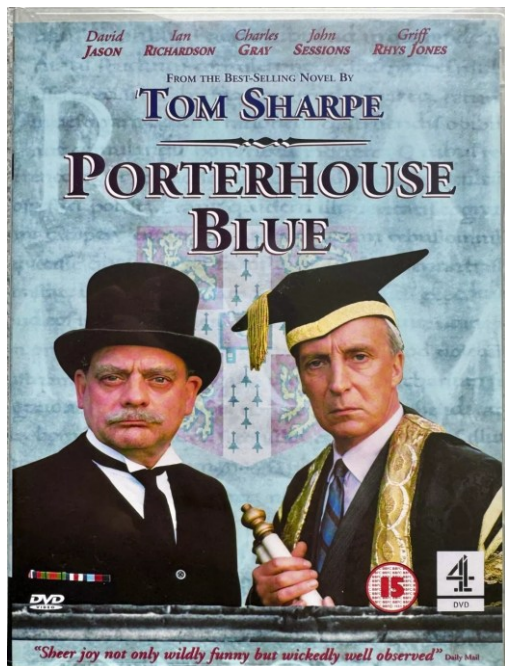


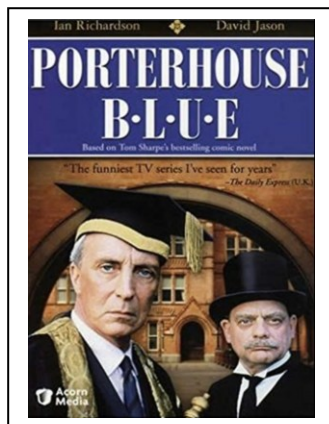
REF: 348

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS

Title: **Porterhouse Blues**



1 Disc  
Library Image



ISBN: 5014138290580

## Information

Release Title: **Porterhouse Blues** 03<sup>rd</sup> June 1987 United Kingdom

Origin: United Kingdom

Release Date: United States: 'A British Thing'

**Note:** The series was released onto Region 2 DVD in 2002 and rereleased in released onto Region 1 DVD in 2007.

The show was repeated on the UK channel GOLD in 2017 as well as in 2018 and 2020. As of 2022 it is available for streaming in the UK on BritBox & All 4.

Genres: Comedy

AKA:

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: 15

Duration: 3h 20 (200m) 4 episodes (60min)

Region Code:

Product Code:

Languages: English

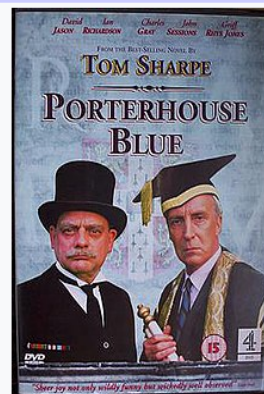
Filming locations: Apethorpe Hall, Apethorpe, Northamptonshire, England, UK (Skullion bursts the condoms in the quad at Porterhouse College)

Sound mix: Mono

Colour: Colour

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 (35mm)

### Porterhouse Blue



DVD cover

Genre Comedy  
Based on [Porterhouse Blue](#)  
by Tom Sharpe  
Written by [Malcolm Bradbury](#)  
Directed by [Robert Knights](#)  
Starring [David Jason](#)  
[Ian Richardson](#)  
[John Sessions](#)  
[Charles Gray](#)  
[Griff Rhys Jones](#)  
[Paul Rogers](#)  
[John Woodnutt](#)  
[Paula Jacobs](#)  
[Barbara Jefford](#)  
[Ian Wallace](#)

Opening theme [Dives in Omnia](#)  
Composer [Rick Lloyd](#)  
Country of origin United Kingdom  
Original language English  
No. of seasons 1  
No. of episodes 4

### Production

Producer [Brian Eastman](#)  
Cinematography [Dick Pope](#)  
Editor [Barry Peters](#)  
Running time 200 minutes  
Production companies [Carnival Film and Television](#)  
[Picture Partnership Productions](#)

### Original release

Network [Channel 4](#)  
Release 3 June –  
24 June 1987



## Storyline:– Porterhouse Blues

For the television series the events of the novel were updated from 1973 to 1986, with Cornelius Carrington having graduated in 1974, rather than 1938, as in the novel.

For the first time in five hundred years, a Master of Porterhouse fails to name his successor on his deathbed before dying. He succumbs to a Porterhouse Blue - a stroke brought about by overindulgence in the college's legendary cuisine. Sir Godber Evans is appointed by the Prime Minister as his successor as a means of removing him from the government. At the sumptuous College Feast complete with swan and an entire roasted ox, Sir Godber, egged on by his zealously liberal wife, Lady Mary, announces sweeping changes to the centuries of college tradition, much to the concern of Skullion and the Fellows, who plan a counter-attack on the proposed contraceptive machines, women students, and self-service canteen.

Meanwhile, the only research graduate student in the college, Lionel Zipser, visits the hard-of-hearing college chaplain and explains his fixation for Mrs Biggs, his middle-aged, large-breasted bedder. As the chaplain is hard of hearing he requires Zipser to use a megaphone. To his intense embarrassment Zipser is overheard by members of the college who gather outside to listen. Mrs Biggs is not within earshot, but nevertheless has sensed that something is up from Zipser's awkward behaviour around her every time she comes to clean his room and especially when she teases him sexually, such as when she asks him to help take off her bright red PVC raincoat in the tight confines of the gyp room.

While Sir Godber congratulates himself on having defeated the traditionalists, investigative journalist Cornelius Carrington is brought in on the pretext of helping both parties, while secretly having his own agenda.

Meanwhile, having been advised to pick up a foreign student so as to slake his lust for Mrs Biggs, Zipser, after a series of frustrating attempts to buy condoms acquires four large boxes by mistake. Concerned that he has technically stolen them, he tries many ways to get rid of them and eventually inflates them with gas from the gas fire in his room and floats them up the chimney, realising that some have become stuck in the chimney while the rest have floated down into the college quadrangle. Fearing for the good name of the college, Skullion spends the night bursting the inflated condoms.

Meanwhile, Mrs Biggs reciprocates Zipser's passion, and sneaks up to his room in the middle of the night and wakes him up. To his amazement she undresses and, despite his protests, promptly enters his bed and lies on top of him. Unfortunately, while undressing, she has lit the gas fire, which takes a short while to ignite the inflated condoms stuck in the chimney, causing an explosion that demolishes the Bull Tower and kills her and Zipser in their moment of passion.

Skullion refuses to open the main gates of college to let the fire engines in and continues to burst the inflated condoms; as a consequence, he is dismissed. Skullion visits the bank and discovers that his nest egg of shares inherited from a previous master is worth a fortune. He takes his revenge by giving a shocking revelatory interview on Carrington's live television show. Skullion pleads with Sir Godber to be reinstated and offers his legacy to the college, but is refused on both counts. Skullion thrusts the box containing his legacy to Sir Godber, who in panic steps back and falls against the wall, causing a heavy picture to drop onto his head giving him a fatal injury. Skullion quickly leaves. Two senior academics find the dying Sir Godber who whispers one word: Skullion! They agree that, in accordance with college tradition, Skullion has been named the new Master of Porterhouse.

When Skullion is visited by the college officials with the good news, he thinks they have discovered his involvement in Sir Godber's death. Whilst they are telling him about his promotion, this causes him to suffer a debilitating Porterhouse Blue, with partial paralysis. Nonetheless, he is installed as the Master and his shares are sold to meet the cost of rebuilding the Bull Tower, so Porterhouse's traditions are firmly re-established. [Wiki](#)

In late-'80s Britain, Porterhouse College Cambridge is an anachronism, its students uniformly male and (in the vast number of cases) privately educated. When the incumbent Master dies (from a stroke brought on by overeating) the government revenges itself on Porterhouse by appointing as his successor an old graduate, the politician Sir Godber Evans. One of the tiny minorities of state-school students the college has had forced on it

over the years, Evans returns to his alma mater determined to drag this bastion of privilege into the twentieth century. The elderly academic staff cease their bickering and close ranks against him, but the new Master finds his most implacable and unscrupulous opponent in Skullion, the college porter. - Peter Brynmor Roberts [IMDb](#)

## Main Cast

David Jason  
 Ian Richardson  
 John Sessions  
 Charles Gray  
 Griff Rhys Jones  
 Paul Rogers  
 John Woodnutt  
 Paula Jacobs  
 Barbara Jefford  
 Ian Wallace



### Series Directed by

Robert Knights ... (4 episodes, 1987)

### Series Writing Credits

Malcolm Bradbury ... (adapted by) (4 episodes, 1987)

**Tom Sharpe** ... (**novel**) (4 episodes, 1987)

### Series Cast verified as complete

David Jason	David Jason	...	Skullion	4 episodes, 1987
- Episode #1.4 (1987)	...	Skullion		
- Episode #1.3 (1987)	...	Skullion		
- Episode #1.2 (1987)	...	Skullion		
- Episode #1.1 (1987)	...	Skullion		
Ian Richardson	Ian Richardson	...	Sir Godber Evans	4 episodes, 1987
Paul Rogers	Paul Rogers	...	Dean	4 episodes, 1987
John Woodnutt	John Woodnutt	...	Senior Tutor	4 episodes, 1987
Harold Innocent	Harold Innocent	...	Bursar	4 episodes, 1987
Barbara Jefford	Barbara Jefford	...	Lady Mary	4 episodes, 1987
Ian Wallace	Ian Wallace	...	Praelector	4 episodes, 1987
Willoughby Goddard	Willoughby Goddard	...	Professor Siblington	4 episodes, 1987
Lockwood West	Lockwood West	...	Chaplain	4 episodes, 1987
Bob Goody	Bob Goody	...	Walter	4 episodes, 1987
Roy Evans	Roy Evans	...	Arthur	4 episodes, 1987
John Sessions	John Sessions	...	Zipser	3 episodes, 1987
Charles Gray	Charles Gray	...	Sir Cathcart D'Eath	3 episodes, 1987
Paula Jacobs	Paula Jacobs	...	Mrs. Biggs	3 episodes, 1987
John Rogan	John Rogan	...	Chef	3 episodes, 1987
Tim Preece	Tim Preece	...	Dr. Messmer	3 episodes, 1987
Miles Richardson	Miles Richardson	...	Gimingham	3 episodes, 1987
Earl Rhodes	Earl Rhodes	...	Foxton	3 episodes, 1987
Charles Millham	Charles Millham	...	Hearty	3 episodes, 1987
Fred Lee Own	Fred Lee Own	...	Japanese Guard	3 episodes, 1987
Derek Lyons	Derek Lyons	...	Student	3 episodes, 1987
Griff Rhys Jones	Griff Rhys Jones	...	Cornelius Carrington	2 episodes, 1987
Robert Eddison	Robert Eddison	...	Old Master	1 episode, 1987
Roland MacLeod	Roland MacLeod	...	Bank Manager	1 episode, 1987
Kitty Aldridge	Kitty Aldridge	...	Serenal	1 episode, 1987
Sophie Thursfield	Sophie Thursfield	...	Monika	1 episode, 1987
Bob Carlton	Bob Carlton	...	TV Director	1 episode, 1987
John Joyce	John Joyce	...	Barber	1 episode, 1987
Mike Savage	Mike Savage	...	Barman	1 episode, 1987
Alice Douglas	Alice Douglas	...	Ruth	1 episode, 1987
Charu Bala Chokshi	Charu Bala Chokshi	...	Dr. Chukergee	1 episode, 1987

David Trevena David Trevena ... Counterman1 episode, 1987  
 Jack Hunt School Peterborough Jack Hunt School Peterborough ... Choir1 episode, 1987  
 Lucien Morgan Lucien Morgan ... Robert1 episode, 1987  
 Series Produced by  
 Brian Eastman ... producer (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Music by  
 Christopher Gunning ... (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Cinematography by  
 Dick Pope ... (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Editing by  
 Barry Peters ... (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Casting By  
 Anne Henderson ... (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Production Design by  
 Eileen Diss ... (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Costume Design by  
 Lindy Hemming ... (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Makeup Department  
 Tommie Manderson ... makeup department head (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Production Management  
 Linda Bruce ... production manager (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Second Unit Director or Assistant Director  
 Peter Freeman ... third assistant director (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Christopher Hall ... second assistant director (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Andrew Montgomery ... first assistant director (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Sound Department  
 Michèle Atkins ... dubbing editor (4 episodes, 1987)  
 John Chandler ... boom operator (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Peter Elliott ... dialogue editor (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Graham Harris ... sound editor (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Richard Spooner ... assistant sound / sound assistant (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Ted Spooner ... dubbing mixer (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Bruce White ... sound mixer (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Camera and Electrical Department  
 Steve Alcorn ... camera operator (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Martin Duncan ... electrician (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Paul Englefield ... focus puller (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Andrew Friswell ... grip (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Tony Hair ... electrician (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Roger Lowe ... electrician (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Chris Palmer ... electrician (4 episodes, 1987)  
 John Parsons ... gaffer (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Nikki Williams ... clapper/loader (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Editorial Department  
 Jeremy Child ... assistant editor (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Location Management  
 Joanna Gollins ... location manager (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Simon McNair Scott ... assistant location manager (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Music Department  
 The Flying Pickets ... singers: title song "Dives in Omnia" (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Series Additional Crew  
 Diane Chittell ... production coordinator (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Marissa Devereux ... assistant accountant (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Alan John ... production accountant (4 episodes, 1987)  
 Heather Storr ... script continuity (4 episodes, 1987)



## Parents Guide

Certification

United Kingdom 15..... currently not rated on scale

**Sex & Nudity** –Severe **Violence & Gore** –Severe, **Profanity** – Severe, **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Severe,  
**Frightening & Intense Scenes** - Severe

