

PICK OF THE DAY

The Impressions Show...

9.45pm, BBC1 ★★★

To give it its full title – The Impressions Show With Culshaw And Stephenson, That's Jon Culshaw (of course) and, more surprisingly, Debra Stephenson of Bad Girls and Corrie fame – who also has a decent track record in comedy. No preview discs of this new series, but, from what we've seen, it appears to be mainstream, broad-brush, none-too-subtle lampooning of a wide range of well-known TV faces.

The Thick Of It

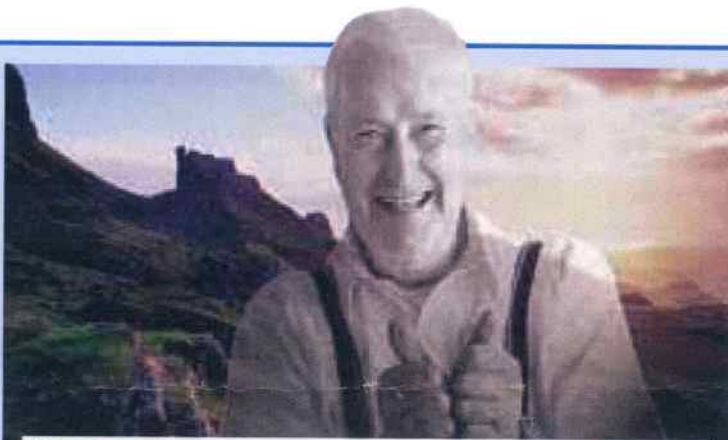
10.10pm, BBC2 ★★★★★

Episode two, and Nicola, the disastrous new minister, has been in power for little more than a week, but already there's open speculation over how long she'll last. And now it turns out that someone's accidentally wiped the immigration records of 170,000 people. Who's going to get the blame – and, more pressingly, who is going to break the news to an already incandescent Malcolm? Expect blizzards of profanities.

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

10.45pm, Five ★★★★★

Things get uncomfortably personal this week, when patrol cops stumble on Fin's estranged son Ken digging up a vacant lot in the middle of the night. He claims he overheard someone in a bar boasting about murdering a woman and burying her there. The team start looking into unsolved murders and soon come up with one that fits the bill – but that's just the beginning of a road that will lead to some shocking revelations.



Wonderland: The Ghostman Of Skye 10.40pm, BBC2 ★★★★★

The Halloween night scheduling might suggest that this is one of those ghost-hunting sagas so beloved of certain satellite channels. In fact, it is anything but. There are ghost stories aplenty – along the lines of The Car That Wasn't There, The Ghost Child, The Things In The Road – but they are incidental to an atmospheric evocation of the weirdness of the Isle of Skye, and, above all, to the portrait of the 'ghostman' himself, Donald Angus Maclean (pictured), who is

collecting the local ghost stories. A former missionary, Maclean recently lost his beloved wife, and clearly his fascination with the 'other side' is tied up with his grief. 'It could be,' he says, 'that the beyond is not nearly as dark as we take it to be.' The film proceeds at a slow pace, but stick with it; as it nears the end – and as Maclean focuses more and more on his own death, and on his past happiness with his wife – it becomes intensely moving.

