



12 Total Coverage



14,621,732 Total Reach



# Coverage

**SUNDAY 8 MARCH**



**Artist in turmoil: examining the demons of Virginia Woolf** (Sky Arts, 9pm)

## **What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of? (Sky Arts, 9pm)**

Made by the team behind Sky Arts's portraits of Kipling, Forster and TS Eliot – and maintaining the high standard – this profile suggests the feminist novelist and essayist was bipolar, but points also to bereavement, childhood sexual abuse and the First World War as factors in her recurring nervous breakdowns. *(JD)*



**THE TIMES**

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**MEDIA:** Sunday Times

**REACH:** 648,812

**MEDIA:** Times Online

**REACH:** 1,200,000

**TIMES**ONLINE

# Coverage



MEDIA: Mail on Sunday (Event Magazine)

REACH: 1,063,053

## ANIMALS

### Crufts 2020 – Best In Show



Channel 4,  
4.30pm & 7pm

As well as  
discovering

the winners of the Flyball final and the Agility championship, Clare Balding (above) chats to dog lovers such as Roman Kemp and Russell Watson. Then, as the tension builds ahead of the announcement of Best In Show, the presenter speaks to the owners of previous winners to find out what it takes to become top dog.

## BUSINESS

### Dragons' Den

BBC2, 9pm

Peter Jones, Sara Davies, Touker Suleyman, Deborah Meaden and Tej Lalvani return to their hot seats. Those hoping to secure an investment include a beauty expert, low-alcohol brewers and a footwear entrepreneur. ★★★★★

## ARTS

### What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of? Sky Arts, 9pm

An exploration of the *Mrs Dalloway* author's life, discussing her impact on both literature and the modern world. ★★★★★



### What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of? 9PM, SKY ARTS ★★★★★

Despite numerous breakdowns, the author Virginia Woolf (left) produced a remarkable amount of work across her life. This unhurried and satisfying new profile builds a picture of that existence, of her supportive marriage to Leonard Woolf, and of what finally drove her to suicide at the age of 59 in 1941.

MEDIA: Daily Mail

REACH: 1,141,178

# Coverage

## Alastair McKay *The Viewer*

*A literary wolf on the hunt for myths  
— Hilary Mantel tells her own story*



**Hilary Mantel: Return to Wolf Hall**  
Saturday, BBC Two, 9pm  
★★★★☆

**What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?**  
Sunday, Sky Arts, 9pm  
★★★★☆

WHAT do we know about Hilary Mantel? The success of her books is inarguable. The third part of the Wolf Hall trilogy has just been published after lengthy gestation, and the talk is of peripheral lint such as the Booker Prize; and political hiccups, like Dominic Cummings and his resemblance (or not) to Henry VIII's king whisperer, Thomas Cromwell. In the receding shallows of this froth stands the author, giving almost nothing away, though "almost" is a generous adverb when she wants it to be.

Let's see. **Hilary Mantel: Return to Wolf Hall** was made in collaboration with the author. How much say she had isn't clear, but she certainly colludes in the business of projection. There she is, making herself up, talking about how she inhaled stories as soon as she breathed in. "Sometimes I think I wasn't born," she says. "I just came out of an ink blot."

Let's play Dr Rorschach and see what that blot suggests. What story is the storyteller telling? First, there is a lesson about memory. Mantel grew up in Derbyshire, near a valley in which a village was drowned to make way for a reservoir. In the Fifties, Mantel heard people talking about how they had seen the church spire when the water levels were low.

But the church had been blown up before the flood. "There really was no steeple." From this, Mantel absorbed a

lesson about fact, history and myth, and how they collaborate.

Mantel doesn't use this phrase, but she seems to be a Method Writer. When writing about 1540, she inhabits that time, smelling the dog dung from the tannery, developing Tudor sensibilities. She brings the period to life by writing in the present tense, but she understands something atmospheric: the loudest noise her characters would have heard would be thunder, or church bells.

The psychology bit? Mantel's parents had an unusual relationship. An old flame of her mother moved into the family home, and Mantel's father became Hilary's roommate, making himself part of the wallpaper. Someone, not Mantel, suggests that she is trying to find her father, a man who should have spoken up, in Thomas Cromwell. She believes in ghosts, or prompts from the unconscious about roads not taken, with the dead being like a backing group to everyday reality. And writing? That, says Mantel, is "like trying to polish up a thunderstorm."

And so, to Virginia Woolf. In **What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?** the author is not around to spread confusion, having already done that with her books. But a number of Woolf tamers conspire to present a picture of the writer as being (deep breath): snobbish, rude, indiscreet, insulting, snarky, judgmental, volatile, anti-Semitic, abused and because of/despite this, quite brilliant in her ability to examine consciousness and, by applying great verbal sophistication to universal problems, illuminate loneliness, isolation and fear of death.

Possibly these are the things she left out of her sentences, while cultivating the power of silence.

@AHMcKay

## London Evening Standard

### WHAT WAS VIRGINIA WOOLF AFRAID OF?

Sky Arts/NOW TV,  
9.00pm

Starting with her suicide, this thoughtful documentary explores the career of the pioneering writer Virginia Woolf. The film traces her life from a privileged but traumatic childhood, through the pressures of startling literary success and her later fear of insanity. Along the way, expert contributors including Hermione Lee, Lyndall Gordon and Edward Mendelson discuss Woolf's legacy.

MEDIA: Daily Telegraph

REACH: 317,817

MEDIA: Evening Standard

REACH: 796,640

# The Telegraph

# Coverage

## New Documentary From Odyssey Television WHAT WAS VIRGINIA WOOLF AFRAID OF Premieres On Sky Arts Sunday 8th March 2020

03 February 2020



wife through repeated illness and breakdowns, realises what has happened - though her body was not found until the 18th April.

Drawing upon key biographers and literary critics, the programme seeks to understand a remarkable creative life. After abuse as a child and the death of her mother when she was 13, Virginia Woolf was troubled by breakdowns and suicide attempts from an early age. But increasingly from 1915 onwards, when she published her first novel *The Voyage Out*, Virginia Woolf maintained an astonishing output of fiction, literary criticism, essays, letters, diaries and biography. In 1912 she married Leonard Woolf, and in 1917 they founded the Hogarth Press. She was a founder member and at the centre of what was to become the Bloomsbury Group and wrote the classic novels *Mrs Dalloway*, *Orlando*, *To The Lighthouse* and *The Waves*.



Despite great success and critical acclaim, darkness haunted her. Compounded by the destruction of the First World War, yet helped by her pursuit of a working life free from the domination of a patriarchal misogynist culture, she was unable to fully break free from it. Contributors Dame Hermione Lee, Dr Lyndall Gordon, Professor Edward Mendelsohn, Bill Goldstein and Professor Nicole Ward Jouve discuss Woolf's extraordinary life - including her affair with Vita Sackville West - her great creative achievement and her impact on both the literary and the modern world.

WHAT WAS VIRGINIA WOOLF AFRAID OF?

Showing exclusively on Sky Arts Sunday 8th March 2020

WHAT WAS VIRGINIA WOOLF AFRAID OF? is produced and directed by Adrian Munsey and Vance Goodwin.

© Odyssey Television MMXIX.

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*'A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.'*

Considered one of the 20th century's most influential writers and the pioneer of 'stream of consciousness' writing, the intriguing life of Virginia Woolf is explored in an insightful new documentary **WHAT WAS VIRGINIA WOOLF AFRAID OF?** made by Odyssey Television and premiering on Sky Arts on International Women's Day, Sunday 8th March 2020.

On the 28th March 1941, with her overcoat pockets filled with stones, Virginia Woolf walked slowly and deliberately into the River Ouse. Her husband, Leonard, who deeply loved and sustained Virginia Woolf throughout their marriage, supporting his



# RadioTimes

MEDIA: Radio Times Online

REACH: 1,810,000

MEDIA: The Fan Carpet

REACH: 168,724

## What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?

Thursday 12:05am - 1:05am  
Sky Arts

• See Repeats



HD | WIDE



### SUMMARY

Documentary exploring the author's life and career, with expert contributors discussing Woolf's great creative achievement and her impact on both literature and the modern world.

# Coverage

## British Period Dramas

MEDIA:

British Period Dramas

REACH:

150,000

FACEBOOK:

24,542



### Sky Arts explores the life of writer Virginia Woolf in new documentary

4th February 2020

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A new documentary will delve into the life of one of England's most famous writers next month.

Premiering on Sky Arts on International Women's Day, *What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?* examines Woolf's extraordinary life.

Dame Hermione Lee, Dr Lyndall Gordon, Professor Edward Mendelsohn, Ward Jouve will discuss the author's great creative achievement and her modern world.

Born in South Kensington, London in 1882, Woolf is considered one of the writers and the pioneer of 'stream of consciousness' writing.

*What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?* airs in the UK on Sunday 8th March.



On the 28th March 1941, with her overcoat pockets filled with stones, Virginia Woolf walked slowly and deliberately into the River Ouse. Her husband, Leonard, who deeply loved and sustained Virginia Woolf throughout their marriage, supporting his wife through repeated illness and breakdowns, realises what has happened – though her body was not found until the 18th April.

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The story of the Bloomsbury group was dramatised in BBC Two's *Life in Squares* in 2015.

The three-part series starred James Norton and Al Weaver from *Grantchester*.

*Life in Squares* is available to watch on [Amazon Prime](#).



British Period Dramas on TV

8 March at 19:20 · 🌐

Marking #InternationalWomensDay, new documentary "What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?" premieres on Sky Arts tonight!



18



British Period Dramas on TV

6 March at 05:18 · 🌐

This fascinating #VirginiaWoolf documentary airs on Sunday night!



BRITISHPERIODDRAMAS.COM

Sky Arts explores the life of writer Virginia Woolf in new documentary

15

2 shares



Write a comment...



British Period Dramas on TV

4 February · 🌐

New documentary will delve into the fascinating life of #VirginiaWoolf!



BRITISHPERIODDRAMAS.COM

Sky Arts explores the life of writer Virginia Woolf in new documentary

16

2 shares



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