

ANDY LEA & MIKE WARD'S BIG STREAM

Trying hard to be very funny

TRYING
(Apple TV+ from today)

★★★★★
I CAN honestly say this is the funniest British comedy Apple TV+ have ever made.

Why? Because so far it's the only British comedy Apple TV+ have ever made.

But it really is a fine way to kick things off.

Likeable thirtysomething couple Jason and Nikki (Rafe Spall and Esther Smith) are desperate to have a baby. SO desperate, in fact, that they'll grab the chance to make one - or at least try to - in the most inappropriate places.

It looks as if it's never going to happen, though.

And when their doctor pretty much confirms this, it's a massive blow, particularly with everyone around them having kids.

So, might adoption provide Jason and Nikki with an alternative path to happiness?

Well, yes, it might, provided they can get their heads around the challenges involved. And that's not going to be easy.

"I know it sounds bad," admits



BABY: Esther Smith and Rafe Spall in *Trying*

an anxious Nikki, "but do you think they'd feel like someone else's child?"

"I think they probably would at first," Jason concedes. "But I think you'd wear them in. Like trainers."

Beautifully written by Andy

Wolton and directed by Jim O'Hanlon (whose credits include the final series of Channel 4's *Catastrophe*), *Trying* also features a fine supporting cast, including Imelda Staunton, Paula Wilcox and Phil Davis (as Jason's hilariously old-school dad). It's a show that gives us proper laugh-out-loud moments along with genuinely tender bits and a couple that viewers can both chuckle at and care about.

That's some achievement. MW

+ WIN ++ WIN ++ WIN +



Babylon Berlin Series 1-3

SEX, drugs, murder, corruption, ominous political conflict - it's all

(B) 1989
(C) 1999

Email your answer

there in Sky Atlantic's stylish *Babylon Berlin* (18), set in the German capital between the wars.

And we're giving away six box sets of all three series, each worth

£39.99. To enter, just answer this question:

When did the Berlin Wall come down?
(A) 1979

(with *Babylon Berlin* as the subject), plus your name, address and mobile number, to starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk.

Entries close at midnight this Sunday, May 3.

Normal Daily Star rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.



WEINSTEIN 'STAR' OF CHILLER



BAD DAY: For Julia Garner in *The Assistant*

THE ASSISTANT (15)
(Streaming now on major platforms)

★★★★★
WE never see the New York movie mogul at the centre of this brilliantly-acted and quietly chilling drama.

We don't need to. Bar sending the film into your living room on a Zimmer frame, it couldn't be any clearer that the muffled voice in the

neighbouring office is Harvey Weinstein's.

Young graduate Jane (Ozark's Julia Garner) never has to give her bullying boss a massage ("don't worry, you're not his type," says Matthew Macfadyen's slimy HR man)... for her, the abuse is more insidious.

Julia has only been his personal assistant for five weeks and is already at a crossroads.

Writer-director Kitty Green stages this meticulously researched film like a fly-on-the-wall documentary as we follow Jane through one very bad day at the office.

Her duties seem mundane at first but become more and more sinister.

Holding on to her dreams of being a producer, she realises, will require a certain moral flexibility. - AL

Now available on all leading platforms

JOJO RABBIT (12)
(Streaming now on major platforms)

★★★★★
A LITTLE Nazi suffers a crisis of confidence in this funny and surprisingly touching coming-of-age comedy set in 1940s Berlin.

Pint-sized Johannes Betzler (Roman Griffin Davis) is so "massively into swastikas" the Führer (Taika Waititi) keeps popping up as his imaginary pal.

His best friend is furious when he befriends Elsa (Thomasin McKenzie), a Jewish teenager his mum (Scarlett

Johansson) is hiding in the walls of their home. Sam Rockwell and Stephen Merchant join in the dark fun. - AL

THE GENTLEMEN (18)
(Streaming now on major platforms)

★★★★★
GUY Ritchie gets back to his roots with this entertaining British crime comedy.

With daft costumes and pantomime villains, it veers close to self-parody.

But Hugh Grant is great fun as a cockney private eye who breaks into Charlie Hunnam's mansion to tell him

what he has learned about his druglord boss (Matthew McConaughey). - AL

CALM WITH HORSES (15)
(Streaming now on major platforms)

★★★★★
COSMO Jarvis delivers a star-making performance in this violent but thoughtful crime thriller set on the west coast of Ireland.

The musician and actor lets us see the battle raging within man-mountain Douglas "Arm" Armstrong, a former boxer who is now working for a family of

drug dealers. - AL

1917 (15)
(Streaming from Monday on major platforms)

★★★★★
TWO British soldiers (George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman) are sent behind enemy lines in this eye-popping, Bafta-winning World War One thriller from director Sam Mendes.

The gimmick here is to present the entire film as one impossibly long shot. It is such an immersive experience we quickly give up looking for the joins. - AL

HIGH HITLER: Taika Waititi and Roman Griffin Davis in *Jojo Rabbit*

