

coverstory
BY GEORGE DICKIE

“The Crown” begins streaming its third season Sunday on Nefflix.



The royal family face new challenges and middle age in Season 3 of ‘The Crown’

Time jumps ahead to the Swingin’ 60s for the British royal family as “The Crown” returns for Season 3 with the principal characters – and by extension, a new cast – now in middle age. Kicking off Sunday, Nov. 17, on Netflix, the 10-episode season covers the years 1964-77 and finds Britain in the midst of change as Queen Elizabeth II (Olivia Colman, “Fleabag,” taking over for Claire Foy) and the royals adapt to an era of Cold War paranoia, more liberal social mores and turbulence, as exemplified by the government’s move left with the election of the Labour Party’s Harold Wilson (Jason Watkins, “A Very English Scandal”) as prime minister. Her husband, Prince Philip (Tobias Menzies, “Outlander,” succeeding Matt Smith), remains staunchly by her side, even as he’s frustrated by the mundanity of his role. Princess Margaret (Helena Bonham Carter, “The King’s Speech,” taking over for Vanessa Kirby), too, is frustrated – in her case, by the long shadow cast by her powerful sister – as her marriage to Tony Armstrong Jones (Ben Daniels, “Flesh and Bone,” succeeding Matthew Goode) crumbles. And

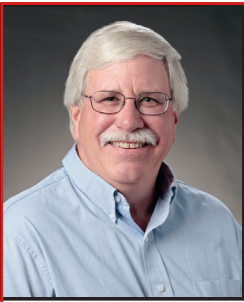
shy, sensitive Prince Charles (Josh O’Connor, “God’s Own Country”) must choose between love and duty as he embarks on a relationship with Camilla Shand (Emerald Fennell, “Killing Eve”) – about which his mother is not amused. “The Queen wants to protect him but also needs him to know he’s going to be next,” Colman explains. “There’s some friction as well, as there would be. Show me a mother and young adult who are fine with everything. Some of his decisions are quite difficult for her and vice versa.” Also experiencing friction with the Queen is Margaret. The two sisters are polar opposites – Margaret, free-spirited and fun-loving but also unreliable; and Elizabeth, a leader whose stolid, reserved demeanor is sometimes mistaken for a lack of empathy. At times their sibling rivalry can be amusing, as was the case in one episode where Margaret scores a diplomatic victory with a foreign dignitary, much to Elizabeth’s obvious envy.

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