



TROUBLED MINDS

Blue/Orange

Joe Penhall's powerful and award-winning play was one of the surprise West End hits of the late nineties and now comes to BBC Four in a new adaptation. It is a remarkable three-hander which examines issues of race and mental illness at the heart of the National Health Service.

In a psychiatric hospital, a consultant and his young registrar argue over the troubled mind of a young black patient. Christopher, who believes he is the son of an African dictator, is due for imminent release. Bruce, his doctor, is anxious to keep him in for further observation. But Bruce's superior, Robert, believes that Christopher should be released the following day, in accordance with his 28-day confinement notice.

Cast to be confirmed.



The Son's Room

Nanni Moretti's heartbreaking film is an astonishing study of what happens when a family is hit by sudden tragedy. Giovanni (played by Moretti himself) spends his days listening to his clients' tales of despair and trauma. As a psychologist, he has a duty to support his patients and to be there whenever they need him.

In contrast, Giovanni's home life is very simple and happy. He lives in a small town in Italy with his wife, Paola, and their teenage children, Irene and Andrea. The close-knit family happily spend their time together reading at home or going for walks.

One morning, however, disaster strikes, and Giovanni and his family are plunged into unknown emotional territory.

The Son's Room was released in 2001 and receives its UK television premiere as part of BBC Four's Saturday Cinema strand.



Universities Challenged

It is a testing time for universities. As custodians of the intellectual life of the nation, universities now face intense public scrutiny, unprecedented political imperatives and strong market pressures. Hampered by inadequate public funding, they somehow have to keep up with rapidly changing social expectations.

Universities Challenged peers beneath the skin of one of Britain's most respected universities. Often thought of as an alternative to Oxbridge, Bristol has a reputation for exacting academic standards. The focus of greater media interest than other universities, Bristol is still smarting from accusations that its efforts to recruit students from a broader cross-section of society amounted to social engineering.

During what promises to be a stormy autumn term, the programme focuses on students surviving despite mounting debts, lecturers involved in world-class research despite ever-diminishing funding grants, and the policy-makers – the Vice Chancellor and his administration – formalising admissions policies and setting new and unpopular 'top-up' tuition fees.