

- [Art&Seek](#)
- [KERA News](#)
- [KXT 91.7](#)
- [KERA](#)



Search

Search for: Go

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Contact](#)

// you're reading...

Actors/Actresses

For Jessica Hynes, women's suffrage is a laughing matter...but only as a sitcom

By [Bill Young](#) · May 31, 2013 · [Post a comment](#)

Filed Under [BBC](#), [Comedy](#), [Drama](#), [jessica hynes](#), [mr. selfridge](#), [Spaced](#), [Tellyspotting](#), [twenty twelve](#), [womens suffrage](#)

While it's definitely a bit of a polar opposite from the recent *Mr. Selfridge* episode and the quandary that Harry Gordon Selfridge found himself in when his largest benefactor wanted to hold a women's suffrage meeting at the store, the goal of BBC 4's *Up the Women* is to poke a bit of fun at the women's suffrage movement. During the course of creating the series, however, Jessica Hynes (*Spaced*, *Twenty Twelve*) became acutely aware of what women in the early 1900's were going through and of the need and importance of the movement as reported in the [Radio Times](#). "It changed my view on so many things. It affected me in a way I hadn't expected. I began to understand things about our current society and the way I fit into it, or don't. I began to understand that the roots to sexual inequality are economic. Without any political power, women would be free or cheap labor. They were totally unpaid, unrecognized cogs in those wheels of commerce", said Hynes during her research phase of the project.

In last night's premiere episode, Margaret (Jessica Hynes) has just returned from London where she discovers the women's suffrage movement. She convinces her fellow sewing group members that they should campaign for women to get the vote and to rename their group '**The Banbury Intricate Craft Circle Politely Request Women's Suffrage**,' which, unfortunately, gives viewers a pretty good idea of how

successful they are going to be over the course of the series.



Inspired, she wants the ladies of the newly named group to support the cause and suggests they begin a suffrage league of their own. Margaret's enthusiasm is contagious and it's not long before Banbury has its own band of hilariously ineffectual suffragettes.

Transmitting Thursdays at 8:30pm on BBC 4, Hynes has rounded up an impressive who's who of comedy co-stars. *The Thick Of It*'s Rebecca Front plays frosty group president Helen; *Getting On*'s Vicki Pepperdine is dim-witted spinster Gwen; *Hotel Babylon*'s Emma Pierson is mother-of-14 Eva, and *Call the Midwife*'s Judy Parfitt is Helen's lascivious mother, Myrtle.

Like the infamous dead parrot in one of the most famous of *Monty Python* sketches, the BBC Television Centre in London is no more; it has ceased to be. That said, UK viewers were able to relive its final days last night with the premiere of Jessica Hynes' *Up The Women*, the last series to be filmed at BBC Television Centre. During the taping, Hynes said: "We kept getting lost because everyone was stealing the signs for posterity".

For those who may have seen last night's premiere, is this something that we need to be on the lookout for on the other side of the pond?

Related Posts



Mr. Selfridge open for business as filming begins on series 2



A bit of PG Wodehouse 'comedy brilliance' on the BBC horizon



London Twenty Twelve...365 days and counting



Dateline: London, Twenty Twelve from BBC Four



James Corden's 'The Wrong Mans'...a first look



Sherlock, Downton Abbey add to already stellar casts

ALSO ON TELLYSPOTTING

The haunting soundtrack continues in BBC's Case Histories 2 [1 comment](#)

Downton Abbey meets The Office [6 days ago](#)

The Bletchley Circle is a must see tonight on PBS! [2 comments](#)

No Downton in Diddy's future [1 comment](#)

AROUND THE WEB

[What's this?](#)

4 Stretches to Keep Your Desk Job From Wrecking Your Body [Citi Women & Co.](#)

Economist: Looming Crisis Could Wipeout Your Retirement [Money Morning](#)

Stunning Photo Of Kristen Stewart [Zimbio](#)

How Cruise Ships Fill Their Unsold Cabins [First To Know](#)

0 comments



Leave a message...

Best ▾ Community

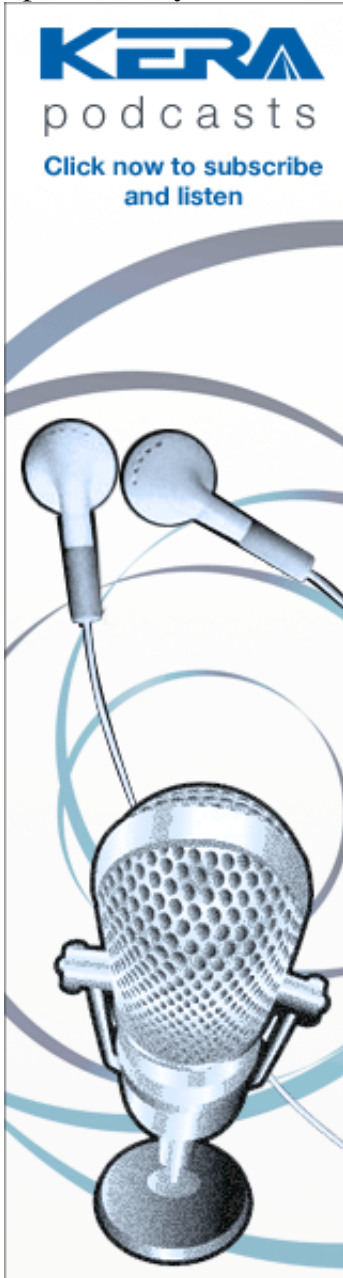
Share

No one has commented yet.

Comment feed Subscribe via email



Sponsored by




[Become a KERA Sponsor](#)

Categories

- [Action/Drama](#)
- [Actors/Actresses](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Comedy](#)
- [Drama](#)
- [Homepage Feature](#)
- [Locations](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Mystery](#)
- [Odds & Sods](#)
- [Uncategorized](#)

Archives

Blogroll

- [Anglotopia](#)
- [BBC Comedy](#)
- [British Comedy Guide](#)
- [Doc Martin Online](#)
- [Medium is Not Enough](#)
- [Pythonline](#)

[KERA Home](#) | [Support KERA Television](#)

© 2013 Public Media for North Texas