

— WHAT TO — — WATCH —



▲ Inside the attempted assassination of Alexei Navalny

THE MAN PUTIN COULDN'T KILL

Channel 4, 10pm

An extraordinary and bizarrely entertaining film exploring the operation of a state-sponsored murder programme in Russia; one that operates at a level of incompetence that would be laughable were it not so deplorable. The focus is the botched attempt, last August, to assassinate the Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny by smearing his underpants with the deadly nerve agent Novichok. Director Jon Blair – with the help of a breathtaking body of evidence collected by Navalny, the investigative website *Bellingcat* and numerous brave contributors – follows a trail that leads straight back to the Kremlin and

lays the blame squarely at Vladimir Putin's door.

Along the way, we meet the man who invented Novichok, revisit Navalny's exposés of corruption and the long list of Putin opponents who've been killed. In a film brimming with the banality of evil, the most absurd moment comes when Navalny tricks one of his alleged would-be assassins into outlining their modus operandi by pretending to be a Putin aide demanding to know what went wrong. Navalny may be back in prison for now but his genius for making Putin look stupid could yet determine Russia's political future.

Gerard O'Donovan

CONTINUED



SCHUMACHER*Netflix*

A portrait of the German seven-time world champion F1 racing driver Michael Schumacher, who has not been seen in public since sustaining a devastating brain injury while skiing in France in 2013. Featuring heartfelt interviews with his wife, children, parents and his fellow F1 driver brother, Ralf, plus contributions from many who worked with Schumacher.



▲ Netflix explores Michael Schumacher's F1 legacy

together a list of the season's key jobs, from goat rehabilitation to pumpkin picking, and look into the eventful history of agricultural technology.

THIS WEEK ON THE FARM*Channel 5, 9pm*

Helen Skelton and Jules Hudson are back with farming brothers Rob and Dave at Cannon Hall Farm to welcome in autumn. Tonight, they put

FRED AND ROSE WEST: REOPENED*ITV, 9pm*

Sir Trevor McDonald heads up this blood-



curdling investigation into the likelihood that the Gloucester-based serial killers Fred and Rose West were responsible for more murders than the 12 they are known to have committed. This first part (concluding tomorrow) looks at the case of Mary Bastholm and sets out to pinpoint the location of a “farm” where West claimed he buried some victims.

GRAND DESIGNS

Channel 4, 9pm

Kevin McCloud chortles knowingly at yet more self-inflicted self-build pain, as an architect couple choose the walled-garden of a country estate, designed by renowned architect Sir Robert Lorimer, in which to plonk their shard of over-ambitious ultra-modernism.

▼ Trevor McDonald is looks into Fred and Rose West



MEASURING MASS: THE LAST ARTEFACT

BBC Four, 9pm

A beautifully made documentary about the platinum cylinder known as “le grand K” that defined the metric system of weight measurement, for the past 130 years – and the international scientific project to redefine the kilogram based on mathematical constants rather than a single object.

BILLIONS

Sky Atlantic, 9pm

Despite an almost year-long Covid hiatus *Billions* is back on top form again as, in this second episode, a still enraged Axe (Damian Lewis) decides to take his assault on his arch-enemy Michael Prince (Corey Stoll) to the next level – putting Taylor’s (Asia Kate Dillon) business right in the line of fire. It fills a *Succession*-shaped hole admirably until that other drama based on scheming billionaires drops. **GO**

