

DON'T AXE ELDORADO!

ELDORADO
BBC1, MON, WED, FRI

Don't axe *Eldorado*! That's what thousands of our readers are saying. When we asked whether you agree with the BBC's decision to drop the soap, nearly 5000 of you rang our special *Eldorado* hotline. Only 561 readers backed the Beeb, while 4297 – an overwhelming 88 per cent – said they want the show to continue.

The news brought big cheers from the *Eldorado* cast, who are filming the final episodes this week. 'It's brilliant that *TVTimes* readers are right behind the programme,' says Jesse Birdsall, who plays tough guy Marcus Tandy (below).

All the cast, including Polly Perkins (Trish) and Leslee Udwin (Joy), have received stacks of mail from viewers who don't want the BBC to scrap the series. And at least three separate 'Save *Eldorado*' campaigns have been organised in the UK.

But BBC1 controller Alan Yentob, the man who pulled the plug on the £10million soap, insists he won't reverse his decision. 'I understand that some

WHAT YOU TOLD US

viewers will be disappointed,' he says. 'But *Eldorado* has still not engaged the affection and attention of viewers enough to warrant investing in a further year's production.'

Now, two months after learning that their contracts won't be renewed, most of the cast have recovered from their disappointment. However, at the time, some actors were angry at what they saw as the Beeb's big mistake. Even the critics had noticed how much the show had improved, they pointed out, while the ratings had begun to grow from last year's four million.

'Dropping *Eldorado* had nothing to do with viewing figures,' insists Birdsall, who blames behind-the-

scenes politics at the BBC. He, like most of the cast, is now thinking about the next job. But a few actors still hope the BBC will have a change of heart or that *Eldorado* will reappear on another TV station. And it's been rumoured Channel 4 is keen to take the soap over from the BBC.

But Birdsall isn't taking the rumours very seriously. 'We are assuming that *Eldorado* will end when the BBC screens the final episode on 2 July,' he says. 'We've already had a farewell party and we're determined to send the series out on a high note.'

THIS WEEK'S CAST

Marcus Tandy	.....	JESSE BIRDSALL
Ingrid Olsson	.....	BO CORRE
Gerry Peters-Smith	.....	BUKI ARMSTRONG
Per Svendsen	.....	KIM ROMER
Drew Lockhead	.....	CAMPBELL MORRISON
Trine Svendsen	.....	CLARE WILKIE
Joy Slater	.....	LESLEE UDWIN
Sergio Munoz D'Avila	.....
.....	.....	ALEXANDER TORRIGLIA
Pilar Moreno	.....	SANDRA SANDRI
Nessa Lockhead	.....	JULIE FERNANDEZ
'Razor' Sharpe	.....	KEVIN HAY
Gwen Lockhead	.....	PATRICIA BRAKE
Olive King	.....	FAITH KENT
Blair Lockhead	.....	JOSH NATHAN
Maria Fernandez	.....	MARIA SANCHEZ
Freddie Martin	.....	ROLAND CURRAM
Lene Svendsen	.....	NANNA MOLLER
Abuela	.....	MARIA VEGA
Ramon Colorado	.....	NICHOLAS AMER
Policeman	.....	LEE WARNER



SAVE ELDORADO!

If you think *Eldorado* should be saved, join the rescue campaign by sending this coupon to Alan Yentob, BBC1 Controller

FAMILIES

Chelsea	.....	TARA MORAN
Jackie	.....	AMANDA WENBAN
Louise	.....	VICTORIA FINNEY
Charles	.....	TERENCE HARVEY
Isabelle	.....	HELEN BOURNE
Rebecca	.....	KAREN WESTWOOD
Juliette	.....	EMMA DAVIES
Fiona	.....	CLAIRE MARCHIONNE
Simon	.....	THOMAS RUSSELL
Tom	.....	THOMAS LOCKYER
Lynda	.....	LOUISE FLOWRIGHT
Gary	.....	JIM SHEPLEY