

Sunday 2 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice

The Story of the Nude

BBC Four, 9pm

Here's an example of the BBC at its best — a scholarly arts programme made by recycling old material. Thrifty and educational — Lord Reith would be proud. In a four-part series, four young British art historians are using the BBC archives to discover how six decades of television have changed our understanding of some of art's most celebrated subjects: Picasso, Constable, Michelangelo and, to begin, nudes. Nudity has inspired some of history's greatest artists, from Rembrandt's classical *Bathsheba at Her Bath* and Titian's *Venus of Urbino*, pictured, to John Singer Sargent's modern masterpiece *The Bathers*. The Sky Arts presenter and art historian Kate Bryan introduces clips from programmes presented by the hermit nun Sister Wendy, Mary Beard, John Berger and Kenneth Clarke to discover how attitudes to

nudity have changed over the decades and to explore the moral tension in the differing approaches to the male and female form. Berger felt that women were objectified by art. "To be naked is to be oneself," he once said. "To be nude is to be seen naked by others and yet not recognised for oneself." Bryan also examines how forces from Christianity to feminism have influenced our thinking about nudes. Tonight's offering precedes a new documentary from Beard (*Shock of the Nude*, Monday, BBC Two, 9pm), as well as the much-heralded *Life Drawing Live!* (Tuesday, BBC Four, 8pm). There are also several repeats on the subject tonight, including a bizarre 2009 *Horizon* experiment involving eight volunteers getting their kit off (10pm) and a 2011 documentary on the history of the fig leaf (11pm). **Joe Clay**



Call the Midwife

BBC One, 8pm

Nonnatus House is abuzz with chatter about the "motion picture" adaptation of *The Sound of Music*. Sister Monica is keen that all the nuns

Top Gear

BBC Two, 8pm

More than a decade after *Top Gear*'s original car-vs-fighter-jet contest, it's time for a rematch, but one that sounds like a mismatch. In the red corner

British Academy Film Awards 2020

BBC One, 9pm

Graham Norton takes over as the host, broadcasting live from the Royal Albert Hall in London. He is a stalwart of the

Saturday Night Live

Sky Comedy/Now TV, 9pm

The hit US live sketch show is beamed into British front rooms for the first time

Films of the day

The Train (U, 1964)

BBC Two, 3.50pm

A pair of high-class performances power this compelling war set during the Second World War. Burt Lancaster is Paul