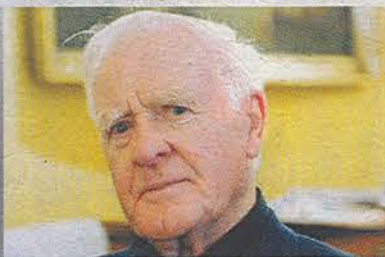


by ALICE JONES

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### Back in the thick of it

Chris Langham, the former star of *The Thick of It* who was sentenced to 10 months in prison in 2007 for downloading indecent images of children from the internet, is returning to the screen. He stars in *Black Pond*, the directorial debut of Will Sharpe, 24, and Tom Kingsley, 25, which premieres at Raindance Film Festival next month. The film is a black comedy drama about a middle-class family who are accused of murder when a stranger dies at their dinner table. Simon Amstell stars as an acerbic therapist while Langham (top left) plays the bumbling patriarch trying to hold his family together in the face of lurid scandal.

"Every decision we made was to do with saving money," says Sharpe, a former president of Footlights who performed with *The Inbetweeners'* Simon Bird and Joe Thomas in the Cambridge University troupe. "We thought, 'Chris is perfect for the part, so why not? Presumably he's not been inundated with offers and he'll do it for a modest fee'. Which he did." The film was made for less than £25,000. "We thought that Chris wasn't a bad man and that if even we, first-time directors with no budget, wouldn't cast him, then what hope did he have? Not casting him would have been a decision based on fear. I don't regret it for a moment."

### A new sensation

Arguably the most sensational of the YBAs in Saatchi's notorious *Sensation* exhibition, Marcus Harvey, is turning to curating. The artist, whose painting of Myra Hindley made from children's

handprints was pelted with eggs, ink and opprobrium in 1997, has chosen works by Anthony Caro among other pieces in "two-and-a-half dimensions", which blur the boundaries between painting and sculpture for the exhibition at London's Pangolin Gallery. Harvey, whose last major solo show, at White Cube in 2009, featured a portrait of Margaret Thatcher made out of sex toys and misshapen vegetables, is also making a new piece for the show. Details are sketchy, but I'm told that it is a glazed stoneware bust of an historic hero, along the lines of his 2008 silver bust of Churchill sporting a Mohican (top middle).

### Everything must go - to Selfridges

The Museum of Everything has moved out of its former home in a disused dairy in Primrose Hill to occupy the window displays and basement of Selfridges. The exhibition of over 500 pieces of outsider art has been co-designed by Eve Stewart, the production designer of *The King's Speech* and *The Hour*, among many others. "She liked the idea of establishing an independent, idiosyncratic space in such a commercial environment," a spokesman tells me. For Frieze week, it will open a further pop-up, in the disused Selfridges Hotel, dedicated to the deaf and mute wool sculptor Judith Scott, who died in 2005.

### John on screen

Tomas Alfredson's *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* is widely tipped to win the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival tomorrow. The majestic

spy epic, featuring Colin Firth, Tom Hardy, Benedict Cumberbatch and a magnificently chilly central turn from Gary Oldman as George Smiley has been enthusiastically backed by John le Carré (top right). As an executive producer on the film, the author enjoyed the perk of appearing in his own adventure. Eagle-eyed types will spy him in a flashback to the Circus's Christmas party. "I had to imagine who I was, at my great age, sitting in that Circus community. I decided that I was an elderly gay librarian who'd been brought in for love of old times, and was given license to get plastered," he said. It's the only scene in which all of the principal characters appear together. "He had a good time," says Working Title's Tim Bevan. "The sequence takes place back when everything was fine at the Circus - or at least seemed fine. In fact, it's a scene that's not in the book."

### Designs on a new home

All change for the Design Museum as it prepares to leave Tower Bridge for the leafy end of High Street Kensington. The museum will move into the former Commonwealth Institute, which has been empty for 10 years, in 2014. John Pawson is in charge of the interior while Rem Koolhaas is designing flats for the site. Before they move in, next weekend is the last chance to see its Grade II\*-listed interior as part of Open House weekend. The old Design Museum will be put up for sale soon. And what will become of its excellent Blueprint Café? "That's to be decided," I'm told. "But there will definitely be a café on the new site." Phew.