

Victoria series 3 episode 8 review: A lavish escapist episode tinged with sadness

[Sarah Deen](#) Sunday 12 May 2019 10:00 pm



Victoria series three ended with a lavish finale as the Great Exhibition came together (Picture: ITV)

The finale of Victoria series three might have been light on drama, but it was a prime example of British TV at its best.

In *The White Elephant*, Prince Albert's (Tom Hughes) plan came together and The Great Exhibition was on, bringing the unusual and wonderful to the people.

It was a stunning set piece and a fine piece of costume drama, giving the people behind the camera on the show a chance to shine.

From Victoria's (Jenna Coleman) gorgeous outfit for the occasion complete

with feather headpiece, to the 'crystal palace' used to hold the event and the recreation of the various curiosities on display, it was clear just how much work went into making prime time television. Hats off to all everyone involved.

This is why period dramas such as Victoria, Downton Abbey and Poldark are so successful and loved – for an hour on a Sunday you are carried off (preferably on a horse and cart) to the past to see how the other half lived. Everything is brought to life in vivid detail from the set design to the stars on screen.

It was a finale that definitely played into the escapism aspect, as it was relatively light on drama. Duchess Sophie (Lily Travers), no longer confined to her room on grounds of insanity by her husband, was left to decide whether to run away to America with Joseph (David Burnett), leaving behind her young son.

She has only known the footman five minutes – so while she should definitely chuck the Duke (Nicholas Audsley), we don't feel Joseph is the sensible option either. With the queen offering her her own home however, perhaps she won't need either man making trouble for her.



The Duchess of Monmouth was faced with a big decision (Picture: ITV)

Elsewhere there were two goodbyes, sort of. Lord Palmerston (Laurence Fox) was ousted by his party after misreading a political situation just as he seemed to reach a begrudging truce with Victoria. Fox has been a stellar addition to the series and if that was the last we'll see of Pam, the show will be poorer without him.

Secondly Prince Albert, in the finale's final moments, collapsed to the ground in front of his wife. It's not a spoiler to say that Prince Albert's time is up – he died of typhoid fever in 1861 – but we're crossing everything for a long goodbye in series four. It would be a disservice to Hughes to kill him off without fanfare.



Hopefully Prince Albert's time isn't up straightaway (Picture: ITV)

A lot of this series was made up of people – namely Albert and Feodora (Kate Fleetwood) – telling Victoria how wrong she was, how childish she was, how vain she was; looking down on her just as she feared people would do when she was first made queen. Lord Palmerston was probably the one person who didn't and now we likely won't have him anymore next time.

Hopefully Her Majesty will get a little respect going forward. She's going to have a lot to deal with.

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