

BAFTA SHOWDOWN

Corrie's glamorous stars have *EastEnders* in their sights at tomorrow night's BAFTAs

Britain's top two soaps go head-to-head once again tomorrow night. This time it's in the BAFTA category for Best Continuing Drama. As ever, the contest will focus heavily on the women of *Weatherfield* and *Walford* – gutsy and glamorous in equal measure. But who are the key female characters whose storylines have put their shows in the running for this latest award? Here **Mike Ward** looks at half a dozen prime contenders...

CORONATION STREET CARLA CONNOR (Alison King)

In business she's a tough cookie, but Carla's love life has been a nightmare. Having been through hell at the hands of husband Tony Gordon, she somehow landed herself another evil specimen in the shape of Frank Foster – who flew into a rage and raped her after she cancelled their wedding. The attack left Carla a wreck. She even attempted suicide. But Frank denied everything, pointing to Carla's chumminess with alcoholic Peter Barlow as proof she couldn't be trusted. He fooled the jury, too – but got his fatal comeuppance at the hands of his own mother.



SOPHIE WEBSTER

(Brooke Vincent)

Her parents, Sally and Kevin, haven't been the best advert for a traditional marriage. So it wasn't surprising when Sophie, who'd come out as a lesbian in 2010, proposed last year

to girlfriend Sian Powers. What she omitted to mention, however, was the secret kiss she'd shared earlier with her pal Amber – leaving her in turmoil. The truth finally emerged on Sophie and Sian's wedding day. Sian packed her bags, leaving Sophie distraught.

TINA MCINTYRE (Michelle Keegan)

Tina learned last year that dear friend, Xin (whom we'd never clapped eyes on before), was facing deportation – so she cooked up a crazy plan for Xin and Graeme to marry, just to fool the authorities. It was Tina who ended up the fool, however, when the pair developed genuine feelings for one another. A fling followed with Dr Matt, but *Weatherfield* lass Tina wasn't happy with the Eliza Doolittle role this middle-class medic had cast her in. She was more suited to mechanic Tommy Duckworth – although they took their time getting together.

THE BAFTA
TELEVISION
AWARDS,
TOMORROW,
8PM, BBC1

EASTENDERS

TANYA BRANNING (Jo Joyner)

Tanya married dreary builder Greg Jessop last August, then carried on sleeping with lust-driven ex-husband Max, who cheated on his new partner Vanessa. But then, Tanya was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She finished with Max (who dumped Vanessa, who told Greg about the affair) and resolved to face the battle alone. Greg returned briefly, but couldn't handle the news of Tanya's illness. Then Max came back and proved he could. For now...

JANINE BUTCHER

(Charlie Brooks)

Janine remains a total cow, with fleeting glimpses of vulnerability. But the balance has shifted recently, suggesting that the half-decent person inside her may



emerge. The

bond which

she developed

with her

grandmother Lydia had touching moments,

and although Janine was

horrible to stepmum Pat, their

last scene together, on Pat's death

bed, brought a tear to the eye. "You were the only little girl I ever really had,"

croaked Pat.

KAT MOON

(Jessie Wallace)

Kat and Alfie's relationship was ripped apart by the baby snatch drama. And too much had happened by the time they were reunited with little Tommy for them to put the nightmare behind them. When Kat became pregnant again, Alfie horrified her by assuming he wasn't the dad. She miscarried, then confessed to a seedy encounter with a stranger. By the time Kat took time off from *Walford* to tend to her dad, it seemed she'd given up on the marriage for good.



Coronation Street's Michelle Keegan (left) and Alison King

