

## **Stellar line-up announced for Children in Need: Got It Covered**

BBC One and BBC Children in Need have today announced the launch of Children in Need: Got It Covered, a brand new venture for 2019 which involves some of the UK's biggest names from stage and screen as they band together to produce an entire album of cover songs whilst helping to make a positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people throughout the UK.

A whole host of critically-acclaimed actors have volunteered their time to play a special part in this incredibly exciting project for BBC Children in Need this year. Among them are Helena Bonham Carter (*The King's Speech*, *Sweeney Todd*), Jim Broadbent (*Iris*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*), Olivia Colman CBE (*The Favourite*, *Fleabag*), Shaun Dooley (*Gentleman Jack*, *Gunpowder*), Luke Evans (*Beauty And The Beast*, *Fast & Furious 7 & 8*), Suranne Jones (*Gentleman Jack*, *Doctor Foster*), Adrian Lester OBE (*Trauma*, *Hustle*), Himesh Patel (*Yesterday*, *EastEnders*), David Tennant (*Good Omens*, *Doctor Who*) and Jodie Whittaker (*Doctor Who*, *Trust Me*).

A special 60-minute programme will follow the entire recording process and explore all the behind-the-scenes action as the actors face the challenging task of laying down their bespoke tracks at the legendary recording studios Rak and Abbey Road Studios in London. Each of the actors will handpick a song that is most significant to them and receive expert guidance from Brit and Mercury award-winning record producers and songwriters, Guy Chambers and Jonathan Quarumby.

Renowned vocal coach, Mark De-Lisser will also be at hand to assist the actors with producing their tracks. The programme will also shine a light on the projects funded by BBC Children in Need, with a selection of the actors visiting projects to see first-hand the difference their support will make to young lives.

Mel Balac, Executive Producer and Creative Director at BBC Studios, says: "Many of the actors have said trying to nail the role of recording artist has been their most challenging role yet. The personally curated playlist that is being created in aid of Pudsey will be big on musical surprises and laughs, while highlighting the fantastic charities and causes BBC Children in Need supports. Bring on the drama!"

Kate Phillips, Controller, Entertainment Commissioning for the BBC, says: "I'm delighted and so impressed by the outstanding array of actors who have agreed to step out of their comfort zones and help raise money for BBC Children in Need. Every year we are truly inspired by the extraordinary support we receive from thousands of people and we know this year will be no exception."

Tommy Nagra, Director of Content at BBC Children in Need, says: "We are thrilled that this amazing line-up of acting talent are giving up their time to come together and create something quite unique for this year's BBC Children in Need appeal. Their musical efforts will help make a difference to the thousands of disadvantaged children and young people we support across the UK and leave a lasting impact beyond this TV special. A huge thanks to everyone involved."

Polly Dooley, Executive Producer at 20four7films, adds: "Shaun Dooley and I are immensely proud to be working with BBC Studios and Silva Screen Records, bringing Britain's best-loved actors and record producers together to create a unique and exciting album and programme. The unbelievably generous outpouring of goodwill from all involved will no doubt raise lots of much needed funds for BBC Children in Need."

The programme will be broadcast on BBC One ahead of the annual BBC Children in Need Appeal show. The album, in aid of BBC Children in Need, will be released in conjunction with Silva Screen Records and is set to be released later in the year.

Children in Need: Got It Covered is a co-production by BBC Studios and 20four7films. The executive producers are Mel Balac and Polly Dooley and the director is Peter Coventry. The Commissioning Editor for the BBC is Rachel Ashdown.

BBC Children in Need relies on the generosity and creativity of the thousands of supporters and fundraisers who raise millions of pounds for the charity every year. To date, the UK public has raised over £1 billion for children and young people facing disadvantage across the UK.

All profits will go to BBC Children in Need, with a minimum of £1.50 per album (charity number 802052 in England & Wales and SC039557 in Scotland).

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**Notes to editors**

**About BBC Children in Need**

BBC Children in Need's vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential. The charity will realise this vision by supporting, promoting and publicising work that addresses the challenges that children and young people face and work that builds their skills and resilience.

BBC Children in Need is currently supporting over 2,800 projects in communities across the UK that are helping children and young people facing a range of disadvantages such as living in poverty, being disabled or ill, or experiencing distress, neglect or trauma.

### **About BBC Studios**

BBC Studios, a global content company with British creativity at its heart, is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group. Formed in April 2018 by the merger of BBC Worldwide and BBC Studios, it spans content financing, development, production, sales, branded services and ancillaries. BBC Studios' award-winning British programmes are internationally recognised across a broad range of genres and specialisms.

It has offices in 22 markets globally, including seven production bases in the UK and production bases and partnerships in a further nine countries around the world. The company, which makes 2500 hours of content a year, is a champion for British creativity around the world and a committed partner for the UK's independent sector. BBC Studios has revenue of £1.4bn, and returns around £200m to the BBC Group annually, complementing the BBC's licence fee and enhancing programmes for UK audiences.