Evans back for Peggy's final hours: "That's the face you'd want to see at the end"

the end

On the show's 35th anniversary BBC4 salutes Pat and Peggy and we talk to Sarah Phelps, who wrote the landlady's final episode



By <u>Paul Simper</u>
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Agatha Christie adaptation, The Pale Horse.

Peggy Mitchell's (Dame Barbara Windsor) death will forever go down as one of the greatest EastEnders' episodes to date.

Clement) for the special, who was brought back from the dead for the iconic scene.

The writer of that particular episode was Sarah Phelps, who recently penned the

Fans will remember she was joined by her long-time frenemy, Pat Evans (Pam St

"I had to bring back my beloved Pat for Peggy," says Phelps, who returned to write it for then Executive Producer Dominic Treadwell-Collins who Dame Barbara had asked to oversee her exit storyline. "How can you resist the opportunity to put

those two great great dames - Barbara and Pam - in a room?"

Pat had been controversially killed off on New Year's Day 2012, dying of pancreatic cancer. "The greatest character" is Barbara's verdict of her onscreen sparring partner. "I was very upset."

brain.

"If you're going to kill Peggy Mitchell and she's ill I thought if she's got a tumour in

Peggy took her own life in May 2016 after cancer had spread to her bones and her

her brain there's that thing where you can always smell smoke," explains Phelps to RadioTimes.com. "You have these olfactory hallucinations. So what if she keeps smelling burning? It's terrifying and it's horrible. You know that your end is nigh and your body is packing up on you.

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you'd been scared she'd actually been there keeping you company.

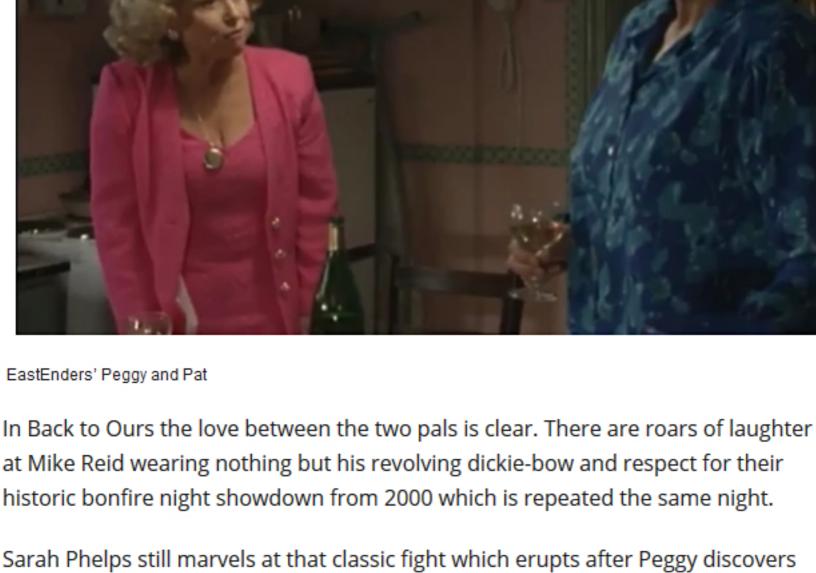
on the day she died.

"Because if you're gonna die you don't want any of your ex-husbands or any of your lovers. You want Pat lit up like a Woolworth's Christmas tree to see you across the river. That's what you want."

Fans will get a tantalising look back at Peggy and Pat's incredible friendship tonight

on BBC4 in a special repeat of Back to Ours, featuring both actresses.

It was first broadcast to mark <u>EastEnders</u> 30th anniversary, the two greats riotously revisit some of their most iconic moments. All that is missing is their last ever scene together, which was filmed the following year when Pat's ghost visited Peggy



Sarah Phelps still marvels at that classic fight which erupts after Peggy discovers Frank Butcher (Mike Reid) has betrayed her with Pat.

• EastEnders cast: Who is joining, leaving and returning to the soap?

<u>EastEnders: Does Dennis die as lan's revenge twist goes wrong?</u>

- EastEnders reveal first look at the aftermath of the 35th anniversary as
- Whitney faces life behind bars

 "That iconic moment. "You b***h! You cow!" Slapping each other's faces. What it

was was love. "You cow." "Oh, my friend." The face you'd slap. That's the face you'd want to see at the end."

Walford past" – so Here's to Peggy, Pat and all the magnificent East End matriarchs.

EastEnders: Back to Ours, 11pm BBC4, Classic EastEnders, 11.15pm BBC4. The Pale

Horse is available on BBC iPlayer.

In this week's anniversary boat dramas Linda Carter raised a glass to "the ghosts of