

**B B C** Worldwide

# Ballykissangel

## SERIES 6

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**Drama**

**8 x 50 minutes**

**B B C** Worldwide

# Ballykissangel

## SERIES 6

The popular, award-winning series about the dramas and absurdities of life in a picturesque, rural Irish town

**Drama**

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Susannah Doyle, daughter of the late Tony Doyle, joins the cast for this series of this popular drama set in Ireland. series of this hit BBC drama. Susannah, who is best known for her role of Joy in Channel 4's award-winning satirical comedy *Drop the Dead Donkey*, plays horse-trainer Avril Burke who sets sparks flying when she buys Devlin's racing stable. Tony Doyle, who played Brian Quigley in each of the previous series, died suddenly in January 2000. His daughter admitted that being asked to follow in his *Ballykissangel* footsteps came as a shock. "I can't deny it was a bombshell to be asked," she said, adding: "But I'm very excited and proud to be involved with *Ballykissangel*, and that it is already associated with my dad makes me all the more so."

The action in Series 6 starts a year after Series 5 and many of the characters have left the village. Niamh is now living in London with Sean, Kieran and Emma; she returns for the first episode only. Danny has followed Emma to London. Aidan has moved to a different parish because he felt he didn't make a difference and Orla has gone with him. However, there are three other newcomers to the village:

Australian star Robert Taylor, who appeared in hit sci-fi movie *The Matrix*, plays the new parish priest, Father Vincent Sheehan.

Paul Ronan, who co-starred in the Brad Pitt film *The Devil's Own*, takes the role of garage owner and mechanic Edso Dowling.

Mick Lally, who appeared with Minnie Driver in *Circle of Friends*, plays sheep farmer Louis Dwyer.

It's business as usual at Fitzgeralds, where the Dooley family is running the pub. It took Paul time to find his feet after prison but in this series he comes into his own. Always out to make money, he looks set to establish his own empire now that his main rival (Quigley) has vanished. In this series, he buys the priest's house and is also interested in buying part of Avril's stables. Liam and Donal are quite happy to forget their former employer's feud with Dooley when he offers them work, though of course the pair can always be relied upon to mess things up.

Series creator Kieran Prendiville returns to the regular writing team after an absence of two years. He said: "I came back to BallyK because I missed it and they asked me. Several bars in Dublin were becoming concerned by my absence. I am loving every minute of it – even the writing."

### WEBWATCH

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ballykissangel/>

<http://www.world-productions.com/ballykissangel/>

There are also a number of Ballykissangel fan club sites.

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### Main Cast

Vincent Sheahan	Robert Taylor
Father Mac	Niall Toibin
Siobhan Mehigan	Deirdre Donnelly
Brendan Kearney	Gary Whelan
Kathleen Hendley	Aine ni Mhuiri
Liam Coghlan	Joe Savino
Donal Doherty	Frankie McCafferty
Frankie Sullivan	Catherine Cusack
Paul Dooley	Owen Roe
Oonagh Dooley	Marion O'Dwyer
Dermot Dooley	Ciaran Owens
Grainne Dooley	Katie Cullan
Avril Burke	Susannah Doyle
Edso Dowling	Paul Ronan
Louis Dargan	Mick Lally
Doctor Michael Ryan	Bosco Hogan

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### Production Credits

Series Created By	<b>Kieran Prendiville</b> ( <i>Badger, Roughnecks, Vicious Circle, Boon</i> )
Writers	<b>Kieran Prendiville</b> (Episodes 1,2,3,5,7,8) <b>John Flanagan</b> and <b>Andy McCulloch</b> (Episode 4) <b>Ursula Aspill-de Brun</b> (Episode 6)
Directors	<b>Paul Harrison</b> (Episodes 1, 2,7 & 8) <b>Frank Smith</b> (Episodes 3 & 4) <b>Alan MacMillan</b> (Episodes 5 & 6)
Producer	<b>David Shanks</b> (co-producer <i>Eldorado</i> )
Executive Producers	<b>Sophie Balhetchet</b> (World Productions) <b>Robert Cooper</b> (BBC)



A World Production for BBC Northern Ireland

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### New Characters

#### **Vincent Sheahan (Robert Taylor)**

Vincent Sheahan is the new priest. He is Australian and in his late 30s. He is a pro-active man with strong views about right and wrong. During his time as a missionary in South America he provoked a local landowner over tenancy rights. During a protest, he was injured and returned to Australia to recuperate. He soon recovered his zest for life and was posted to Southern Ireland. When he arrives in Ballykissangel he underestimates his new job just as the village underestimate their new priest. Initially he comes into conflict with Father Mac. They are two very different priests but eventually they find a respect for each other. Vincent also has a tense relationship with Frankie, but they also find some mutual ground. He also realises that Dooley can be a slippery customer. As Vincent finds himself drawn closer into the fabric of the village, he finds that he has much in common with Avril: forthright views, a love of horses and a drink problem. A strong friendship develops between the two and by the end of the series both realise that they could be getting into dangerous territory.

#### **Avril Burke (Susannah Doyle)**

Avril is a local horse trainer in her early 30s with a past she would rather forget. After her father died, she met and married Garrett Burke, a sales rep. They agreed to delay children for a couple of years so that they could enjoy a bit of life. Garrett's job involved entertaining clients and Avril joined him at events. However, she started to drink heavily and developed an alcohol problem. Eventually Garrett left her, but she pulled herself together with the help of Matt Devlin (the horse trainer she worked for as a child) and then bought his yard when he retired. She is currently trying to reconcile the conflicting demands of training horses and balancing the books.

#### **Edso Dowling (Paul Ronan)**

Edso Dowling is a mechanic from Dublin in his late 20s. After offending the local hard man by seducing his daughter, he decided to leave town until things calmed down. When he arrived in Ballykissangel it didn't take long to get a small business going through a combination of charm and his ability under the bonnet of a car. Edso enjoys women's company but he is not predatory. He doesn't boast of his conquests to men and he tries to be fair with all the women. He's sharp, witty and watchful but he doesn't flaunt himself. Edso is not usually touched by affairs of the heart – but when he meets Avril everything changes. He finds himself falling for her against his natural instincts.

#### **Louis Dargan (Mick Lally)**

Louis Dargan is a sheep farmer of indeterminate age but firm opinion. He trusts no one and is wary with his money. He lives in a cottage in the hills surrounding Ballykissangel but he finds himself spending more and more time in Fitzgerald's. Even though he doesn't like the company much, he finds he needs it more and more as he gets older. He's poorly educated but mountain-smart although he is hard to understand as he has a thick accent. People often underestimate Louis, but there's more to him than they realise.

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### Episode Synopses

1. The new Australian priest Vincent Sheahan arrives in Ballykissangel. He immediately attracts controversy when a journalist starts asking questions about the Ballykissangel online confessional. Vincent knows nothing about it but he finds the site on the internet and realises that people are paying to have their sins forgiven.

Liam and Donal find a pile of clothes on the beach and realise that they are Quigley's. They tell Frankie, who in turn notifies Cilldargan police. No one is sure whether Quigley is dead or alive. When Niamh arrives she finds out that her father was heavily in debt. As rumours circulate about Quigley's fate, Paul and Oonagh worry that the bank might repossess the pub.

Niamh, Liam and Donal receive cheques from Brazil. Not sure what to do with the money, Niamh consults Vincent. He agrees to take the money and buy the pub himself, guaranteeing the Dooleys a home and business. Niamh also receives an e-mail from Brazil. It contains a picture of someone in Rio di Janiero who bears a striking resemblance to Quigley (her father), waving goodbye.

2. Vincent is driving back from Doc Ryan's when Frankie stops and breathalyses him. The test is positive – but he was drinking non-alcoholic beer! It's soon village gossip when the local paper gets hold of the story. Only a blood test can save him now.

Dooley spots a money-making opportunity: a cable company is looking for property on high ground to set up a satellite dish. He persuades Louis to sell him his old cottage in the mountains (with help from Liam and Donal who still have their cheques from Quigley). When the cable company pull out of the deal at the last moment, luckily the company boss decides the cottage is just what he needs for a holiday home.

Kathleen forces Vincent to reinstate longer confession times. Liam and Edso nearly come to blows over a girl. Tension brews between Brendan and Siobhan because she thinks he isn't showing enough commitment to Aisling.

Meanwhile the bank is selling Quigley's property, and the priest's house is under threat. Father Mac puts in an offer but it goes to another buyer – Dooley.

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### Episode Synopses

3. Avril is worried because The Cat, one of her horses, is under performing. She can't afford to keep him and another trainer has offered to buy it. Amazingly, The Cat takes a fancy to Grainne's pet goat and issuddenly back on form. When Dooley hears the story, he negotiates a percentage of any winnings. Edso and Avril begin a flirtation as they prepare The Cat for the races.

Frankie asks Vincent to speak to a drunk who wants to see a priest. The drunk confesses to breaking into a house and accidentally knocking a woman down some stairs. The woman is now in a coma and the husband is the number one suspect. Bound by the secrecy of the confessional, Vincent must remain silent, which leads to conflict with Frankie.

4. As a storm breaks over Ballyk, Fitzgerald's bar is enlivened by the tale of the ghost of Finbar Corcoran, a highwayman who was hanged in the 18th Century. Dooley's ears prick up when he hears that the innkeeper at Fitzgerald's was granted fishing rights, in perpetuity, for handling Corcoran over to the authorities. It's another money-making opportunity, if Dooley can convince Vincent that the trust will benefit by him organising tours for anglers. But as Dooley's plans progress, strange things start to occur. One night Liam and Donal see an apparition. Another night Edso and Kathleen see a horse and rider. Oonagh also hears horses hooves in the pub.

Kathleen wins a car in a competition and asks Edso for driving lessons. She'll never pass her test but he enjoys the lessons because he can talk to her about Avril. Meanwhile, Liam tries to buy the car from Kathleen to sell to Father Mac – not realising the car is flaunting a large advertisement.

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### Episode Synopses

5. Avril gets a shock when she sees Garrett Burrage, her ex husband, with another woman. He is staying at Fitzgerald's and his new girlfriend is her sister Rosie. The realisation sends her straight to the whiskey bottle, but Vincent is on hand to help.

Oonagh wants to change the name of the pub to Oonagh Dooley's. Vincent decides that they should put it to the vote.

Liam and Donal want their money back and are putting pressure on Dooley – who wakes up to find a horse's saddle in his bed (the Irish godfathers have spoken). His bank manager, Cattermole, will loan him the money if he agrees to sell the priest's house.

Avril goes to an AA meeting in Cilldargan and is surprised to see Vincent there.

6. Vincent is in charge of this year's parish fête. Liam and Donal negotiate the use of a cow called Bertha from Louis for their cowpat-in-a-square competition. Kathleen is going for ten wins in a row at the jam competition, but can she win now that she's up against Oonagh and Vincent is replacing Mac as judge?

Avril thinks one of her horses has colic. Word gets out and it looks like the yard might have to close. Dooley sees it as another chance to expand his Empire, but when he asks his bank manager for a loan, Cattermole is more concerned about whether his wife will win the jam competition.

Siobhan has found a lump on her breast and is waiting for her test results. When Brendan eventually realises that something is wrong, she pushes him away, worried that she can't count on him for support.

The day of the fête arrives. Liam and Donal give Bertha tablets to make her constipated. Dooley switches jams and Avril's horse wins the race so she no longer needs to borrow any money. To top everything Frankie catches Dermot drinking in the beer tent. And Siobhan gets the results of her tests...

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### Episode Synopses

7. An old friend of Vincent's arrives in Ballykissangel. Barry and his girlfriend, Lyn, want to get married, but there's a snag. Barry has been married before and Father Mac won't let him remarry in church.

Dooley has leased some land that a consortium want to build on, but he too hits a snag. Brendan has spotted a "mass rock" and won't let them shift it.

A faith healer, Consuela Dunphy, is in Wicklow and appears to have special powers when Lyn's longed-for pregnancy suddenly materialises and Father Mac's arthritic limp disappears.

8. There's trouble in the church this episode. Father Mac confronts Vincent when he finds out that he married Lyn and Barry at the "mass rock". But Mac is in trouble with the Bishop because he assumed the church would buy back the priest's house from the bank. He is told he is too old to be a parish priest and that he should contemplate his future. When Vincent finds out, he furiously tells the Bishop that if Father Mac goes, he will go too.

Vincent is now homeless as Lucius Cattermole, the bank manager, has put the priest's house up for sale. There's no room at the inn, but a few days of Kathleen prove too much, so he moves in with Brendan, and finally gets an offer of the spare room at Avril's.

The council want Dooley's land for a rubbish dump. But will he agree to such an eyesore so close to Ballyk?

Meanwhile, after attending Louis' dog, Siobhan discovers cannabis growing near his house on the mountain. Frankie arranges a stake-out, but is shocked when the culprit turns out to be Doc Ryan, who has been prescribing the plant as pain relief for a patient – Frankie's aunt who has multiple sclerosis.

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### Awards

#### Series 1

National Television Awards 1996

Most Popular Actress: Dervla Kirwan

#### Series 2

Royal Television Society Awards 1997

Best Drama Series

#### Series 3

Promax UK Awards 1998

Gold Prize

Best Drama Production

BAFTA 1998

Nomination: Most Popular Drama Series

Nomination: Most Popular Actress – Dervla Kirwan

#### Series 4

TRIC Awards 1999

TV Theme Music of the Year

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