



TELEVISION

James Jackson Tuesday April 12 2022, 10.00pm, The Times

Derry Girls/Hullraisers



Channel 4 had a double bill of comedy, old and new. First up, the returning **Derry Girls** (Channel 4). This was as fast and funny as ever, despite the first half being an extended panic attack as the girls melted about their GCSE results. But what was this . . . Liam Neeson was here too, in an amusing cameo as a glowering chief constable. That has to be as triumphantly Northern Irish as this already adored series can get.

Then the brand new one, **Hullraisers**, which blasted out of the blocks fully formed, with no scene-setting necessary. The first five minutes were — a rarity, this — laugh out loud as we met Toni, Rana and Paula, three lairy women banging on, in extremely strong Hull accents, about being out on the lash, or missing being on the lash. That may sound dubious, but *Hullraisers* is about clinging to the fun and freedom that dwindles when toddlers come along and ruin the party and is like a northern riposte to *Motherland*. Just far earthier and more hungover. And further evidence of how Channel 4 does, and has always done, new comedy so well.