

The ABC Murders



BBC1, Boxing Day, Thurs Dec 27, Fri Dec 28, 9pm

If Agatha Christie is the literary queen of period whodunnits then writer Sarah Phelps is contemporary telly's peerless forensic pathologist of her work, unflinchingly dissecting the corpses then reassembling them for a modern day audience who are ready, for the most part, for a bit more flesh on the bones. This, her 4th BBC Christie adaptation, has raised a few eyebrows as John Malkovich delivers his ageing Hercule Poirot without the trademark waxed moustache. Although the loss of his Belgian accent is actually a key plot point as in 1933 Britain he is no longer the celebrated great detective but a distrusted refugee. *The ABC Murders* in question are alphabetical with the killer making good use of the British Railway system. Chief suspect is Eamon Farren - last seen running down small children in *Twin Peaks* 2017 - as the furious typist of threatening letters, but almost as antagonistic is *Harry Potter's* Rupert Grint as the dismissive young Inspector Crome.