

# Les Miserables



**BBC1, Sun 30 Dec, 9pm**

No singing or dancing is required in this Andrew Davies (*War & Peace*, *House Of Cards*) adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic tale of redemption, life's cruelty and the still pertinent injustice of society's haves and have nots. Dominic West has the Hugh Jackman role of Jean Valjean, the ex-convict unexpectedly presented with a second chance, and David Oyelowo is a smart change of direction in casting from Russel Crowe as relentless adversary, police chief Javert. Further reflecting the multi-cultural history of France as far back as the Napoleonic era Adeel Akhtar (*Unforgotten*, *The Night Manager*) plays the scavenging Thenardier. The stunning opening tableau of the dead laid out across the battlefield the day after Waterloo is testament to the production's scale and ambition. Though John Murphy's score develops a sweet tooth on the introduction of Parisian seamstress Fantine (Lily Collins) and her feckless first love (Johnny Flynn) it only serves to heighten her subsequent tragic free fall into the gutter.