

The Garden wins record A&E run

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Channel 4 has ordered 50 hours of fixed-rig programming from The Garden, including the single largest commission of flagship brand 24 Hours in A&E.

The broadcaster has ordered 34 episodes of the medical series, which is filmed at St George's Hospital in south west London. The show's 10th series is currently on air and its first two episodes averaged 2.1m (10.1%) in overnight ratings earlier this month.

The Garden is already in production on the next run, which will be packaged into several series of yet-to-be determined length.

Production works to a formula of 1.6 shoot days per episode, which roughly equates to an eight-week shoot for the 34 shows.

Series nine of 24 Hours in A&E delivered consolidated ratings of 2.5m (10.6%) over its eight parts from May 2015, and The Garden joint chief executive Nick Curwin said the show's continued strong performance was "unbelievably gratifying".

He said the show's ever-changing production team worked hard to keep it strong. "There could be a temptation to take it for granted, but we made an early decision as a company to really cherish that show," he said.

His counterpart Magnus Temple added: "There's genuine passion for this gold standard show that you wouldn't think would necessarily be there for a series 9 or 10. This is going to be the best version ever, and hats off to them."

The ITV-owned indie is also in production on a further 16 episodes of 24 Hours In Police Custody, which is shot in a Luton police station.

The most recent third series of 24 Hours in Police Custody has a consolidated average of 2.1m (9.5%) over its five parts from July 2015.

Temple hinted at a "different approach" for the new production, with a "different mindset about to how to use rig".

"It's brilliant when you get a second go [at a production run], because you have learnt so much from the first run," he said.