ahead of the 2010 Oscars on 7 March.

The September Issue, about Vogue editor Anna Wintour, and James Toback's documentary about the boxer Mike Tyson are among other high-profile documentaries left off the longlist.

Some 89 titles had originally qualified for the category, according to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

British win

Features that did make the cut include *Burma VJ*, a docu-drama about protests in Burma made up of "video journalist" footage smuggled out of the country.

Others include a film about Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN special envoy who was killed in Iraq in 2003.

Mugabe and the White African, a British documentary about farmers fighting to hold onto their property in Zimbabwe in the face of President Robert Mugabe's land reform programme, is also included.

The five-strong shortlist will be revealed when the Academy Award nominations are announced on 2 February.

This year's best documentary Oscar went to *Man on Wire*, a British film about Frenchman Philippe Petit's high-wire walk between New York's Twin Towers in 1974.

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'Exhausted' Dallerup quits jungle

Former Strictly Come Dancing dancer Camilla Dallerup has quit ITV1's I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! just a few days after the show started.

The 35-year-old left the Australian jungle overnight after a difficult few days in camp where she was struggling with the lack of food and sleep.

She said she was so exhausted she was having difficulty summoning the energy to have a shower.

An ITV spokesman said that former boxer Joe Bugner would replace the dancer.

"It's not eating. Heat, I can deal with," Dallerup said.

"I've got the highest metabolism of anyone I know. I feel useless being here so tired. You can't help anyone," she added.

The past few days have seen the dancer in tears as she struggled to cope with the conditions.

'Too early'

Martin Benson, the show's series producer, admitted to GMTV on Wednesday that he was worried about her.

"I'm very scared about Camilla, she had a meltdown the other night and she's not been eating that well - the whole camp is worried about her," he said.

But Mr Benson added that it was "way too early" for anyone to leave so soon into the series and had been talking with Dallerup to convince her to stay.

"What I do is call her up to the Bush Telegraph and tell her to calm down, to drink some water, to eat some food and to get a good night's sleep and reassess the situation the next day," he said.

"I make sure the medics watch her at all times," he added.

The ITV spokesman said more details surrounding Dallerup's departure would be given later.

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Soul Power

"Maceo! Come here quick, and bring that funky licking stick!"

That's how James Brown introduces saxophonist Maceo Parker on the 1974 track Soul Of A Black Man.

His call to action triggers an audacious six-minute solo, full of impossibly long sustained notes and sordid runs down the musical scale.

Now 66, Parker has played with everyone in the funk lexicon, from George Clinton to Prince - not to mention guest spots with De La Soul, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Keith Richards.

He can be seen playing with Brown in the new DVD, Soul Power, which documents the legendary Zaire '74 music festival, which was organised around Muhammad Ali's "Rumble In The Jungle" fight with George Foreman.

The music legend spoke to the BBC about that concert, and how he was accidentally discovered by the Godfather Of Soul.

What made you decide to choose the saxophone out of all the instruments available to you

Actually, I was a piano player first. As far back as I could remember there was always a piano around the house, and the adults, the grown people, would come by so they could play. And that always fascinated me - all you'd have to do is push the keys down and you could get a sound.

But then I witnessed my first Christmas parade and I got very excited by the hoopla and the fanfare and I thought, "I want to do that!" I watched and watched for the piano - but my mom said, "you can't play the piano in a marching band", so I started to think I should play one of those other instruments!

The saxophone must have worked much better when you were trying to seduce girls as a teenager

I'm not so sure! You might have piano players who think it's the other way around!

But if you're serenading outside someone's window, the saxophone's much easier to drag over to their house than a piano.

I think the flute or the violin are the right instruments for serenading. But even with the drums, you could get the brushes and do some little rolls like "di-di-di-dit-di-di-da da-da-da".

In his autobiography, James Brown said he only hired you to ensure the services of your brother, Melvin. Is that true

Well, it was like this: He heard Melvin play, but he hadn't heard me play.

We were college students at the time, but I'm a year older than Melvin so he was in a whole other group - and when James Brown came to town, I was playing in a different state.

So James saw Melvin's band and asked to meet him. He said: 'If there's ever a time you're not a student and you would like to have the option of playing in my group, here's my hand.' And they shook hands and, boom, that was it.

About a year later, we decided to get the job and, on the strength of that promise, we went to see him together. Melvin just said: 'I'd like to take you up on that offer - and by the way, here's my brother.'

What happened then

James Brown turned round and said to me: 'Do you play baritone sax' And I'm thinking: 'If I say no, that's the end of the story, so I gotta say yes.'

Then he asked: 'Do you own a baritone sax' And again I said: 'UhÂ... yes sir!'

He said: 'I tell you what, if you can get a baritone sax, I'll give you a job.' And that's the way I got the job!

He always seemed like a hard task master on stage. Did you learn a lot about touring and discipline

What interested me was the on-stage stuff - how to work an audience. Sometimes he'd repeat a song, or he'd bring an audience down so he could set them up to take them back up again. That's what really fascinated me.

What was the hardest thing about working for the hardest working man in showbusiness

When we first started, we used to play six shows a day at the Apollo Theatre in New York City. That meant the curtain would close, and you'd have to rush to get some food and change your uniforms and make your shoes were okay and maybe use the facilities, then you'd be on the stage again. That was hard.

What do you remember about the Zaire '74 shows

If I can remember correctly, the Muhammad Ali fight was postponed or cancelled - so when they actually fought it we weren't there.

But the atmosphere was exciting because we didn't get the chance to do that many festivals. The chance to mingle with so many other artists was the best thing.

What performances did you catch at the festival

I can't remember too much! I remember Bill Withers being there. And I remember everyone flying over in the same aeroplane. You were in close proximity to people you admired and had heard on records. That was exciting.

On your most recent album, Roots and Grooves, you do an uncanny Ray Charles impression. Was he an inspiration

Yeah, when me and my brothers got to the point where we were able to choose the records we wanted to listen to, Ray Charles was always at the top of the stack. So somehow, without really knowing how, he became my favourite person.

If I could have only one album, it would probably be a Ray Charles album.

You also got to play with Prince during his 21 night residency in London. How was that

Well, without really getting into Prince that much, I try to make wherever I am and whatever I'm doing very, very exciting. And I look at all the projects that I do as if they were my own. And that's about the best way I can answer that.

It's impossible not to dance to songs like Pass The Peas or Papa's Got A Brand New Bag. What's the strangest move you've seen in the audience

Sly Stone recorded a tune that went: 'There's a rhythm / When you don't know what you're doing' and we allow people to have that freedom. If you come to the show and you can't dance, that's okay. That's acceptable. That doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself. You just move from side to side, or just try to pop your fingers or something.

Do you still play 320 days a year

We have peaks and valleys - so I'm not really sure. But my manager tells me the year coming up is going to be great.

My biggest worry is as I get older my stamina and my ability to play as I would like is starting to go a little bit downhill. Which means I've

gotta work harder, harder, harder. I practise two hours a day now, and I exercise so that when I do go on stage, I feel great and I can do what I normally do.

But it gets harder and harder as I have to prepare more and more.

Maceo Parker was talking to BBC News entertainment reporter Mark Savage. Soul Power is out now.

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M&S Christmas TV ad 'offensive'

Marks and Spencer's Christmas advert featuring Ashes to Ashes actor Philip Glenister has been branded as sexist.

The Advertising Standards Authority is looking into eight complaints from viewers about the "Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without..." ad.

Glenister, who played chauvinist DCI Gene Hunt in the BBC show, says: "That girl prancing around in her underwear."

The ad cuts to a model, wearing a bra and knickers, who asks: "Moi" M&S said the complaints had come as a surprise.

'Demeaning'

The French underwear model Noemie Lenoir, who twirls around in a winter woodland scene, is a regular in Marks and Spencer's advertising campaign, alongside Myleene Klass and Twiggy.

An ASA spokeswoman said eight people had been in contact to complain that Glenister's comment, coupled with the shot of Lenoir in her underwear, was demeaning to women.

The advertising watchdog will now consider the complaints and decide by the end of next week whether to launch an investigation.

The 50-second commercial also features several other big TV names, including Stephen Fry and James Nesbitt, who each say what they could not do without at Christmas.

In one segment, Jennifer Saunders says "stuffing" and Joanna Lumley, her co-star in BBC comedy *Absolutely Fabulous*, adds: "...your face, sweetie."

A spokesman for Marks and Spencer said: "We're surprised by the ASA complaints regarding Philip Glenister's appearance in our TV ad.

"Our research shows that his on-screen character in *Ashes to Ashes* is extremely popular with our customers and his lines in the ad are in keeping with that role."

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2012 movie storms UK film chart

John Cusack disaster movie 2012 has topped the UK box office, with takings of £6.48m in its opening weekend.

The Mayan-inspired film sees a series of geological and astrological disasters befall Earth in 2012.

The movie knocked Disney's *A Christmas Carol* into second place, although the animation still made more money in its second weekend than its first.

Michael Caine's latest film *Harry Brown* debuted at number three, while Disney Pixar's *Up* slipped one spot to four.

George Clooney's military satire *The Men Who Stare at Goats* also dropped one place to number five.

UK and IRELAND BOX OFFICE TOP FIVE

- 1. **2012** - £6.48m
- 2. **A Christmas Carol** - £2.5m
- 3. **Harry Brown** - £1.27m
- 4. **Up** £985,722
- 5. **The Men Who Stare at Goats** - £796,080

Source: Reuters

The animated version of Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox*, directed by Wes Anderson, remained at number six.

This Is It, the Michael Jackson film based on rehearsal footage for his ill-fated concerts, slipped five places to seven.

Alien thriller *The Fourth Kind*, starring Milla Jovavich, moved down from five to eight, while 1960s coming-of-age tale *An Education* held on to the ninth spot.

Jennifer's Body, a horror comedy, slipped to tenth position after debuting at number seven last week.

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