

Va caa aym dy yeeaghyn er paart dy ghramaghyn mie er yn çhellveeish (ny er y ghlioonag) er y gherrit shoh ta soilshaghey cooishyn glare ny share na'n chooid smoo dy chlaareyn ta ry gheddyn, yn feallagh ta jeant ayns Sostyn ec y chooid sloo.

Hoshiaght ooilley ta *McMafia* er BBC 1, drama ta soit ayns towse ennagh er lioar firrinagh jeh'n un ennym mychione kimmeys eddyr-ashoonagh y laa t'ayn jiu. Ta'n drama geiyrt er Alex Godman, mac da fer-dellal Rooshagh t'er naase seose ayns Lunnin, choud's ta folliaghtyn as shenn noidyn e chynney berraghtyn er as tayrn eh ny s'diuney as ny s'diuney stiagh ayns seihll dy smuggleraght druggyn, laue-lajerys as creck sleih.

Cha row dy chooilley chremeyder coontey monney jeh, agh dooys she yn ynyd ta currit da glaraghyn, er-lheh Rooshish, smoo ta feeu tastey. Ta cloiederyn Rooshagh as goo ard oc ayns y çheer oc hene goaill aynryn jishag as mummig Alex as yn ard-noid dunveragh oc Vadim, as t'ad shoh loayrt Rooshish ry cheilley (lesh fo-screeu) son aym vooar jeh traa yn episode. Tra ta ayr as moir Alex loayrt Rooshish rish nyn gloan as geddyn ansoor ayns Baarle, ta shin fakin dullidys dy chooilley lught-thie ta shirrey troggal cloan ayns nyn ghlare ghoovie ayns çheer yoorree (as adsyn ta loayrt myn-ghlaraghyn lheid as y Ghaelg, son shickyrys).

Ayns *Ekaterina: The Rise of Catherine the Great*, voish yn ammyr Rooshagh Rossiya-1 as ry gheddyn trooid Amazon Video, ta shin fakin ben-phrince aeg ass y Ghermaan as ee troailt gys y Roosh dy phoosey yn eirey reeoil. Ta'n ven-phrince as e voir loayrt Germaanish ry cheilley as gynsagh Rooshish, as ta Frangish, Germaanish chammah as Rooshish hene ry chlashtyn neesht mastey ny çhaghteryn joarree ayns y chooyrt. Ta shoh foddey sassey dy chredjal na cloiederyn Sostnagh loayrt Baarle ayns blass Rooshagh!

Ta drama noa *Craith* ('Cron') ayns yn style 'Scandi noir' voish yn ammyr Vretnish S4C goll er jeeaghyn ec y traa t'ayn, as eh ry gheddyn lesh fo-screeu ayns Baarle er BBC iPlayer. Ta shoh troggal er speeideilys *Y Gwyll* (*Hinterland*), drama meoiryn-shee gruntit ayns Aberystwyth ta er ve kionnit liorish ammyryn ayns ymmodde çheeraghyn. Gollrish *Y Gwyll*, ta dagh scene er ny yannoo daa cheayrt, ayns Bretnish as ayns Baarle, as bee yn cummey Baarlagh, fo'n ennym *Hidden*, er ny chur magh er BBC 1 'sy traa ry heet.

I have watched a number of television dramas recently which portray language issues more prominently than is usual, at least in British productions.

First, there is BBC 1's *McMafia*, a drama loosely based on a non-fiction book of the same name on contemporary international organized crime. The drama follows Alex Godman, the son of an exiled Russian oligarch who has grown up in London, as his family's secrets and old enemies catch up with him and draw him deeper and deeper into a world of drug smuggling, violence and people trafficking.

The show has received mixed reviews, but for me, the most striking feature was the prominence given to languages, especially Russian. Russian actors who are celebrated in their home country play Alex's parents and his ruthless arch-enemy Vadim, and the characters spend a significant part of the episode conversing in Russian (with subtitles). When Alex's parents speak Russian to their children and get a reply in English, we see the struggle of every family that tries to raise children in their native language in a foreign country (as well as those who speak minority languages such as Manx, of course.)

In *Ekaterina: The Rise of Catherine the Great*, from the Russian channel Rossiya-1 and available through Amazon Video, we follow a young German princess as she travels to Russia to marry the heir to the throne. The princess and her mother speak German together and learn Russian, and French, German and Russian are all heard among the courtiers and ambassadors in the royal palace. Surely this is much more believable than English actors speaking English in a faux-Russian accent!

*Craith* ('Scar') is a new drama in the 'Scandi noir' style from Welsh-language channel S4C (available with subtitles on BBC iPlayer). This builds on the success of *Y Gwyll* (*Hinterland*), a detective drama set in Aberystwyth which has been bought by broadcasters in many countries. As with *Y Gwyll*, every scene in *Craith* is shot twice, in Welsh and in English, and the English version, to be titled *Hidden*, will be broadcast on BBC 1 in due course.