

American Horror Story's third season has added **Angela Bassett** and **Patti LuPone** to the ensemble. They'll join previously announced cast members Kathy Bates, Gabourey Sidibe and Jessica Lange



Living for beauty and freedom through art

q&a

A young Austrian artist whose gallery describes his painting as a "shamanistic ritual" that is carried out in a "dungeon" and one where every canvas "initiates a rite of passage" is showing the second in a three-part series at Carbon 12 in Alserkal Avenue.

Philip Mueller, who is in his early 20s and is enjoying his second solo show with Carbon 12, says that *My Father was Many and I am Happy as a Sailor* is an exploration into the fundamental questions of life such as where are we coming from and where are we going?

How would you consider this show to be an evolution from previous ones?

Both my themes and my technique evolve constantly. I think that's one of the most important things in contemporary painting. In contrast to the first solo-exhibition at Carbon 12 (*Eat when you can, sleep when you can*), this is more reduced in terms of hanging: I decided to do so because the new paintings are so strong that they need space to be seen as singles.

This is a three-part show; part one is in your solo booth at Art Cologne and part three will follow this one at Carbon 12. How are the three linked?

All works of the three parts were produced in the past six months. The topic is the same for each part and the figures and stories in the paintings work and correspond throughout the paintings. It is a three-part show in terms of topic and because I produced all the shows together, but each show also works for itself.

What does the title mean and who are the many fathers?

The exhibition is about our schizophrenic handling with our past, our heroes or antiheroes and with what they left us behind. My fathers are figures I created, or historic persons who I have chosen to be my fathers.

What is your primary motivation as an artist?

To live for something that I agree with, beauty, freedom and cold, clear water.

Does your work address the commonality that we are all searching for the meaning of our existence?

It is more like living for something than searching for a meaning of our existence. We are here, that's the way it is, and now everyone has to get along with that fact.

You are still really young; do you find your work constantly changing because of this?

I hope that my work will still be changing when I am old, but I will not try to control it. I will just work.

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Philip Mueller in front of his work I Ate Myself Today. Courtesy Carbon 12 Dubai



Andrea Lowe, left, and Rob James-Collier in an episode of Love Life. Courtesy BBC

Life in baby steps

In *Love Life*, a heart-twisting entanglement ensues as two couples spar over a surprise pregnancy, writes **Greg Kennedy**

Nothing tears the heart out – or makes for spellbinding television drama – like a tug of war over a baby.

BBC Entertainment has an emotional gut-puncher on its hands with *Love Life*, a new series about four people, one unplanned baby and a tender Gordian Knot of a relationship tangle.

The story begins with a footloose dreamer named Joe (Rob James-Collier), just back from a year-long jaunt to climb Everest, where he fled to escape the pressure to get married and have babies with his girlfriend Lucy (Andrea Lowe). He bumps into his ex only to discover she's now married and seriously pregnant. It's a devastating blow; he immediately sees the error of his ways. But here's the twist – Lucy is not married; she's lying. Worse, the real father has no clue she's in a family way.

Lucy refuses to say who the father is, but Joe uncovers a bombshell – it's her ex-boss, Dominic (Alexander Armstrong), who's married to the prickly Penny (Sophie Thompson). They've been trying to have a child for years, and Penny's baby obsession drove Dominic into a brief fling with Lucy. When Joe acciden-

tally reveals to Dominic that Lucy is pregnant, the foursome's collective angst shifts into high gear.

For her part, Penny is torn to pieces by the very notion that another woman is having her husband's baby. Then it hits her – if only she could have that child, her life would be complete. She convinces herself that she and Dominic have just as much right to the child as Lucy. A romantic, heart-rending, thorny mess ensues as the drama unspools in a highly entertaining fashion.

Lowe found this series sweet serendipity on both a personal and professional level. When she first auditioned to play the mum-to-be Lucy, she had no idea she was pregnant herself. But by the time she got the part, she knew.

"That's when I told the producers, just to make sure they still wanted me," Lowe says in an interview with the *Daily Mail*.

"I didn't tell the rest of the cast and crew until I'd had my 12-week scan, partly so I knew the baby was all right and partly because I didn't want the pregnancy to get in the way of work. People think pregnant women are really delicate and I

didn't want any special treatment. I just wanted to be treated normally.

"I suffered terrible insomnia and, weirdly for a vegetarian, I had this huge craving for meat," adds the 38-year-old. "I also craved bananas, eggs and chips and by the end of the shoot I was eating my bodyweight in chocolate every day. It's a wonder I didn't balloon."

For James-Collier, the part of Joe is his first TV role since playing the scheming footman Thomas in *Downton Abbey*.

"Working with Rob was fun," says Lowe. "He's trying something different with this – a change of direction for him after a couple of series of *Downton Abbey*. He's a lovely, down-to-earth guy who's easy to get along with and a really good laugh."

On set, James-Collier also proved himself a heart-palpitating prankster.

"We used real babies and prosthetic ones [in the series] and would swap them around," he says. "We had a lot of fun fooling the crew by throwing fake babies around when they didn't know if it was a real baby or a prosthetic one. We'd shout 'Catch!' and wait for the reaction!"

● *Love Life* is broadcast at 9pm on Wednesdays on BBC Entertainment

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