

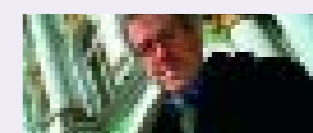


BBC
TWO

AUTUMN 2005 HIGHLIGHTS



AUTUMN 2005 HIGHLIGHTS





ARENA - NO DIRECTION HOME: BOB DYLAN

Bob Dylan, the incomparable singer/songwriter of modern times, and Martin Scorsese, arguably the greatest filmmaker of his generation, unite for these extraordinary films exploring Dylan's formative years when he created the albums that, many agree, changed the world.

Scorsese, a "great fan" of Dylan, directs this documentary featuring major, brand-new interviews with the famously private Dylan alongside contributions from key figures and previously unreleased material.

These unique films are the product of a marriage between two multi-award-winning arts strands – the BBC's *Arena* and PBS' *American Masters* in the US – and are accompanied by a Dylan season on BBC Four.

ROME

ROME IS A SPECTACULAR EPIC DRAMA SERIES FOR BBC TWO WHICH CHRONICLES THE RISE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO FOOT SOLDIERS.

Co-produced with HBO, it's the powerful saga of two ordinary Roman soldiers, Lucius Vorenus and Titus Pullo, who unwittingly become entwined in the historical events of ancient Rome. An intimate drama of love and betrayal, masters and slaves, husbands and wives, it portrays a fascinating and influential period of history: the death of a republic and the birth of an empire. The series begins in 52BC, as Gaius Julius Caesar completes his conquest of Gaul after eight years of war and prepares to return to Rome.

Ciaran Hinds stars as Gaius Julius Caesar; Kevin McKidd as Lucius Vorenus; Ray Stevenson as Titus Pullo; James Purefoy as Mark Antony; Kenneth Cranham as Pompey Magnus; Lindsay Duncan as Servilia; Polly Walker as Atia; Indira Varma as Niobe; Tobias Menzies as Brutus; Kerry Condon as Octavia; and Max Pirkis as Gaius Octavian, who later becomes the first Emperor of Rome.

FP





NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE TEENAGERS

**CAN 12 TEENAGERS AGED BETWEEN
15 AND 17 LIVE WITHOUT SEX FOR
FIVE MONTHS?**

Rachel Gardner and Dan Burke – two Christian youth workers from Harrow in London – believe they can. They have both practised celibacy and think that teenagers would be much happier if they were involved in long-term, serious relationships.

With teenage pregnancy and STD rates in Britain the highest in Europe, this observational documentary gives Rachel and Dan a chance to test their beliefs. The parents agree for their teenagers to be taken from Harrow and challenge them to be abstinent for five months, swapping casual sex for old-fashioned courting rituals.

In regular meetings with Rachel and Dan, the teenagers discuss the effect peer pressure has on them and whether they have sex; whether their abstinence affects other decisions in their lives; and whether the abstinence is worthwhile.

The teenagers also visit their American peers in Florida, who have taken the Silver Ring Pledge, vowing to abstain from sex before marriage.

SB



CHILDREN OF BESLAN

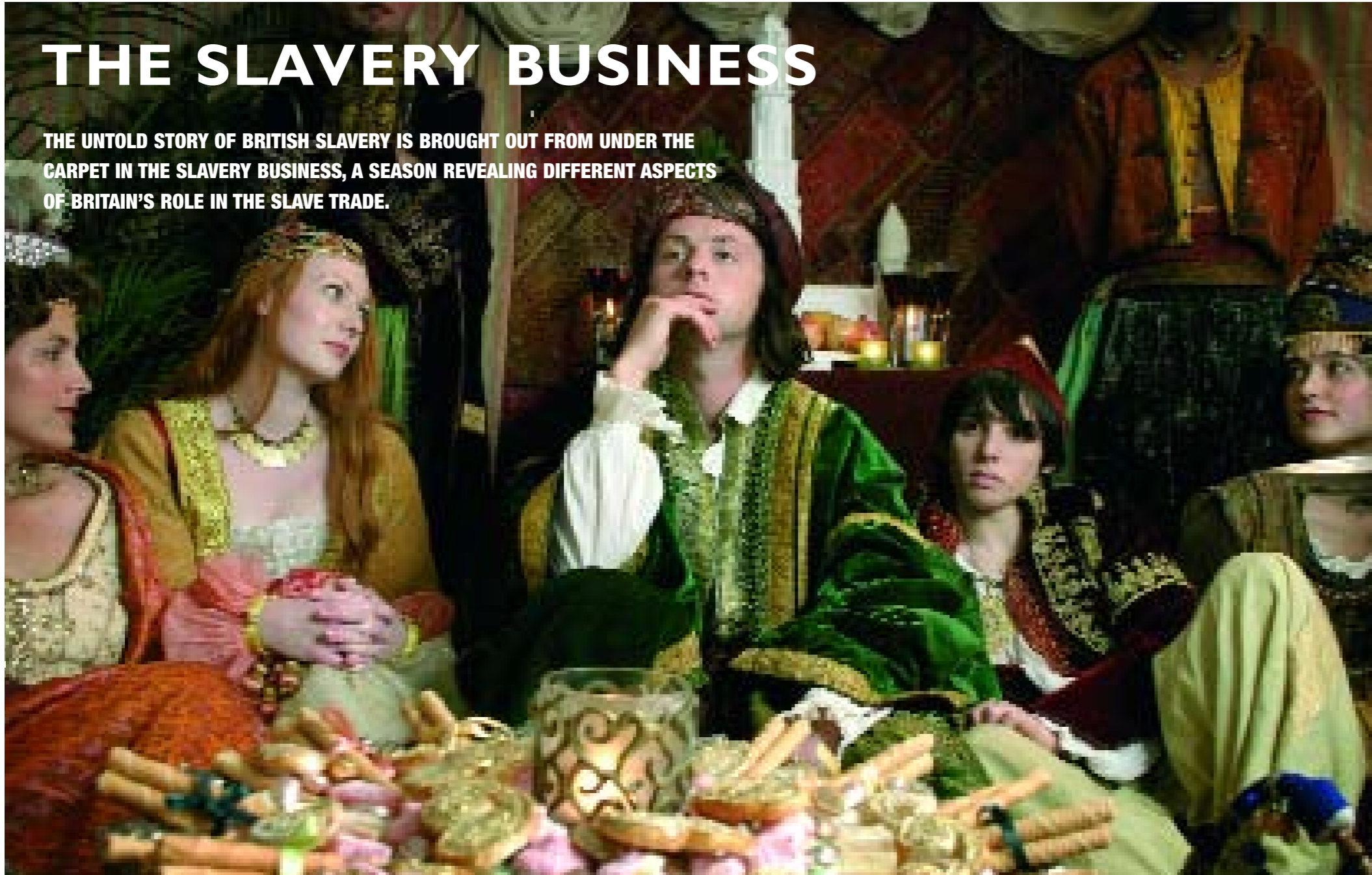
In September 2004, terrorists seized a school in the remote North Ossetian town of Beslan. Fifty-three hours later, the siege ended in gunfire and slaughter. Over 330 people had died, many of them children. Pictures of the children who survived horrified the world.

Now BBC Two, in association with HBO Documentaries, presents the remarkable story of those children who survived and who wish to give their account of the siege. They also recount the desperate weeks that followed, and their thoughts about the politics, religions and the war on terror that have shaped their lives.

Shot on location in the childrens' homes and on the derelict grounds of School Number One, the film is a sensitive exploration of how the children of Beslan have survived.

THE SLAVERY BUSINESS

THE UNTOLD STORY OF BRITISH SLAVERY IS BROUGHT OUT FROM UNDER THE CARPET IN THE SLAVERY BUSINESS, A SEASON REVEALING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE SLAVE TRADE.



SUGAR DYNASTY

On the back of slavery, the Beckfords transformed themselves from an ordinary middle-class family into one of the richest and most flamboyant dynasties in Europe.

This drama-documentary follows their rise through the domination of the Jamaican sugar plantations. It shows how, eventually, in the 18th century, two cousins – William of Fonthill and William of Somerly – inherited the family fortune and then lost it.

Somerly headed for Jamaica to manage plantations, and became famous for writing an incredible guidebook on how to treat slaves – *Remarks About The Island Of Jamaica*. His playboy cousin wrote the first Gothic novel and became embroiled in the era's biggest sex scandal, before bankrupting himself through financial mismanagement and by building Fonthill Abbey – an enormous Gothic recreation to match his excessive personality.

BR/LS

HOW TO MAKE A MILLION FROM SLAVERY

Henry Lascelles was one of the most successful slave traders and sugar merchants of the 18th century, yet his life ended in tragedy. Starring Robert Pugh as Lascelles and Jack Shepherd as government inspector Robert Dinwiddie, this drama exposes an era when human beings were traded like livestock.

In 1744, Lascelles's ambitions were challenged when government inspector Dinwiddie started investigating his financial affairs. The titanic struggle between these hugely ambitious men moved from Barbados to the coffee houses and taverns of London, culminating in a court case.

BR/LS



BREAKING THE CHAINS

Abolitionist William Wilberforce became a national hero for his work in bringing the plight of African slaves to the attention of a shocked British public, yet his role in supporting the continued enslavement of thousands is an untold story.

This drama-documentary tells the story of the 800,000 slaves across the British Empire who were not freed by the Abolition Bill, and of Wilberforce's vociferous argument that they should remain enslaved.

In a tale of greed and morality, Wilberforce eventually changed his mind about the Empire's slaves and became their champion.

BR/LS

SUPERNOVA

AN INVENTIVE NEW COMEDY STARRING ROB BRYDON

As he lands with a jolt on the scorching red earth of the Australian outback, a glorious new life lies ahead for pale and hapless British astronomer Dr Paul Hamilton (Rob Brydon). The shining white dome of the Royal Australian Observatory signifies a brave new world where he'll shed his inhibitions and leave behind his boring, Aztec jewellery-wearing girlfriend.

Braving the heat, noxious toads and the crazy locals, Dr Paul joins a motley crew of highly intelligent Australian scientists at one of the world's most advanced facilities. However, it seems that black holes, cosmic stardust and primal gases are far simpler to deal with than the age-old mysteries of love, life and the universe.

HT

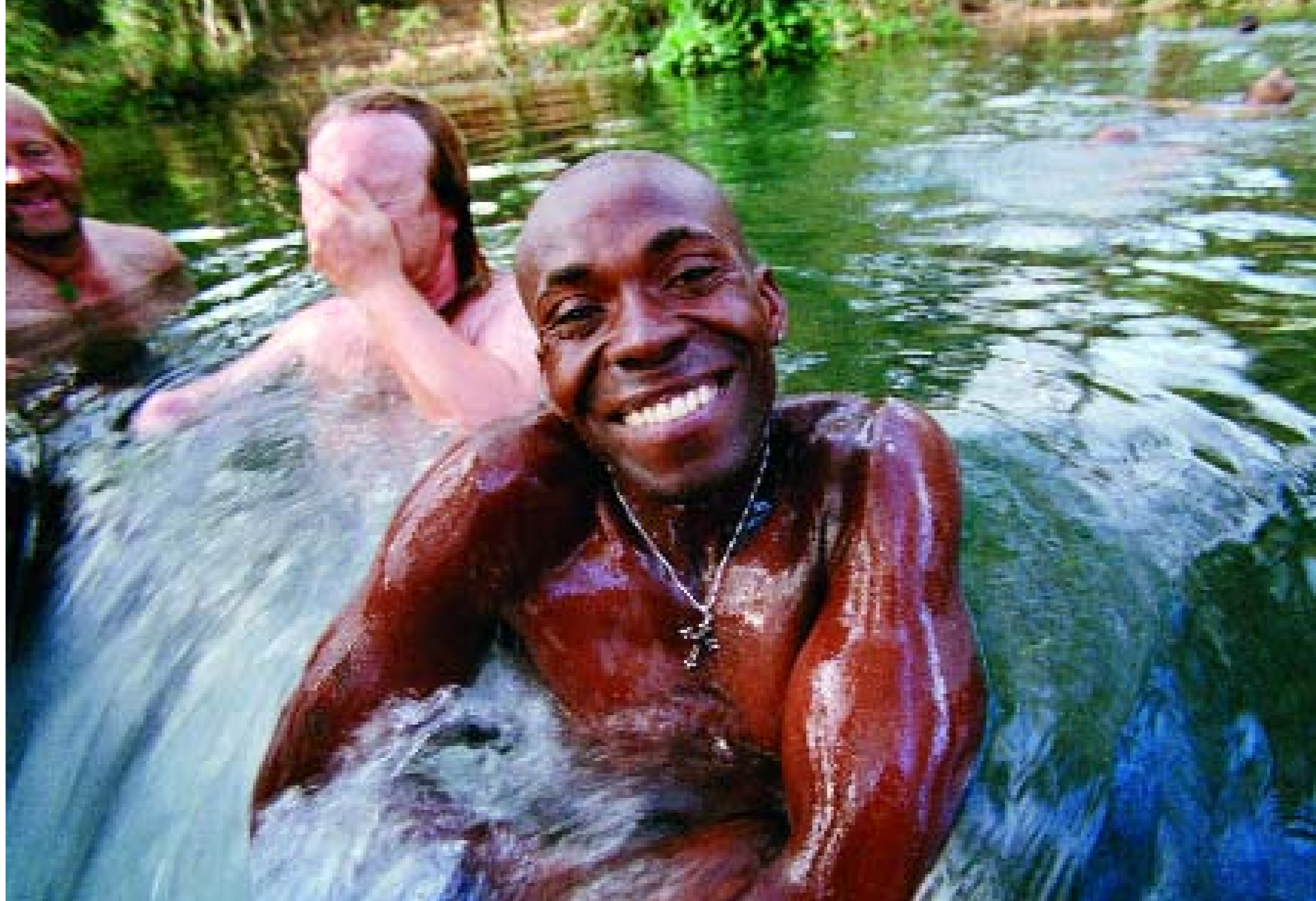
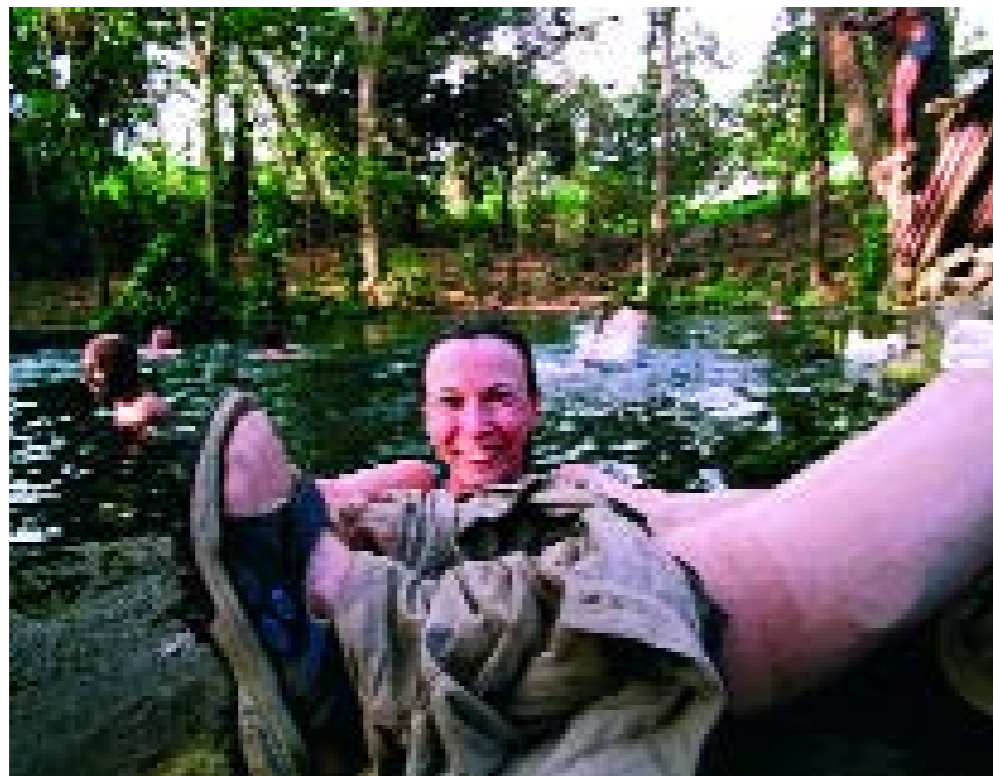


BEYOND BOUNDARIES

HOW DOES ONE CUT THROUGH DENSE UNDERGROWTH IN A WHEELCHAIR? HOW DO BLIND PEOPLE NAVIGATE A RAINFOREST? HOW DO YOU TELL A DEAF MAN THERE'S A CROCODILE BEHIND HIM?

These obstacles are just some of the problems faced by 11 intrepid adventurers in *Beyond Boundaries*, a new series which follows a group of men and women, each of whom has a physical disability, as they take on the trek of a lifetime across the rainforests, deserts, rivers and mountains of Nicaragua. The arduous and incredibly challenging route takes the participants from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean on a journey that will test them to their limits.

KA





THE HAIRY BIKERS' COOKBOOK

Dave Myers and Si King are two Northern lads on a mission to travel the world on a quest for great food. They've been doing this kind of thing for years, leaving their families and friends behind as they hit the road.

With their zest for adventure and their laugh-out-loud capacity for fun, the hirsute duo travel on motorbikes and anything else they can get their hands on in search of great meals – with some surprises along the way, too.

Their voyages around the globe include journeys into the Namibian desert, sailing a catamaran to the Isle of Man and Ireland and biking through Transylvania, sampling the culinary delights of the area as they go.

GM

SENSITIVE SKIN

Suddenly, it's sexy to be 60 in this dark comedy starring Joanna Lumley and Denis Lawson. *Sensitive Skin* looks at life through the eyes of a successful couple living in metropolitan London. Along with their friends, Al and Davina Jackson struggle with sexual temptation and professional jealousy and try to cope with their fear of the future.

Al is a pundit for a broadsheet newspaper and is paid to find imperfection in everything; Davina works in an art gallery and is paid to make life more beautiful. However, being 60 isn't simple. The couple's 30-year-old son, Orlando, refuses to acknowledge adulthood, while Davina's sister, Veronica, and her husband, Roger, intimidate the Jacksons with their confident and controlled grasp of life.

Davina is played by Joanna Lumley, Al by Denis Lawson, Orlando by James Lance, Roger by Nicholas Jones and Veronica by Maggie Steed. The cast also includes David Warner as Robert Ringwald, Frances De La Tour as Sarah Thorne and Sir Jonathan Miller as Dr Cass.

KC



THE SECRET LIFE OF ARTHUR RANSOME

Children's storywriter Arthur Ransome possessed a child-like innocence – but did the public image of this respected English gentleman mask a secret life?

Ransome was a romantic, enthusiastic and optimistic man, and at the centre of his world was a daughter he adored and a love for adventure. His travels, and a desire to escape a disastrous marriage, lured him towards a life in Russia, where he studied fairy tales, whilst absorbing himself within the Russian Revolution. Life in Russia proved exciting. A torrid affair with Trotsky's secretary followed, as well as close friendships with many of the country's top Bolsheviks, including Lenin.

Presented by Griff Rhys Jones, this one-off film investigates whether Ransome was really a secret agent working for the British Government, and looks at the inspiration for his timeless children's classic, *Swallows And Amazons*.

SV



Making SLOUGH Happy

Slough
Borough Council

local government in the 21st century

One of the most unusual social experiments ever undertaken, *Making Slough Happy* asks whether a group of experts can really make people happy.

In recent years, neuroscientists, sociologists, psychologists, economists and public policy experts have been increasingly turning their attention to the study of happiness: what it is, when people experience it, and how we can generate more of it in our lives and communities.

In this extraordinary and informative series, five “happiness” experts, who combine theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience, come together to try to put this ground-breaking research into practice. Their challenge is to try to improve the happiness levels of volunteers from Slough – a unique British town. The series finds out whether they have bitten off more than they can chew, or if a crash course in positive thinking can really make the people of Slough happy.

KB





ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

In *Alternative Medicine*, scientist Kathy Sykes embarks on a journey to unravel the truth behind the world's most ancient medicines.

Kathy believes in the power of modern medicine. But millions have turned to “non-scientific” medicines to find a cure for their condition, often reporting remarkable improvements. Indeed, the best results seem to be generated for the very illnesses modern science finds most baffling.

In this series, Kathy, armed only with the tools of science, conducts her own experiments, reviews the latest science and checks her findings with colleagues. In the process, she reveals some breathtaking new evidence that will change the nature of the debate.

KC

THE ARMSTRONGS

**I WON'T SHIT ON ANYONE'S HEAD
UNLESS I HAVE TO, BUT IF I DO, IT
WILL BE FROM A VERY GREAT
HEIGHT!**

The Armstrongs is an access-all-areas insight into the unorthodox and sometimes ruthless business antics that are par for the course at U-Fit, Coventry's third biggest double glazing company.

Driven by the desire for profit, management team John and Ann Armstrong are constantly spying on their unwieldy Sales Force with CCTV cameras and phone taps. But motivating the team is an uphill struggle and John and Ann must resort to ever-more desperate measures to boost sales. Despite their best endeavours, though, their plans backfire with alarming frequency.

However, woe betide anyone who should get in the way of their dream of becoming multi-millionaires.

KB





BATTLE

At a time when religion dominates the news, this second series, at the heart of the BBC Two schedule, offers a refresher in how Christianity in Britain got to where it is today.

FOR BRITAIN'S SOUL II

Charting the religious history of Britain, the comprehensive series begins in the early 18th century and brings viewers right up to date. Presented by ad-man-turned-vicar, Reverend Peter Owen Jones, the programme is a fast-paced journey from the beginnings of non-conformism through the challenges of science and politics to the ultimate challenge of secularism. It discovers what forces shaped the established Church of England and finds out who the winners and losers were in this battle for Britain's soul.

CR



SPACE RACE

Space Race reveals the spectacular story of the rivalry between the two superpowers that spanned several decades. At its heart are two brilliant men who shared the same dream but never met, locked in rivalry from opposing sides of the Iron Curtain—the charismatic ex-Nazi Wernher von Braun in the American team, and the enigmatic Soviet project leader Sergei Korolev. Known mysteriously as **The Chief Designer**, Korolev was constantly shadowed by the KGB for fear he would be assassinated by the West, and his very existence was kept secret from the Russian people until after his death.

In what will be a genuine TV first, the BBC unites America and Russia in their first ever co-production, to reveal the true, untold story behind their race to land men on the moon. This drama-driven documentary is the story of America and the Soviet Union's dream to create the most powerful rocket and dominate the world. Culminating in the 1969 "giant leap for mankind", the series brings to life the struggles, both personal and professional, over a 20-year period, of the two recklessly daring scientists whose job it was to bring that dream to fruition. Their triumphs and failures came to symbolise the ultimate battle for supremacy between two global superpowers.

Combining astounding CGI and dramatic reconstruction with previously unseen archive footage, this is the story of two men prepared to stop at nothing for the prestige of winning.

RI/EF



(C) Tom Brakefield/The Image Works

MANHUNTERS

Humans become the hunted in this series of true, dramatised stories. These remarkable cases show how Sweden's wolves, India's leopards and Africa's lions all developed a taste for human flesh.

In India's jungles, the "Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag" killed more than 125 people before legendary hunter and conservationist Jim Corbett, played by Jason Flemyng, stopped it in its tracks.

In darkest Africa, the "Lions of Njombe" killed 1,500 people over seven years. Game warden George Rushby discovers the reasons why this pride will only feed on people but, when they kill a child he loves as his own, his war against these animals becomes personal.

The action in this series from the Natural History Unit unravels why the beasts lost their fear of man and instead cultivated a thirst for his blood.

HS

SICK TO THE STOMACH – A BATTLE WITH BULIMIA

This programme tells the story of a "dirty illness" as seen through the eyes of Karen Reed, a chronic bulimic, and her 17-year-old daughter, Jessica.

Karen has battled with bulimia for nearly 30 years. She is plagued by suicidal thoughts and is guilt-ridden at "passing" her illness on to her daughter. From the age of just 10, Jessica started starving herself and so began her cycle of bingeing and purging – sometimes up to four times a day.

With exclusive access to their story, the programme explores why both women are bulimic and follows them as they battle to get hold of an unlicensed drug which they believe could cure their condition.

MB





THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS

Viewers are invited to delve deep into a world of scandal, secret police, summary imprisonment and extreme wealth to learn who really rules Russia. The team behind the critically acclaimed and award-winning *The National Trust* series reveals the inside story of the world's highest-stakes poker game, upon which the fate of the entire nation of Russia hangs in the balance.

President Putin and seven of the world's richest men are locked in a battle to run Russia. On one side is the President, with the support of a people disgusted to find that seven men effectively owned their country, and on the other are the billionaires who are deploying all their power and wealth to try to wrestle back control.



THE SECRET OF DRAWING

The Secret Of Drawing takes viewers on a journey of discovery in which the history of art, the lives of some of our greatest artists, the world we live in today and the way we see ourselves will be, quite literally, redrawn.

Presenter Andrew Graham-Dixon explains how, by looking at drawings, we can come to a more complex understanding of the history of art. Drawing has often been dismissed in comparison to painting or sculpture but the series will show how drawing is fundamental to all art and, more than this, is also a bridge which links art, science and technology.

KC

HOW DID THE ROMANS RUN EUROPE (AND WHY CAN'T WE)?

Boris Johnson, the editor of *The Spectator*, writer and MP, considers how the Romans managed to run the vast and diverse territory that is now Europe – while today it seems to be a struggle. Johnson examines how the Romans managed to harmonise the economies of the Roman Empire, and assesses whether the Roman system or the present-day system for running Europe works best.

Johnson also finds out how the Romans “sold” the Roman project and how they made disparate peoples (from present-day Africa and the Middle East as well as Europe) feel “Roman”. But how can the EU make its 456 million citizens want to be “Europeans”? Johnson travels across Europe to meet historians, journalists, politicians and local people to look for some answers.

MB



BACKLASH

Backlash is a series of documentaries challenging the liberal consensus and asking what the world is coming to. Each week, a different celebrity reporter examines subjects as diverse as how children are raised, depression, food, women in the workplace and society's attitude towards children. In the first programme, Arthur Smith ignites the backlash against Britain's “compensation culture” and attacks a phenomenon which costs an estimated £10 bn a year. Smith argues that a nation once famed for its spirit of adventure has been rendered a bunch of risk-averse wimps and that our way of life is being eroded by a mass of petty rules.

KR

BROKEN NEWS

Five continents, 25 channels, 227 reporters... All the news you're ever going to need in 30 minutes.

From the team behind *People Like Us* and BBC Radio 4's *The Sunday Format*, *Broken News* is a new comedy for BBC Two, satirising the frenetic on-screen world of rolling television news.

With the advent of 24-hour news channels, current affairs reporting has undergone a revolution. It's not about men shouting and big fancy computer graphics any more. In fact, it's not about the news any more; instead, it's in-depth analysis, reviews, predictions, speculations or just trying to fill the ever-growing airtime.

JM

MAGNIFICENT 7

Helena Bonham-Carter stars as the mother of seven children - three 'normal' girls and four boys, each to some degree autistic.

Curtis is supersensitive and allergic to everything, including Christmas and the colour red. David - with ADHD - is a mini-whirlwind, creative and destructive in equal measures. Christopher has Asperger's syndrome and has a problem with anything that doesn't say exactly what it means. Richard hates surprises and being jolly.

Inspired by the real-life Jackson family, who featured in the recent documentary *My Family And Autism*, Sandy Welch's drama is a warm, poignant and uplifting story which looks at the struggles, tears, laughter and moments of magic that this extraordinary household experiences over the course of a year.

JD/SA

GIRLS AND BOYS – SEX AND BRITISH POP

BBC Two traces British pop music over the past four decades, examining how it has reflected the changing images and social attitudes of men and women.

This series draws on exclusive interviews with key figures from Sandie Shaw to Fatboy Slim. The series looks at the "girls next door of the Sixties", the "feisty females of the Eighties" and the Girl Power of the Nineties, alongside the "boys in suits of the Sixties", beat groups, "macho heroes of the Seventies", punks, New Romantics, New Lads and Britpop of the Nineties. It also explores those figures who blurred the lines of gender, from Bowie to Boy George.

SH



NO WASTE LIKE HOME

For the majority of people, doing one's bit for the environment means recycling empty wine bottles or old newspapers, but that's as far as it goes. Eco-expert Penney Poyzer is here to raise the bar. She meets some of Britain's most environmentally unfriendly families and challenges them to become more eco-aware by getting back to basics – a course of action which Penney promises will also save them money and improve their sense of well-being.

Penney sets the households radical new rules and rations to live by, showing families how to transform their rubbish to a fraction of its mass, cut back their energy usage, and fit their homes with equipment such as solar panels, rain water collection tanks and sheep wool insulation.

NT

DIG IT

Dig It is a new series for the daytime which takes a look at one of the fastest-growing pastimes in Britain today – allotments.

Presented by Simon Mayo, the programme investigates the growing divide between the old-school vegetable growers and the new “allotmenters” who are adopting the latest methods and taking a bit more of a modern approach to this time-honoured tradition.

Filmed in Cardiff and London, the programme explores the characters behind the allotments and looks at why, in some parts of the country, waiting lists are as long as 10 years for a patch.

KH

CHINATOWN

This series explores the dynamism and changes taking place in Britain's last, so-called invisible community – the Chinese. It follows the stories of three generations of Chinese people in the UK: those who came from Hong Kong in the Sixties and Seventies; their British-born children; and recent arrivals, among them illegal immigrants from mainland China.

Clearly, some British Chinese have settled and enjoyed great professional success; others, however, have remained isolated, working long hours and feeling increasingly alienated from society. The series hears from a cross-section of the Chinese community in Britain about their relationships with their adopted country, together with their aspirations and concerns for the future.

MB

UNDERGROUND BRITAIN

From big game hunters whose “sport” is run by a Lord - or at least he says he's one - to an East London protection racket and cannabis cafe; and from a Spanish brothel-keeper and a fake art marketer to a healer claiming to cure down a phone line, *Underground Britain* lifts the lid off the lifestyles of people who live life differently.

JW

INDEX

- 21 ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 01 ARENA: NO DIRECTION HOME-BOB DYLAN / A BBC ARENA/PBS AMERICAN MASTERS/ SPITFIRE PICTURES/GREY WATER PARK CO-PRODUCTION OF A MARTIN SCORSESE FILM
- 34 BACKLASH / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 25 BATTLE FOR BRITAIN'S SOUL II / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 13 BEYOND BOUNDARIES / A DIVERSE PRODUCTION
- 35 BROKEN NEWS / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 07 CHILDREN OF BESLAN / A BBC/HBO DOCUMENTARIES CO-PRODUCTION
- 38 CHINATOWN/ FILMS OF RECORD PRODUCTION
- 38 DIG IT / A LIBERTY BELL PRODUCTION
- 36 GIRLS AND BOYS: SEX AND BRITISH POP / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 15 HAIRY BIKERS' COOKBOOK, THE / A VIXPIX FILMS LTD AND BIG BEAR FILMS LTD CO-PRODUCTION
- 34 HOW DID THE ROMANS RUN EUROPE (AND WHY CAN'T WE)? / A TIGER ASPECT PRODUCTION
- 35 MAGNIFICENT 7 / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 19 MAKING SLOUGH HAPPY / AN OPTOMEN PRODUCTION
- 29 MANHUNTERS / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 05 NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE TEENAGERS / IWC MEDIA PRODUCTION
- 37 NO WASTE LIKE HOME / A CELADOR PRODUCTION
- 03 ROME / A BBC/HBO CO-PRODUCTION
- 31 RUSSIAN GODFATHERS, THE / AN OXFORD FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION
- 17 SECRET LIFE OF ARTHUR RANSOME, THE / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 33 SECRET OF DRAWING, THE / AN OXFORD FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION
- 16 SENSITIVE SKIN / A BABY COW PRODUCTION
- 30 SICK TO THE STOMACH - A BATTLE WITH BULIMIA / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 09 SLAVERY BUSINESS, THE - BREAKING THE CHAINS / A BBC/OPEN UNIVERSITY CO-PRODUCTION
- 09 SLAVERY BUSINESS, THE - HOW TO MAKE A MILLION FROM SLAVERY / A DIVERSE PRODUCTION
- 09 SLAVERY BUSINESS, THE - SUGAR DYNASTY / A BBC/OPEN UNIVERSITY CO-PRODUCTION
- 27 SPACE RACE / A BBC CO-PRODUCTION
- 11 SUPERNOVA / A FOX WORLD AUSTRALIA AND HARTSWOOD FILMS PRODUCTION
- 23 THE ARMSTRONGS / A BBC PRODUCTION
- 38 UNDERGROUND BRITAIN / A BLAST! FILMS PRODUCTION

The BBC **Press** Office Website

bbc.co.uk/pressoffice

THE LATEST FROM BBC PRESS AND PUBLICITY AT THE CLICK OF A MOUSE

FAST, RELIABLE AND COMPREHENSIVE - FROM BREAKING BBC STORIES TO IN-DEPTH PRESS PACKS, THIS SEARCHABLE SITE HAS ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED IN ONE PLACE.

PRESS RELEASES AND BBC STATEMENTS POSTED HERE FIRST

PROGRAMME INFORMATION FASTER THAN THE PRINTED VERSION - AND NOW WITH REGULAR UPDATES

PRESS PACKS FOR SEASON LAUNCHES AND KEY PROGRAMMES

EASY ACCESS TO MORE THAN 400 BIOGRAPHIES, PLUS KEY FACTS AND SPEECHES

SPECIAL SECTIONS FOR SCOTLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

EMAIL LINK TO THE PRESS OFFICE FOR A RAPID RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES

