

Spike Bursts onto UK Television with Breaking Bad, Big-Name Talent and British Commissions

Stephen Merchant, Vinnie Jones to feature from 15th April launch

Breaking Bad to air in its entirety for 1st time on British TV and new seasons of ***The Walking Dead***

US pop culture phenomenon, ***Lip Sync Battle*** joins lineup for new channel

LONDON--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- A new free-to-view TV channel will launch with a bang in millions of UK homes on 15th April, when Spike goes on air offering a mix of British commissions and big-name talent alongside a range of acclaimed drama and entertainment.

Original commissions will feature prominently on Spike from launch. ***Police Interceptors Unleashed*** marks a return to British TV screens for actor and former professional footballer, Vinnie Jones, who will front the series, following the work of the high-speed police interception unit. Another new series, ***Tattoo Disasters UK***, will seek out some of the most painful examples of British body art and the individuals having to learn to live with their inky mistakes.

Spike's launch line-up will also feature some of the most acclaimed and talked about TV drama of recent times, including ***Breaking Bad***, which will be broadcast from start to finish for the first time on British TV. The latest and fifth series of ***The Walking Dead*** will also be available on Spike, the first time it will be accessible free-to-air to British TV viewers.

Other acquired dramas that will broadcast on Spike from launch include the British TV premiere of mythological blockbuster, ***Olympus***, Emmy nominated ***Justified*** and crime thriller ***Sons of Anarchy***.

Lip Sync Battle, hosted by two-time Grammy Award-winner LL COOL J, will be the entertainment flagship of Spike's launch schedule. The highly-anticipated half-hour original series - based on the cultural phenomenon of lip sync battling seen by millions on television and online - has been created by Jimmy Fallon and his Eight Million Plus Productions, Stephen Merchant (***Hello Ladies***, ***Extras***, ***The Ricky Gervais Show***), John Krasinski (***The Office***, ***Promised Land***, ***It's Complicated***), Matador (***Banksy Does New York***) and Casey Patterson. Merchant also features on-screen as one of the many A-list musical combatants in the series.

Social media comedy phenomenon, ***Fail Army***, has also been reworked for television and will be introduced to UK TV audiences by Spike.

Spike will also be the UK TV home of mixed martial arts. The channel will televise ***Bellator MMA***, the emerging sports franchise featuring many of the world's greatest fighters including British champion, Liam McGeary, and Paul Daley. Spike has also signed an exclusive deal with the British Association of Mixed Martial Arts (BAMMA) for its tournaments, which will feature in a Saturday 'Fight Night.'

The channel will also offer a range of reality series from Spike in the US, including ***Catch a Contractor*** and ***Frankenfood***, as well as repeats of some of Channel 5's most popular factual output.

The 24-hour network will be available from launch on the majority of the UK's digital TV platforms, including Sky TV, Freesat and Freeview, on which it will occupy channel slot 31.

Ben Frow, Channel 5's Programme Director, whose editorial team will oversee commissioning, scheduling and acquisitions for the new channel, said: "Spike is a driven, high-energy channel offering a point of view and programme mix I think is different from anything else on British TV right now. I can't wait to see our viewers embrace this exhilarating new channel."

Notes to Editors

- ***Tattoo Disasters UK*** and ***Police Interceptors Unleashed*** are being produced by Channel 5 Productions and London-based Raw Cut Productions respectively.
- Spike will be available on Sky TV, Freeview, Freesat and other DTT platforms.

About Spike UK

Spike UK is the latest general entertainment channel from the Channel 5 stable, bringing its portfolio of free-to-air UK networks

to nine. The channel will be available from launch on 15th April via the main digital TV platforms in the UK, including Sky TV, Freesat and Freeview on which it will occupy channel slot 31. Spike UK offers a mix of original commissions, smash hit acquired drama and blockbuster films, factual library content and adrenalin-fuelled sports blended with a range of reality series from Spike in the U.S., which is consistently amongst the highest rating basic cable networks. Both Spike in the U.S. and Channel 5 are owned and operated by Viacom International Media Networks, a unit of Viacom (NASDAQ: VIA, VIAB), one of the world's leading creators of programming and content across all media platforms. *Live It Like Spike* by accessing www.spiketv.co.uk and following the channel on social media - twitter.com/spiketvuk and www.facebook.com/SpikeTVUK.

VIMN UK, Australia, Israel, Central/Eastern Europe

Kelly Todd, +44 (0)203 580 2105

Communications

todd.kelly@vimn.com

or

VIMN UK, Australia, Israel, Central/Eastern Europe

Matt Baker, +44 (0)203 580 2101

Communications

matt.baker@vimn.com

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