

all creatures great and small episode guide

All Creatures Great and Small is a beloved television series that brings to life the charm and challenges of rural veterinary practice in the Yorkshire Dales. Based on the books by James Herriot, the show has captured the hearts of audiences since its debut in the 1970s and has seen a successful revival in recent years. This article serves as a comprehensive episode guide, detailing both the original series and the recent adaptation, highlighting key themes, notable characters, and significant events from each episode.

Overview of the Series

The original series, which aired from 1978 to 1990, consists of several seasons that portray the life of James Herriot, a veterinarian who navigates the ups and downs of his profession while also dealing with personal relationships and the beauty of the Yorkshire countryside. The recent revival began airing in 2020 and has successfully introduced a new generation to Herriot's adventures.

Original Series Episode Guide

The original "All Creatures Great and Small" series consists of seven seasons with a total of 90 episodes. Below is a season-by-season breakdown of the episodes, along with brief descriptions.

Season 1 (1978)

1. Episode 1: "Same Old, Same Old"
 - James Herriot arrives in Darrowby and begins his new job with Siegfried Farnon.
2. Episode 2: "The Taming of the Shrew"
 - A troublesome horse presents challenges for James.
3. Episode 3: "The Informed Vet"
 - James learns more about the realities of farm life.
4. Episode 4: "The Last of the Summer Wine"
 - A comical look at the eccentric locals in Darrowby.
5. Episode 5: "The Cat's Whiskers"
 - A chaotic day involving a stray cat.
6. Episode 6: "The Way We Were"
 - Reflects on James's early days as a vet.
7. Episode 7: "The Best Laid Plans"
 - James's plans go awry when he finds himself in unexpected situations.

Season 2 (1979)

1. Episode 1: "The Return of the Prodigal"
 - The arrival of Tristan leads to comedic situations.
2. Episode 2: "The Hound of the Baskervilles"
 - A mysterious dog causes trouble in the village.
3. Episode 3: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"
 - James deals with a series of difficult animal cases.
4. Episode 4: "The Lion's Share"
 - A farmer's prized sheep becomes a point of contention.
5. Episode 5: "The Way of the World"
 - Explores the dynamics between the characters.
6. Episode 6: "The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree"
 - Family relationships come to the forefront.
7. Episode 7: "The Best Laid Schemes"
 - James's plans face unforeseen obstacles.

Season 3 (1980)

1. Episode 1: "The Great Escape"
 - A misadventure involving livestock.
2. Episode 2: "The New Arrival"
 - A new pet causes a stir in the community.
3. Episode 3: "The Pursuit of Happiness"
 - A heartwarming story about love and companionship.
4. Episode 4: "The Long Goodbye"
 - Dealing with the loss of a beloved animal.
5. Episode 5: "A Change of Heart"
 - Characters face moral dilemmas.
6. Episode 6: "The Show Must Go On"
 - The village show brings excitement and tension.
7. Episode 7: "The Last Straw"
 - A culmination of tensions leads to a dramatic conclusion.

Subsequent Seasons

The following seasons continue to expand on the characters and the complexities of rural life. Each episode brings new adventures, heartwarming moments, and sometimes heart-wrenching stories, often revolving around the animals that Herriot and his colleagues care for.

Revival Series Episode Guide

The revival of "All Creatures Great and Small" premiered in 2020 and has been met with critical acclaim. It retains the spirit of the original while updating the storytelling for modern audiences.

Season 1 (2020)

1. Episode 1: "When the Boat Comes In"
 - James arrives in Darrowby, setting the stage for new beginnings.
2. Episode 2: "The Night Watchman"
 - James deals with a difficult case involving a cow.
3. Episode 3: "The Way of the World"
 - An exploration of the relationships that define the community.
4. Episode 4: "The Perfect Man"
 - A humorous take on expectations versus reality.
5. Episode 5: "The Last of the Summer Wine"
 - A nostalgic trip that revisits past characters.
6. Episode 6: "The Honeymoon"
 - Personal relationships take center stage.

Season 2 (2021)

1. Episode 1: "The Best of Friends"
 - The bonds of friendship are tested.
2. Episode 2: "The Road to Hell"
 - A challenging case pushes James to his limits.
3. Episode 3: "The Man Who Knew Too Much"
 - Secrets from the past come to light.
4. Episode 4: "The Fall and Rise of John"
 - An emotional journey for one of the characters.

5. Episode 5: "The Last Chance"

- A race against time for a beloved animal.

6. Episode 6: "The Great Adventure"

- A heartwarming finale that ties up loose ends.

Key Themes and Characters

Throughout both series, several recurring themes and characters play a significant role in shaping the narrative.

Key Themes

- Compassion for Animals: The central theme revolves around the deep bond between humans and animals, showcasing the challenges and joys of veterinary work.
- Community: The dynamics of rural life and the importance of community support are intricately woven throughout the storylines.
- Personal Growth: Characters undergo significant development, facing personal and professional challenges that lead to growth and maturity.

Notable Characters

- James Herriot: The protagonist, whose experiences form the backbone of the series.
- Siegfried Farnon: The eccentric but wise mentor to James, providing comic relief and sage advice.
- Tristan Farnon: Siegfried's younger brother, known for his charm and mischief.
- Helen Alderson: James's love interest, representing the heart of the narrative.

Conclusion

The enduring appeal of "All Creatures Great and Small" lies in its authentic portrayal of rural life, the complexities of veterinary medicine, and the relationships that define human and animal interactions. Both the original series and the revival have made significant contributions to television, resonating with audiences of all ages. Whether you're revisiting the classic episodes or experiencing the new series for the first time, the heartwarming stories of James Herriot and his companions continue to inspire and entertain.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the premise of 'All Creatures Great and Small'?

The show follows the life of a young veterinarian, James Herriot, as he navigates his career in the Yorkshire Dales during the 1930s, dealing with various animals and their owners.

How many seasons of 'All Creatures Great and Small' are there?

As of October 2023, there are three seasons available, with a fourth season confirmed to be in production.

Who are the main characters in 'All Creatures Great and Small'?

The main characters include James Herriot, Siegfried Farnon, Tristan Farnon, and Helen Anderson, each contributing to the rich storytelling and character dynamics.

What is the significance of the setting in 'All Creatures Great and Small'?

The Yorkshire Dales provide a picturesque and often challenging backdrop that enhances the narrative, reflecting the beauty and struggles of rural life in the 1930s.

Are there any notable episodes in 'All Creatures Great and Small'?

Yes, episodes such as 'The Night Watchman' and 'The Last Fling' stand out for their emotional depth and character development, resonating with audiences.

How does 'All Creatures Great and Small' compare to the original series?

The new adaptation maintains the charm of the original series while updating the storytelling and production values, making it accessible to a modern audience.

Where can I watch 'All Creatures Great and Small'?

The series is available for streaming on platforms like PBS, BritBox, and Amazon Prime Video, depending on your region.

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