# Netflix’s Critical offers unprecedented access to London’s major trauma units



A gripping new medical documentary series, Critical: Between Life and Death, is set to premiere on Netflix on July 23, inviting viewers into the intense world of London’s major trauma units. This six-episode series promises a raw, unfiltered portrayal of the NHS frontline, capturing the urgent and often life-or-death decisions made by the doctors, nurses, paramedics, and surgeons who serve within the London Major Trauma System. The series has already generated anticipation, being compared favourably to the well-loved Channel 4 show 24 Hours in A&E, offering an even deeper immersion into trauma care.

NHS surgeon Mr Ibraheim El-Daly, featured in the documentary, recently spoke candidly about the experience of being filmed during high-stakes surgery. He described the presence of multiple cameras in the operating theatre, noting, "The only time I'd switch off my mic was when I went to the loo. There were usually two, sometimes three, cameras." El-Daly emphasized the careful approach to patient consent, explaining that the production team obtained permission from patients or their relatives before filming commenced. His insights shed light on the gravity and complexity of exposing real hospital environments on screen while maintaining respect for patient privacy.

The documentary was filmed over 21 days, using 40 cameras embedded across the London Major Trauma System, which includes leading centres such as St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. St George's plays an instrumental role in treating thousands of trauma patients annually, and the series highlights the hospital’s dedication and expertise. Dr Anthony Hudson, Clinical Director for Major Trauma at St George’s, expressed pride in presenting the hospital’s critical work to a global audience, underlining the importance of showcasing the collaborative, multifaceted care that occurs during emergencies.

Critical: Between Life and Death goes beyond the operating theatre and emergency departments to capture a wider spectrum of trauma care, including the efforts of paramedics and frontline staff racing against time to stabilise patients. The series promises to reveal not only the technical life-saving interventions but also the emotional and personal motivations behind the NHS staff’s commitment to their challenging work. The production company behind the series invested in creating an immersive viewing experience that provides a genuine look “inside the minds of the dedicated trauma teams that hold our lives in their hands when the worst happens.”

This documentary arrives at a time of continued public interest in the realities of NHS emergency services. Previous programmes, such as Channel 4’s Emergency, have highlighted the intense teamwork and high-stakes environments faced by paramedics and hospital staff across London. Critical: Between Life and Death aims to expand on this by following patients from the moment of arrival to surgery and recovery, offering viewers unprecedented access and insight into the pressures, triumphs, and tragedies that characterise modern trauma care.

By combining expert medical perspectives with powerful storytelling and innovative filming techniques, Critical: Between Life and Death looks set to become essential viewing for anyone interested in the NHS’s vital emergency services and the extraordinary people behind them.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/top-surgeon-netflixs-gripping-nhs-35599146), [[2]](https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/newsitem/st-georges-hits-global-screens-in-less-than-two-weeks/), [[4]](https://media.netflix.com/en/only-on-netflix/81731799), [[6]](https://www.thegarden.tv/news/watch-the-trailer-for-new-series-critical-between-life-and-death-coming-to-netflix-from-23rd-july)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/top-surgeon-netflixs-gripping-nhs-35599146)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/newsitem/st-georges-hits-global-screens-in-less-than-two-weeks/), [[3]](https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/newsitem/st-georges-in-the-spotlight-in-new-netflix-documentary/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/top-surgeon-netflixs-gripping-nhs-35599146), [[4]](https://media.netflix.com/en/only-on-netflix/81731799), [[5]](https://www.jacklosh.com/film), [[6]](https://www.thegarden.tv/news/watch-the-trailer-for-new-series-critical-between-life-and-death-coming-to-netflix-from-23rd-july), [[7]](https://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/2024/08/12/behind-the-scenes-documentary-shows-hard-hitting-reality-of-treating-patients-at-traumatic-emergencies-across-the-capital/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/2024/08/12/behind-the-scenes-documentary-shows-hard-hitting-reality-of-treating-patients-at-traumatic-emergencies-across-the-capital/), [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/top-surgeon-netflixs-gripping-nhs-35599146), [[4]](https://media.netflix.com/en/only-on-netflix/81731799)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/top-surgeon-netflixs-gripping-nhs-35599146> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/newsitem/st-georges-hits-global-screens-in-less-than-two-weeks/> - St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust announced that the six-part documentary series 'Critical: Between Life and Death' will premiere on Netflix on July 23, 2025. The series offers an unfiltered look at trauma care across London, following patients from arrival through surgery and recovery. Filmed over 21 days with 40 cameras embedded across the London Major Trauma System, it showcases the expertise and compassion of NHS staff. As one of London's four Major Trauma Centres, St George's plays a vital role in this network, treating thousands of patients annually.
3. <https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/newsitem/st-georges-in-the-spotlight-in-new-netflix-documentary/> - St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust highlighted the upcoming Netflix documentary series 'Critical: Between Life and Death,' set to premiere on July 23, 2025. The six-part series provides an intimate look at the London Major Trauma System, featuring behind-the-scenes footage of trauma care at St George's and other major trauma centres. Dr Anthony Hudson, Clinical Director for Major Trauma at St George’s, expressed pride in showcasing the hospital's work to a global audience, offering insight into the care provided during critical times.
4. <https://media.netflix.com/en/only-on-netflix/81731799> - Netflix's official media centre released details about the upcoming documentary series 'Critical: Between Life and Death,' set to premiere on July 23, 2025. The six-part series offers an inside look at London's trauma units, following dedicated teams as they treat the most severely injured. With 40 cameras embedded for 21 days across the London Major Trauma System, the series provides an unprecedented view into life-saving interventions and the personal motivations of NHS frontline staff.
5. <https://www.jacklosh.com/film> - Filmmaker Jack Losh detailed his involvement in directing 'Critical: Between Life and Death,' a Netflix documentary series premiering on July 23, 2025. The series offers an inside look at London's network of trauma hospitals, following doctors, nurses, and surgeons as they handle life-threatening emergencies. Losh was embedded at King’s College Hospital, filming life-saving interventions in the Emergency Department’s resuscitation area, complex operations in theatres, and recovery in high-dependency wards.
6. <https://www.thegarden.tv/news/watch-the-trailer-for-new-series-critical-between-life-and-death-coming-to-netflix-from-23rd-july> - The Garden, the production company behind 'Critical: Between Life and Death,' released the official trailer for the upcoming Netflix series, set to premiere on July 23, 2025. The six-part documentary offers an unprecedented look at London's Major Trauma System, with 40 cameras embedded for 21 days. The series provides an inside view of life-saving interventions and the personal motivations of NHS frontline staff, capturing the intense world of London trauma units.
7. <https://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/2024/08/12/behind-the-scenes-documentary-shows-hard-hitting-reality-of-treating-patients-at-traumatic-emergencies-across-the-capital/> - The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust highlighted a Channel 4 documentary series titled 'Emergency,' which aired in August 2024. The series showcased the life-saving teamwork between paramedics and London's major trauma hospitals in treating critically injured patients. It featured real-life stories, including Advanced Paramedic Rich McGirr treating a seriously injured woman after a taxi crash. The documentary provided an inside look at the challenges faced by paramedics and hospital staff in high-stakes emergencies.