

WE'VE BEEN
EXPECTING YOU



Downton Abbey

IN CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 13

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CARNIVAL

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About the Film

We return to the Great House with the most illustrious guests the Crawley family could ever hope to entertain, their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary. With a dazzling parade and lavish dinner to orchestrate, Mary, now firmly at the reins of the estate, faces the greatest challenge to her tenure as head of Downton.

The calibre of the visitors causes quite a rumpus below stairs too and cracks begin to form in the usually well-oiled machine. Mary pleads with the retired Carson to return to the house, just this once, to oversee this most significant event but not everything goes to plan. The loyal Downton staff must pull out all the stops in order to ensure success and that the place they are proud to call home is presented in its greatest light.

The King and Queen bring with them a lady-in-waiting whose own story will prove explosive to the Crawleys and the future of Downton. The arrival of royalty is not a coup for all though: as an erstwhile Irish republican, Tom Branson's political sympathies get him into trouble. Inspired by Branson's republican stance, Daisy starts her own revolt in the kitchens and when Thomas is forced to take a step back by Carson's return, his indulgences during his newly found free time lead to misfortune.

The sisters weather this latest disruption as best they can, but when The King offers Edith's husband Bertie a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity it causes conflict between them. When Violet reveals some surprising news, it becomes clear that Mary must make some important decisions, for herself, for her family and for Downton Abbey.

Only in UK cinemas **September 13, 2019** | kovapr.com/downtonabbey

About the Resource

After seeing the film, you can use this resource as an opportunity to hold an event and dine 'Downton Style'.

The release of *Downton Abbey* offers a great way to connect with friends and chat about the familiar characters we all so love.



Get together, Downton style

The film puts the stylish world of the 1920s on the big screen. When your group gets together after going to the cinema, why not add to the fun with themed food, drink and decorations? You'll easily find recipes and more ideas online.

Food ideas

- **Devilled eggs** – A party classic featuring whipped and seasoned eggs yolks.
- **Waldorf salad** – First made at the fashionable Waldorf Hotel in 1896, this salad features celery, apples and walnuts.
- **Salmon and cucumber sandwiches** – A staple of the English afternoon tea.
- **Pineapple upside-down cake** – This cake came about after a machine for cutting perfect pineapple rings was invented in 1911.
- **Chocolate-dipped strawberries** – A decadent dessert for a hint of '20s glamour.

Drink ideas

- **Gin fizz** – Create an alcohol-free version with lemon, lime, sugar and soda water.
- **Champagne** – Or sparkling grape juice, for a celebratory feel.
- **Earl Grey tea** – The perfect blend for aspiring aristocrats.

Dress up and decorate

If your group is extra keen, you could dress for the occasion. That means knee-length 'flapper dresses' or **gowns** for the ladies, and **suits and hats** for the gentlemen.

Decorate your meeting space with fairy lights, candles, paper garlands, and anything else that helps create a feeling of luxury.



Quiz – Do you know Downton?

If your group are long-time fans of the *Downton Abbey* television series, test their knowledge with this quick quiz.

1. Which major historical event kicks off the first ever episode of *Downton Abbey*?
2. What is Matthew Crawley's profession when we first meet him?
3. Which Downton footman does Daisy marry in series 2?
4. Which Crawley sister is left at the altar by Anthony Strallan in series 3?
5. Which magazine does Edith start writing for in series 3?
6. What name is Mary and Matthew's son given?
7. What crime does Bates falsely confess to in series 5?
8. Which Downton servant becomes a schoolteacher in series 6?

Answers: 1. The sinking of the Titanic; 2. A solicitor; 3. William Mason; 4. Edith; 5. The Sketch; 6. George; 7. The murder of Alex Green; 8. Joseph Molesley

Session 1: Discuss

1. What did you think of the film, and which moments particularly stood out to you? Would you rather spend time with the 'upstairs' or 'downstairs' characters?

'A hundred years from now, Downton will still be standing.' – Violet

2. Which aspects of life at *Downton Abbey* do you think are best left in the past? When might it be good to resist or overturn tradition?

'For me, the crown matters more than any of us.' – Princess Mary

3. Princess Mary decides to protect her family's reputation by not getting divorced. What did you think of this decision, and what advice might you have given her? When might it be right to prioritise a greater good over our own happiness?

'I feel I should go where I can do the most good.' – Carson

4. What message does the film have about choosing to serve something bigger than ourselves? What might it mean for us, as individuals and as church community, to 'go where we can do the most good'?



Session 2: Discuss and reflect

1. What was your reaction to the film, and which scene was the highlight for you? Which character did you relate to the most?

2. If you worked at Downton, would you have been excited to serve the King and Queen? In your view, who in our society deserves to be treated as important, and why?

'To treat your maid as a blood relation is to unpick every fibre of the English way of life.' – Violet

3. Why is social status so important to Violet, and do people today still think this way? What might motivate someone to treat a person of 'low' social status as their equal?

'I'm a law and honour man these days. That's what you lot have done to me.' – Branson

4. Branson's moral code has changed since joining the Crawley family. Have you ever had your outlook changed in this way? What happened, and why?

'Downton Abbey is the heart of this community, and you're keeping it beating.' – Anna

5. Is there a person, place or organization that forms the heart of your own community?

6. How can we create a community that transcends social status, background and other potential barriers??

Reflect

In a moment of quiet, reflect on the community where you live your life. Think about how you could reach out and connect with someone who is different from you. What barriers would you have to overcome, and what might happen?