

PRESS RELEASE

HARRY ENFIELD & SUE JOHNSTON
NEW FEATURE FILM
RELEASING 1st JUNE 2026

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Welcome to Borovia is a quirky ensemble comedy set in the threadbare ministry of a cash-starved tinpot East European state grappling with the novel concept of democracy as an election looms.

In a last-ditch attempt to impress their disillusioned electorate, a plan is hatched to invite an envoy from wealthy neighbouring Uzgoristan in the hope of reaping headline-grabbing economic benefits. But all unravels after his arrival as the infighting ministers start plotting against each other for their own personal advancement rather than the intended common cause.

Harry Enfield presides over it all as the surly President Stepanov, with **Sue Johnston** as the long-suffering but ever cheerful cleaning lady Matrashka becoming an unlikely potential saviour.

A strong UK comedy cast includes **Martin Trenaman** (*Bravo Two Charlies, Inbetweeners*), **Paul Tylak** (*Kin, Informer, Harry Wild*), **Toby Longworth** (*Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Star Wars*), **Anjella Mackintosh** (*Nightmare Radio: The Night Stalker*), **Rez Kempton** (*The Mummy, Amar Akber & Tony, FBI*), **Kayode Ewumi** (*Enterprice, In Search of a Blessed Life*), **Ken Collard** (*Cuckoo, Black Mirror*)



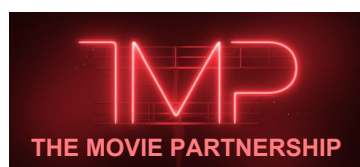
Writer/Director **John McKenzie** (*12 in a Box, Vol-Au-Vent*) was delighted that Harry and Sue were so enthusiastic about the script:

*"It's not really similar to other comedies out there: a wee bit weird. **Sally Broome** our Casting Director did a great job pulling together a cast who bought into the British understatement approach. I prefer when characters play it straight and the humour derives from the increasing chaos of what is happening around them, rather than gag-driven "look how funny I am" deliberate playing for laughs.*

Borovia's essence is that nothing works as it should, and everything is done on the cheap, including within the ministry itself. Its antiquated technology and stark bare walls adorned only with tacky posters extolling the joyous virtues of life under President Stepanov set the tone for this sense of shoddy incompetence.

The scenario is certainly absurd, but in some ways reflects how real-life politicians of all shades tend to hope that beating an international drum will so impress their disillusioned electorate they will forget their domestic troubles and unite in patriotic fervour. But when one unexpected consequence builds on another, things can quickly go pear shaped. And as in life, there are always people not directly involved in some unfolding situation ready to contribute their tuppence-worth whether asked for or not.

The hot fashion right now seems to be ministers stabbing each other in the back, so perhaps this is a good moment for the film: maybe Borovia is not so far away after all".



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