

'Allo 'Allo was a sitcom that ran on the BBC from 1982 to 1992. Like the earlier drama *Secret Army*, it centred on a café hiding an escape line for downed British airmen in occupied Europe, but this time in the provincial northern French town of Nouvion rather than the capital city of Belgium, and, of course, played for laughs.

The main character is René Artois, the restaurateur, who is having an affair with each of his waitresses, Yvette and the diminutive Mimi, under the nose of his wife Madame Edith, an older lady who "sings" for the entertainment of the café patrons, much to their dismay. Mimi is actually René's bodyguard, installed in the restaurant by Michelle, the local leader of the Resistance, who also employs the elderly M LeClerc as forger and messenger.

The Axis forces are represented by Col von Strohm and his Italian adjutant, Capt Bertorelli, the gay Lt Gruber, who fancies René, the secretary Pte Helga Geerhart, and Gestapo officer Herr Flick. The play introduces a new character, Gen von Schmelling.

The British contingent consists of two RAF officers and the SOE operative Crabtree, who is disguised as a French policeman, despite his pronunciation of the language being dreadful.

There are also small roles for French peasants, a German soldier, a Free French radio operator, and a Swedish film narrator.

The plot revolves around a stolen painting ("The Fallen Madonna with the Big boobies" by van Klomp), which is hidden in a sausage, and a Resistance attempt to kill Hitler during a visit to the town.

Accents are used to represent the language being spoken, with any character who is supposed to be speaking English using an exaggeratedly "posh" version; this usually applies only to the airmen and Michelle.