

## THOMAS HARDY: FATE, EXCLUSION AND TRAGEDY

### Publicity Coverage Report

# Was 'girl power' feminism or a novelty slogan?

**James  
Jackson**  
TV review



**Spice Girls**

Channel 4

★★★★☆

**Thomas Hardy**

Sky Arts

★★★★☆

**Y**ou might think that the Spice Girls only really became an unstoppable force once that maddening video for *Wannabe* arrived and they started bursting in everywhere you looked, yelling, "Girl power!" and sticking their tongues out.

Actually, no. **Spice Girls: How Girl Power Changed the World** showed that they were a gang to be reckoned with from the moment they were assembled in 1994. Long before any single was released, they had the brass to sack the guy who had just whittled them down from thousands.

Chris Herbert must have felt like a scientist whose lab experiment had accidentally caused an explosive chain reaction, creating a terrifying hydra running amok through the streets. Certainly, the programme reminded you what a brazen bunch of gobs the Spice Girls were as we returned to the old debate of whether "girl power" was a feminist rallying cry or a facile novelty slogan to sell anything (party supplies, pizzas, Channel 5 etc etc).

And from the moment that

they were merchandising mavens — sour grapes, surely — a more cutting comment was provided by the former tabloid hack Matthew Wright. "It was ironic that they would be shouting 'girl power' when it was a male machine."

The journalist Miranda Sawyer, on the other hand, pointed out that "they were winning". Both were correct, but, since this was just the first episode, we'll have to see if the series will live up to its title. Did "girl power" really dismantle deep-set inequalities? Discuss.

Overall, this was an intelligent bit of back-to-the-1990s nostalgia layered with dismay at the era's laddism. There aren't many faces that say 1990s TV pop show more than Jayne Middlemiss of *The O-Zone*; here she made you consider how the word "irony", so ubiquitous then, was actually used by men to excuse chauvinistic behaviour.

The most intriguing footage was of Geri Halliwell and Victoria Adams auditioning for the film *Tank Girl*. These opening clips — redolent of a more grungey, riot-grrrl era — made 1994 suddenly seem a long time ago, certainly a different world.

Looking back further was **Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy**, which, not pegged to an anniversary and having a loose thematic approach to his life, seemed a bit random. And unlike Ken Burns's *Hemingway*, a series of muscular authority, it felt cut from a more delicate cloth, with near- ceaseless soft strings in the background.

No matter. This was also a considered, scholarly delve into the interior life of a complicated writer, even if it left me with a slightly muddled view of the man. Despite an author's explanations about how Hardy enjoyed life, we also heard that he "found the cruelty of the world unbearable" and lived in a "malignant universe". He did write *Jude*, after all.

Then there was his sex life, or lack of it. Not getting along with wife Emma Gifford, he voraciously fancied other women, but kept things platonic, nailing his longinos into the novels

When finally he had a "sexually passionate" relationship, with Florence Dugdale, he was in his sixties, and she in her twenties. Perhaps at that point he changed his mind about how malignant the universe is.



## ROLAND WHITE LAST NIGHT'S TV

Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion And Tragedy ★★☆☆☆

A House Through Time ★★★★★

Daily Mail

# Laurels for Hardy, a literary lion but a write-off as a kind husband

**P**oor Thomas Hardy. He rises from humble origins to carve out a remarkable career as a novelist and poet, he is awarded the Order of Merit and buried in Westminster Abbey.

Yet what happens? More than 90 years after his death, he is exposed on national television as a rotten husband.

One of the most dramatic Hardy moments is the scene in which drunken Michael Henchard, later the Mayor of Casterbridge, sells his wife to the highest bidder at a country fair.

According to *Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion And Tragedy* (Sky Arts), that was probably wishful thinking: a reflection of the way he felt about his first wife, Emma.

As she once bitterly observed: 'He only understands the women he invents — the rest, not at all.'

She lived in the attic rooms of their home in Dorset, and their relationship was so bitter he turned down a knighthood because he didn't want her to be Lady Hardy.

Yet when Emma died and he was free to marry his mistress, Florence Dugdale, he was convulsed by grief and guilt.

He kept her coffin at the end of his bed for three days, visited parts of Cornwall where he and Emma had shared happy memories, and wrote some of the best poetry

of his career in her memory. Men, eh?

Hardy, who has fallen out of fashion in recent years, was a gloomy novelist and this account of his life made no attempt to lighten the mood. It was the sort of show you rarely see on mainstream television these days: a procession of serious, rather academic talking heads.

Well, mostly serious: I did note that the pro-vice chancellor of Liverpool University wore a huge brooch in the shape of a white mouse.

One light moment came when the programme recalled how Hardy probably provided inspiration for the word 'cliffhanger'. When his novel *A Pair Of Blue Eyes* was being serialised, he left his hero, Henry Knight, dangling from a cliff edge at the end of one episode.

Luckily, Henry's love interest, Elfride Swancourt, was a resourceful young woman. Even though it was 1873, she had no hesitation in whipping off her underwear and lowering it to Henry as a rope.

How fortunate that the knickers of Victorian romantic heroines came supplied by the yard.

In *A House Through Time* (BBC2), the historian Professor David Olusoga continued to discover enough drama in a modest end-of-terrace home in Leeds to cobble together a soap opera.

Last week's episode told how a young boy burned to death in a domestic accident, and last night we learnt that later residents also had their share of tragedy. One of factory owner Benjamin Wild's workers died after his arm was ripped off in an industrial accident, and later the

factory was burnt to the ground in a suspected arson attack, soon after a strike. Scooping up the insurance, the Wild family moved to the United States.

The next residents, Andrew and Mary Mellish, lost a year-old son to rickets. They were replaced by a William and Mary Lucy Whiting, who were Quakers and anti-war campaigners.

There was romance — the young man who literally married the girl next door — and a touch of glamour in the story of Edward Partridge, who mixed with the smart set (at arm's length) as a waiter on a Cunard liner.

All human life was there. I wondered, does every home in the country have similar stories to tell, or was the research team just lucky when they picked that address in Leeds?

■ CHRISTOPHER STEVENS  
*is away.*

# Gripping look at 'girl power' and the misogyny of the 90s

» **Spice Girls: How Girl Power Changed Britain**, C4, 9pm ★★★★★  
» **Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy** Sky Arts, 9pm ★★★★★

It's 25 years since Scary, Sporty, Baby, Posh and Ginger zigzagged their way to the top of the pop ziggurat and introduced the concept of "girl power" to the masses. Episode one of **Spice Girls: How Girl Power Changed Britain** thrillingly conveyed the speed of the band's ascent.

The gripping film celebrated the Spice Girls' crash, bang, wallop impact on the British cultural landscape of the mid-90s. And it acknowledged the unchecked misogyny they were required to negotiate – an important corrective to the misplaced nostalgia for the era of *Loaded* magazine and "ladette" culture.

"You could say anything you wanted, as sexist as you wanted, but if it was ironic it was fine. You're making a joke," remembered TV presenter Jayne Middlemiss.

The Spice Girls were regarded warily by some feminists at the time. Geri Halliwell had declared herself a fan of Margaret Thatcher and she and her bandmates were perceived as suspiciously vague as to the precise meaning of "girl power".

Yet they twice fired their male managers and were at all points determined to control their own

destiny. In one instructive out-take, we saw them stand up to an all-male film crew baying at the quintet, who are dressed as schoolgirls, to bare more flesh. "You can f\*\*k off, you chauvinistic pig," they told one of the hecklers.

The band – and their manager Simon Fuller – were notably absent from the film. However, bystanders to their rise had plenty to say. Lianne Morgan, who auditioned for the original line-up, revealed a tabloid newspaper later offered her £10,000 to make up a story about having had an affair with Geri. Journalist Miranda Sawyer

explained how the significance of Scary, Ginger and the gang went beyond the charts. Before the Spice Girls, girls were expected to pine after boybands. From "Wannabe" on, the Spice Girls changed all that.

"Somebody had decided we would only respond to men. What you want is some sense of adventure, of building your own identity. Some sense of release. 'Wannabe' gives you all that."

Thomas Hardy's novels open a window on to Victorian Britain, so it was fitting that this new film about the writer felt like something from a bygone era of

documentary-making.

In this age of rapid-fire factual TV aimed at those with the attention span of a *Fortnite* player, **Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy** was refreshingly unhurried. It proceeded across the screen like a cloud drifting over green pastures on a windless day.

With extensive quotations from Hardy's work and a rotating cast of serious-looking experts, few concessions were made to Hardy newcomers. The author emerged as a progressive firebrand who railed against hypocrisy and understood that entrenched prejudices were the ultimate enemy of progress.

The most explicit example was *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, a portrait of a "fallen" woman in which Hardy railed against Victorian prudishness. As one contributor put it: "Tess is a polemic against self-righteousness and the taboo on chastity." The film also unpacked Hardy's troubled first marriage, without sensationalism. He was a toxic husband, dismissive of wife Emma's ambitions to be a writer. But there was a baroque twist.

After she died, he was wracked with regret, and perhaps guilt. By then his writings had accumulated him a fortune equivalent to £6m

today. This gave him the security to turn away from novels and to write a series of tempestuous poems channelling his grief, his melancholy – and potentially his nagging conscience.

**Before the Spice Girls, girls were expected to pine**

By ROLAND WHITE FOR THE DAILY MAIL  
PUBLISHED: 08:50, 15 September 2021 | UPDATED: 08:52, 15 September 2021

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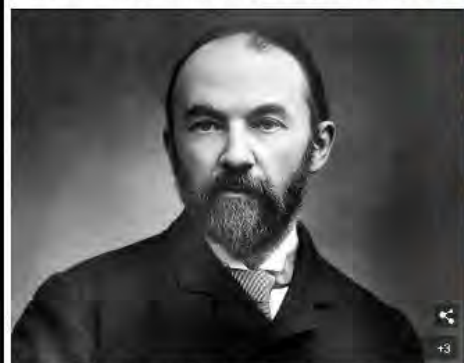


Rating: 

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Yet what happens? More than 90 years after his death, he is exposed on national television as a rotten husband.

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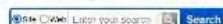


Thomas Hardy, who has fallen out of fashion in recent years, was a gloomy novelist and this account of his life made no attempt to lighten the mood, writes Roland White

As she once bitterly observed: 'He only understands the women he invents — the rest, not at all.'

She lived in the attic rooms of their home in Dorset, and their relationship was so bitter he turned down a knighthood because he didn't want her to be Lady Hardy.

Yet when Emma died and he was free to marry his mistress, Florence Dugdale, he was convulsed by grief and guilt.



\* Drew Barrymore, 46, and Cameron Diaz, 43, applauded by fans for 'embracing their age gracefully' without 'filters or filters' in new snap

► Rita Ora trades her leotard in an elaborate dress with cut-outs as she poses for snappy snaps ahead of leaving New York after the *Idol* Gala.

\* Naomi Campbell, 61, poses TOPLESS in just a pair of jeans as she models an array of sizzling looks for racy new Calvin Klein campaign

**Married At First Sight**  
Australia's Jessica  
Power gets the boobed  
straight on surgery  
purports as she's  
flooded with questions  
about her ample assets

\* Rihanna commands attention in a bright yellow bikini top as she collaborates with luggage brand for exciting new photoshoot

He kept her coffin at the end of his bed for three days, visited parts of Cornwall where he and Emma had shared happy memories, and wrote some of the best poetry of his career in her memory. Men, eh?

Hardy, who has fallen out of fashion in recent years, was a gloomy novelist and this account of his life made no attempt to lighten the mood. It was the sort of show you rarely see on mainstream television these days: a procession of serious, rather academic talking heads.

Well, mostly serious: I did note that the pro-vice chancellor of Liverpool University wore a huge brooch in the shape of a white mouse.



An urn containing the heart of novelist Hardy is carried during a funeral procession in Stinsford, England, to be buried in his wife's grave.

in *Passeport To Pimlico* (Talking Pictures), part of London leaves the UK in favour of French rule.

Now it feels like a training film for voters who want to retain Europe.

Free Pimlico now!

100



How fortunate that the knickers of Victorian romantic heroines came supplied by the yard.

In *A House Through Time* (1982), the historian Professor David Olusoga continued to discover enough drama in a modest end-of-terrace home in Leeds to cobble together a scan opera.

Last week's episode told how a young boy burned to death in a domestic accident, and last night we learnt that later residents also had their share of tragedy.

One of factory owner Benjamin Wild's workers died after his arm was ripped off in an industrial accident, and later the factory was burnt to the ground in a suspected arson attack, soon after a strike. Scooping up the insurance, the Wild family moved to the United States.



**'I love their relationship': Kim Kardashian tells Ellen she's rooting for Kourtney and Travis Barker in first interview since ending KUWTK**

Brooklyn Beckham tenderly places his hands on Romeo Beckham's hips as they put on an affectionate display for latest fashion campaign

\* Katie Polce spends girl time with pal Michelle Heaton as they look around at home, after both shared shocking photo of Liberty X star on height of alcoholism

**FEDER CONFIDENTIAL**  
New dynasty for Emma Samms and GB News anchor Simon McCoy as they get engaged

From shorts to skinnier knits, we reveal the top trends for autumn and how to style

## SPONSORED



But their loved ones won't be feeling sad for this moment: Five Google+ users step down from CA show in wake of three cast member deaths.

▲ L.L. Cool J. shows off his baby bump while posing at his own baby shower in fun set of snaps... just business and pleasure with him.



## Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy, Sky Arts, review: a rich portrait of a progressive firebrand

Few concessions were made to newcomers in this unburied, fascinating film, which explored the writer's works and relationships without sensationalism ★★★★★



Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy was fascinating (Photo: Andrew Turner for Picture)



By Ed Power

Commented 10:22 AM GMT+0 (GMT+07:30)

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Thomas Hardy's novels open a window on to Victorian Britain, so it was fitting that Sky Arts' new film about the writer felt like something from a bygone era of documentary making.

In this age of rapid fire factual TV aimed at those with the attention span of a *Ferris Bueller*, Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy was refreshingly unburied. It proceeded across the screen like a cloud drifting over green pastures on a windless day.

With extensive quotations from Hardy's work and a rotating cast of serious-looking experts – among them the University of Exeter's Professor Angelique Richardson and the University of Liverpool's Professor Brenda Ratten – few concessions were made to Hardy newcomers.



Not even there an attempt to recast the author's life and times as a thrilling soap opera. Instead an unending race was charted across the span of Hardy's career, from his early serialised stories to his late blossoming as a poet.

That wasn't to say it was dull. Hardy emerged as a progressive firebrand who called against hypocrisy and understood that entrenched prejudices were the ultimate enemy of progress. His writing was described by Professor Ralph Piel, author of *Thomas Hardy: The Unsettled Life*, as "an assault on the oppressive forces within his society".

The most explicit example was *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, a portrait of a "fallen" woman in which Hardy rebelled against Victorian prudishness. As one contributor put it, "Tess is a polemic against self righteousness and the abuse on charity".



On set capturing the heart of the novel: Thomas Hardy is captured in a moment of silence in *Stranded*. England has been a haven for Hardy's work in the past (Photo: Sky Arts)

The film also unpacked Hardy's troubled first marriage, though, again, without sensationalism. He was a man haunted, dominated by wife Emma's ambition to be a writer. Hardy was even said to have turned down a knighthood because he couldn't bear the thought of his wife becoming a "Lady".

But there was a baroque twist. After she died, he was wracked with regret, and perhaps guilt. By then his writings had accumulated him a fortune equivalent to *Downton*. This gave him the financial security to take away from novels and to write a series of temperate poems channeling his grief, his melancholy – and potentially his nagging conscience.

### Most Popular



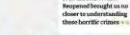
**EXCLUSIVE** The Bard Thomas Hardy revealed in the worst phrase in the English language



**EXCLUSIVE** On TV tonight, Julia Carter and Stephen Graham star in new horror pandemic drama *Isle of Dogs*



**EXCLUSIVE** The Man Peter Dinklage did above why Peter is an ahead of the internet



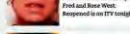
**EXCLUSIVE** Paul and Rose West: Responding tonight is not closer to understanding these horrific crimes



**EXCLUSIVE** What you need to know about Paul West's death after he was finally caught



**EXCLUSIVE** What you need to know about Paul West: Responding to an TV tonight



**EXCLUSIVE** What you need to know about Paul West: Responding to an TV tonight



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Looking back yet further was **Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy**, which, not being pegged to some anniversary and having a loose thematic approach to his life, seemed a bit random. And unlike Ken Burns's *Hemingway*, a series of muscular authority, it felt cut from a more delicate cloth, with near- ceaseless soft strings in the background.

No matter. This was also a considered, scholarly delve into the interior life of a complicated writer, even if it left me with a slightly muddled view of the man. Despite an author's explanations about how Hardy enjoyed life, we also heard that he "found the cruelty of the world unbearable" and lived in a "malignant universe". He did write *Jude*, after all.

Then there was his sex life, or lack of it. Not getting along with wife Emma Gifford, he voraciously fancied other women while staying in London, but kept things platonic, pouring his longings instead into the novels. When finally he had a "sexually passionate" relationship, with Florence Dugdale, he was in his sixties, and she in her twenties. Perhaps at that point he changed his mind about how malignant the universe is.



Interview with Radio Scotland [here](#) / [here](#)



Interview with BBC Radio Somerset [here](#)

# Tuesday 14 | Viewing guide

## Critic's choice Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy

Sky Arts/Now, 9pm

Anybody who has read *Jude the Obscure* will understand where Thomas Hardy's reputation for excessive pessimism comes from. Arguments about his supposed sexual voyeurism may also chime with contemporary readers of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. Yet this richly textured film, featuring contributions from his biographers, let the life and work illuminate each other to demonstrate what a complicated person Hardy was. With clips from the many Hardy film adaptations and sweeping drone shots of the Wessex landscape that is so embedded in his writing, we begin with his first published novel, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, which features one of English literature's earliest cliffhangers, and end with his wonderful poetry. Highly sexed, he was prone to intense, if chaste, flirtations with other

women that caused his first wife, Emma, intense pain. Yet, this film also argues, the creator of *Tess* and *Far From the Madding Crowd*'s dazzling Bathsheba Everdene (right, played by Julie Christie in the 1967 film) clearly understood and loved the opposite sex. The pained poems he wrote after Emma's death show his capacity for remorse, while *Jude's* agonies stem from his hatred of cruelty and privilege and an acute sympathy for ordinary people. This fed into his anger about the taboos on chastity expressed in *Tess*. Above all, the film argues for Hardy's place as one of this country's greatest writers, a man who knew life to be full of extraordinary pain and great things. Someone who on his deathbed had enough about him not to ask God for forgiveness, but to suggest God ask for Thomas Hardy's.

Ben Dowell

THE ~~ARTS~~ TIMES



**TUESDAY** 14 SEPTEMBER

**CRITICS' CHOICE**

**Thomas Hardy — Fate, Exclusion And Tragedy (Sky Arts, 9pm)**

A literary documentary without a celebrity presenter or famous fans? Whatever next? Made by the team behind previous Sky Arts author profiles, this elegant, accomplished film relies on biographers and scholars to tell the story of the Dorset builder's son who came to rule his fictional realm of Wessex and create Bathsheba, Jude and Tess. There's no shortage of reminders of Hardy's radical views on class, justice, religion and women; but perhaps its finest quality is that instead of letting the novels dominate, it pays ample attention to his poetry about love, nature and war. Here, the only A-listers involved are the actors in screen-adaptation clips.

*John Dugdale*

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**



**Far from any madding crowd: a look at the life and work of Thomas Hardy (Sky Arts, 9pm)**

## The Sunday Telegraph

### Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy

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SKY ARTS, 9PM

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This profile of the great Victorian novelist and poet reveals a complex character who was influenced by a series of troubled relationships. Hardy has a reputation as the prototypical English writer, but this shows that his work reflected a suspicion of the modern world, and its values, too.

*Jack Taylor*



**TODAY'S BEST... ARTS SHOW**



### **THOMAS HARDY: FATE, EXCLUSION AND TRAGEDY 9PM SKY ARTS**

It's probably fitting that the author of works such as *Tess Of The D'Urbervilles* and *Jude The Obscure* should have such a bleak title for a profile of him – so if you're looking for cheery viewing, you should look elsewhere. However, if you are willing to plunge right into Hardy (above) and the darkness that comes with him, this is a detailed look and comes with interesting facts, including the origin of the term 'cliffhanger'.

**Daily Mail**



### **Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion And Tragedy**

**9PM, SKY ARTS ★★★**

This profile of the author is at its best in its dissection of his marriage. Hardy (left) was married to Emma, an aspiring writer who was steadily excluded from his working life, and Thomas had numerous extramarital entanglements over the years.

**The Mail**  
ON SUNDAY

### **ARTS**

### **Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion And Tragedy**

**Sky Arts, 9pm**

This programme looks at how the Far From The Madding

Crowd, *Jude The Obscure* and *Tess Of The d'Urbervilles* writer's own complex personal life influenced some of his most poetic work. ★★★★★

**The Daily Telegraph**

### **THOMAS HARDY: FATE, EXCLUSION AND TRAGEDY**

*Sky Arts, 9pm*

This profile of the great Victorian novelist and poet reveals a complex character whose work was heavily influenced by a series of troubled romantic relationships. Hardy has a reputation as the prototypical English writer, but this shows that his work reflected a suspicion of the modern world, and its values, too. *Jack Taylor*

Arts

Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy

SKY ARTS, 9PM

◆ This profile of the great Victorian novelist and poet reveals a complex character whose work was influenced by his troubled relationships. Hardy has a reputation as the prototypical English writer, but, as this shows, his work reflected suspicion of the modern world too.



Novelist Thomas Hardy

A LITERARY LIFE

Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion And Tragedy, 9pm, Sky Arts

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Thomas Hardy:  
Fate, Exclusion  
and Tragedy

Sky Arts/Now, 9pm

Top  
pick

Anybody  
who has read  
*Jude the  
Obscure* will

understand where  
Thomas Hardy's  
reputation for excessive

pessimism comes from.  
Arguments about his  
supposed sexual  
voyeurism may also  
chime with  
contemporary readers  
of *Tess of the  
d'Urbervilles*. Yet this  
excellent film lets the  
life and work illuminate  
each other to  
demonstrate what a  
complicated person  
Hardy was, someone  
who often despaired

but also truly loved life.  
With lots of clips from  
the many Hardy film  
adaptations, we begin  
with his first published  
novel, *A Pair of Blue  
Eyes*, which features  
one of English  
literature's earliest  
(and most literal)  
cliffhangers, and end  
with his wonderful  
poetry. Highly sexed,  
he was prone to  
intense, if chaste,

flirtations with other  
women that caused his  
first wife, Emma,  
intense pain. Yet, this  
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creator of *Tess* and  
*Far from the Madding  
Crowd*'s dazzling  
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capacity for remorse,

while *Jude's* agonies  
stem from his hatred  
of cruelty and  
snobbish privilege and  
an acute sympathy for  
ordinary people. This,  
it is asserted, fed into  
his anger about the  
taboos on chastity so  
fearlessly expressed  
in *Tess*. Above all the  
film argues for  
Hardy's place as one  
of this country's  
greatest writers.

# RadioTimes

## Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy

9.00pm Sky Arts

**DOCUMENTARY** A writer with a radical heart, Thomas Hardy gifted literature with astonishing heroines, critical social observations and countless page-turning cliffhangers. This documentary includes excerpts from film adaptations of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Jude the Obscure* and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* as markers to chart his literary career.

Of particular interest is his marriage to Emma Gifford, which started well but waned into a cold, cruel relationship. Scholars argue that much of Hardy's best work, especially his poetry, emerged after her death when, in his 70s, he experienced a rebirth that shaped and moulded the literary canon. **KT**

RadioTimes 11-17 September 2021

## TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

### Sky Arts

11



**Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy** 9.00pm The author's life

Freeview 11 Freesat 147 Sky 130 Virgin 165 HD 140 BT 348 HD 363

6.00am Benjamin Britten's *Gloriana* (HD)

9.00 Tales of the Unexpected (S) (AD)

10.00 Discovering: Peter Ustinov: a profile (HD)

11.00 The Eighties (S) (AD) (HD)

12 noon Goya: Visions of Flesh and Blood (S)

1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected (S) (AD)

2.00 Discovering: Ian McKellen: a profile (S) (HD)

3.00 Van Gogh and Japan (S) (HD)

4.00 Jefferson Airplane: Music Icons (S) (HD)

4.30 Video Killed the Radio Star (S) (AD) (HD)

5.00 Tales of the Unexpected (HD)

6.00pm Discovering: Ed Harris

A profile of the American actor. (S) (HD)

7.00 Landmark Three artists battle it

out in the south of England heat. (HD)

8.00 Lucian Freud: a Self Portrait

An insight into the artist's psyche. (S) (HD)

9.00 New. Thomas Hardy: Fate,

Exclusion and Tragedy

A look at the author's complex

personal life. See page 76. (S) (HD)

10.00 Muriel Spark by Ian Rankin

The life of the Scottish author. (S) (HD)

11.00 Destiny's Child Live in Atlanta

A 2006 concert by the group. (HD)

1.30am How It Feels to Be Free (S) (HD)

3.30 Video Killed the Radio Star (S) (AD) (HD)

4.00 Cheltenham Literature Festival 2020 (S) (HD)

5.00-6.00am The Eighties (S) (AD) (HD)

### Yesterday

26

### 5 USA

21

Freeview 21 Freesat 129 Sky 141 Virgin 153

9.00am Murder, She Wrote (S) (AD)

10.00 NCIS (S) (AD)

11.55 Entertainment News

12 noon Law & Order: six episodes (S)

6.00pm NCIS (S) (AD)

6.55 Entertainment

News 7.00 NCIS Series 2. Double bill. Tony

disappears, then the body of a Navy officer is

found (S) (AD)

9.00 Law & Order: Criminal

Intent Series 4. (S) 10.00 Law & Order:

Special Victims Unit Series 14. Four episodes.

The detectives investigate a prostitution ring

10.55 A boy is kidnapped 11.55 Series 17

A two-part cross-over with Chicago PD

12.55am Rollins leads a sting operation (S)

1.50 Law & Order: Criminal Intent: double bill (S)

3.35-4.00am Criminals: Caught on Camera:

the use of CCTV to fight crime (S) (HD)

5 USA +1 Freesat 130 Sky 241 Virgin 185

### 5 Star

31

Freeview 31 Freesat 131 Sky 128 Virgin 151

8.00am Entertainment News (HD)

8.10 Rich Kids Go Skint (S) (HD)

9.00 Rich House. Poor

House (S) (HD)

10.00 Filthy House SOS (S)

(HD)

11.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (S)

(HD)

12 noon Traffic Cops (S) (HD)

2.00pm

Police Interceptors: three editions (HD)

5.00 Rich House. Poor House (S) (HD)

6.00pm Neighbours As 5.30pm C5 (S) (AD) (HD)

6.30 New. Home and Away Ziggy and Tane's

day is interrupted. Rptd Wed 6pm C5 (S) (AD) (HD)

7.00 Caught on Camera: Funniest Moments

The wonders of virtual reality. (S) (HD)

8.00 Filthy House SOS (S) (HD)

9.00 New. Killer at the Crime Scene 4/8

The 2002 murder of Gladys Godfrey. (S) (HD)

10.00 New. Wentworth: The Final Sentence

4/10 Series 9. Allie pretends to be suicidal.

Rptd Thursday 12 midnight (S) (AD) (HD)

11.00 FILM The Hand That Rocks the

Cradle ★★★★★ Thriller starring Annabella

Sciorra and Rebecca De Mornay. (S) (HD)

1.20am Critical Surgery: Changing Lives (S) (HD)

2.15 Drunk Tank Hangover (S) (HD)

3.10 Neighbours (S) (AD) (HD)

3.35-4.00am Home and Away (S) (AD) (HD)

5 Star +1 Freesat 141 Sky 228 Virgin 186

### 5 Select

55

Freeview (HD only) 55 Freesat 133 Sky 153 Virgin 152

9.00am Entertainment News 9.05 Murder

in Mind: a Morning Show Mystery 11.00 GPs:

behind Closed Doors 12 noon The Yorkshire

Vet 1.00pm The Dog Rescuers with Alan

Davies (S) 3.00 GPs: behind Closed Doors (S)

Tuesday Television

tv choice More choice



## Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion And Tragedy

**Sky Arts 9.00pm** While best known for novels such as *Tess Of The D'Urbervilles*, Hardy published over 1000 poems too. But becoming one of the 20th century's greatest poets wasn't plain sailing, as this profile shows.

tv choice

Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy

Sky Arts, 9pm

This profile of the great Victorian novelist and poet reveals a complex character whose work was heavily influenced by a series of troubled romantic relationships. Hardy has a reputation as the prototypical English writer, but this shows that his work reflected a suspicion of the modern world, and its values, too. Jack Taylor



How AI-powered platforms are helping marketers make smart decisions

VIEWING GUIDE

What's on TV and radio tonight:  
Tuesday, September 14

Tuesday September 14 2021, 12:01pm  
The Times

Television



Jude Christie in *Far From the Madding Crowd*  
ALAMY

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For full TV listings for the week, see [thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner)

Viewing guide, by Ben Dowell

Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy

Sky Arts/Now, 9pm

Anybody who has read *Jude the Obscure* will understand where Thomas Hardy's reputation for excessive pessimism comes from. Arguments about his supposed sexual voyeurism may also chime with contemporary readers of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. Yet this excellent, richly textured film, featuring intelligent contributions from his biographers Claire Tomalin and Ralph Pite, lets the life and work illuminate each other to demonstrate what a complicated person Hardy was, someone who often despaired, but also truly loved life. With lots of clips from the many Hardy film adaptations and sweeping drone shots of the Wessex landscape that is so embedded in his writing, we begin with his first published novel, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, which features one of English literature's earliest (and most literal) cliffhangers, and end with his wonderful poetry. Highly sexed, he was prone to intense, if chaste, flirtations with other women that caused his first wife, Emma, intense pain. Yet, this film also argues, the creator of *Tess* and *Far From the Madding Crowd*'s dazzling Bathsheba Everdene clearly understood and loved the opposite sex. The pained poems he wrote after Emma's death show his capacity for remorse, while *Jude's* agonies stem from his hatred of cruelty and snobbish privilege and an acute sympathy for ordinary people. This, it is asserted, fed into his anger about the taboos on chastity so fearlessly expressed in *Tess*. Above all, the film argues for Hardy's place as one of this country's greatest writers, a man who knew life to be full of extraordinary pain and great things. Someone who on his deathbed had enough about him not to ask God for forgiveness, but to suggest that God ask for Thomas Hardy's.

Jack Whitehall: Travels with My Father

Netflix

## The Herald

### **Thomas Hardy: Fate, Exclusion and Tragedy (Sky Arts, 9pm)**

Author of classics such as *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Jude the Obscure* and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, Hardy's work reflects the human tragedy of his characters' lives as they struggle with their passions, fate and their position in society. This programme looks at the novelist, poet and social critic's own complex personal life, examining how his modest upbringing made him aware of the hypocrisies of Victorian class society and how his wives Emma and Florence influenced some of his most poetic work.

## News Letter

Many run out!

### **THOMAS HARDY: FATE, EXCLUSION AND TRAGEDY (SKY ARTS, 9PM)**

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**SIXTEEN: CLASS OF 2021**

## The Northern Echo

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