



FACTUAL

SPRING/SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS 2004



LONDON

London is the story of England's capital city as seen through the eyes of artists, writers, visionaries and the man on the street.

Presented by Peter Ackroyd and based on his acclaimed book, *London — The Biography*, the series mixes folklore, mythology and vivid local detail to create a journey through history, geography and the imagination, bringing to life the stories and characters associated with each alley, courtyard, street and tunnel.

Influential writers whose visions have shaped the spirit of London include William Blake, Samuel Pepys, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Virginia Woolf. Their writings and observations are dramatised in reconstructions featuring a cast led by Derek Jacobi and Corin Redgrave.

THE ELGIN MARBLES

In the year in which the Olympic Games return to Greece, art critic Andrew Graham-Dixon tells the fascinating story behind the greatest artistic controversy of the last 200 years — the Elgin Marbles.

This is the tale of Lord Elgin's mission to remove one of the world's greatest treasures from its homeland; of the curse the marbles brought him; and of the scandal that his actions caused.

Filmed on location in Greece, Scotland and London, this 90-minute documentary uses drama reconstruction, computer-generated images and expert debate to tell an extraordinary tale which stretches from the 5th century BC to the present day. It explores why and how the marbles were removed in the early 19th century, whether Lord Elgin's actions were legal and the ensuing controversy which continues unabated today.

ARENA — THE HEDY LAMARR STORY

Hedy Lamarr is often cited as the most beautiful star ever in the Hollywood firmament. But her little known personal story makes her no average screen goddess.

She rose to fame after her notorious 1930s role in *Ecstasy*, swimming naked in a lake in her native Austria. Her beauty was such that Walt Disney later used her as the model for Snow White. Yet few people are aware that this captivating screen idol was also a world class physicist who spent the war engaged in the most sophisticated anti-radar research.

Arena tells the story of this extraordinary and fascinating woman.

THE CULTURE SHOW

As the centrepiece to a major new commitment by the BBC to topical arts journalism, BBC Two unveils a brand-new programme dedicated to UK arts and culture.

Sophisticated, intelligent and surprising, *The Culture Show* delves deep into the big cultural issues and events of the day, using a mix of investigative journalism and review.

Celebrating and critiquing the range and diversity of arts in the regions as well as the metropolis, *The Culture Show* uses some of the most passionate, vociferous and opinionated voices to reach the heart of UK cultural life.

THE NEW SHOCK OF THE NEW

More than twenty years after leading art historian Robert Hughes made the iconic eight part arts series *The Shock of the New* for the BBC, he returns to chart the changes which have since assailed the world of modern art.

In the aftermath of Hughes' series in the early eighties the contemporary art market exploded in an orgy of hype, fame, controversy and big money. Now Robert Hughes assesses the fall-out. *The New Shock of the New* also looks at Hughes' own attitudes to art, providing a reflective journey about what art can offer the world, through one person's eyes.



ART OF THE GARDEN

Art Of The Garden tells the stories of three revolutions in the history of garden design and is based around the three giants - Capability Brown, Humphrey Repton and Gertrude Jekyll.

The series focuses on Brown's enormous achievements at Blenheim Palace, where he created a 150-acre lake and planted more than a million trees to make perhaps his finest artificial landscape. It follows the dramatic adventures of the Victorian plant hunters and shows how they filled Kew's great glasshouses with the colourful exotics that would change English gardening. It also explores Gertrude Jekyll's relationship with Edward Lutyens, and shows how they invented the English cottage garden.

The series coincides with a major exhibition, *Art Of The Garden*, which opens at Tate Britain this summer.

FAUST

In a summer filled with classical music and opera across the BBC, BBC Two presents a live performance of Gounod's opera *Faust*, with its popular tale of magic, menace, sex and religion. David McVicar's brand-new production is broadcast live from London's Royal Opera House and boasts a stellar cast.

World-renowned tenor Roberto Alagna plays the ambitious Faust, who barter's his soul with the Devil in exchange for sensual pleasures, while top soprano Angela Gheorghiu embodies these desires as his doomed love, Marguerite. Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel makes his role debut as the manipulating Mephistopheles.

Gounod's *Faust* is one of at least 16 operas based on the Faust legend. Having been performed more than 2,000 times in Paris alone by 1934, this is one of the most successful operas ever written.

DON GIOVANNI

Peter Brook's production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Aix-en-Provence, considered to be one of the most exciting operatic events of recent years, is broadcast as part of a whole summer of classical music and opera across the BBC.

The international cast is led by Peter Mattei as the feckless Don Giovanni, who loves women as much as wine and can give up neither — leaving a trail of heartache and misery for those who succumb to his charms.

Peter Brook's production brings out the energy, grace, humour, tenderness and seriousness of the opera. Daniel Harding conducts the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, with Gilles Cachemaille as Leporello and British singer Mark Padmore as Don Ottavio.



TURN OF THE SCREW

Britten's opera *Turn Of The Screw*, directed by Katie Mitchell, has been filmed specially for BBC Television, and shot on location in an 18th-century house.

Based on the story by Henry James, Britten's opera tells of a governess who takes charge of two children, Miles and Flora, at a distant country house. When the governess begins to hear and see strange things, these ghostly suspicions are confirmed by the housekeeper as being the dead former governess and her valet lover. As the ghosts begin to have an increasing effect on the young children, the governess realises she must either leave or confront the spirits. Finally confronting Miles, she is able to exorcise the supernatural visitors, but not without tragic consequences.

British singer Mark Padmore plays Peter Quint, Lisa Milne plays the Governess, Catrin Wyn Davies plays Miss Jessell and Louise Winter is Mrs Grose.

ARENA — PAVAROTTI

Luciano Pavarotti, a household name for most of his extraordinary career, is the subject of this *Arena* special. His thrilling voice and unique personality have touched countless people throughout the world and he has worked with the majority of great contemporary musicians, from Plácido Domingo to Kiri Te Kanawa, from Claudio Abbado to Leonard Bernstein.

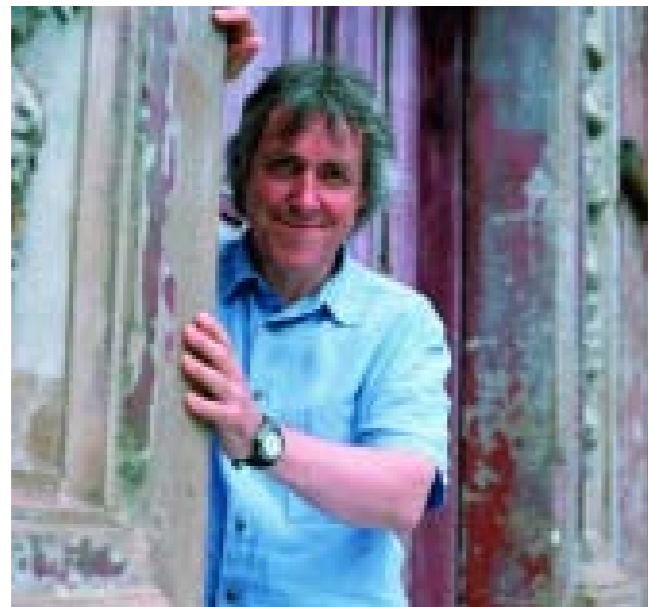
Pavarotti's voice has touched a broad range of people — not merely opera lovers. Millions have watched his televised concerts and many associate him with football since his performance of *Nessun Dorma* for the 1990 World Cup. His was the first ever classical music album to reach No. 1 in the pop charts. *Arena* looks at the life and career of one of opera's modern icons.

BRITAIN GOES WILD WITH BILL ODDIE

Viewers are invited to join in a celebration of great British wildlife as, from a picture-postcard farm in Devon, Bill Oddie and Kate Humble introduce a host of unforgettable animal characters live on air.

The intimate dramas of these creatures unfold throughout the series. Blue tits, robins, badgers, nuthatches, barn owls, flycatchers, and swallows are all residents to be observed in their rural habitat.

Complementing Bill and Kate's cast of characters is an assortment of creatures introduced live by Simon King. Travelling the length of Britain, Simon reveals the wonderful world of British wildlife, from the mighty Bass rock in the Firth of Forth, down to a secret location in central London.



RESTORATION

Restoration returns to throw a lifeline to one of Britain's endangered historic buildings.

Viewers again hold the fate of a building in their hands as they choose from 21 of the UK's threatened architectural gems.

In a resounding endorsement of the public's passion for Britain's heritage, last year's Restoration received more than 2.2 million votes and raised £3.5m towards the restoration of The Victoria Baths in Manchester.

This summer, BBC Two and BBC Four viewers have another chance to make their mark on history.

The programmes are each devoted to an area of the UK and focus on three properties at risk. As with last year's series, presented by Griff Rhys Jones with Ptolemy Dean and Marianne Suhr, every style is featured, from country houses to Gothic castles, from follies to factories.

At the end of each programme, viewers can vote for one of the three buildings featured. The series climaxes with a magnificent live event and viewers decide which of the finalists is most worthy of restoration.

JIMMY'S FARM

Jimmy Doherty is a 28-year-old Essex boy with a dream. The dream is to live the good life by turning a deserted old dairy farm into a thriving business. Jimmy hopes by returning to traditional methods of farming he will be able to produce the best pork for the food market and make his farm pay.

Until recently, Jimmy was immersed in academic life studying insects but he has no qualifications for pig farming. Even though eleven farmers go to the wall every week, Jimmy's undaunted. By rearing several breeds of rare pigs, including what he hopes will be his flagship brand, the almost extinct Essex pig, Jimmy will produce sausages and bacon in his own butchery and sell direct to the public. This is his plan to turn his farm into a profitable business.

Jimmy's Farm follows Jimmy's efforts in his first year to prevent, against the odds, his dream from turning into a nightmare.





DIARMUID'S BIG ADVENTURE

At last May's Chelsea Flower Show, Diarmuid Gavin made a surprise announcement — next year, he was going to build a garden at Chelsea. For Diarmuid, it was the ultimate challenge: to win a gold at the world's most prestigious gardening show.

His design is ambitious and controversial. Chelsea will never have seen anything like it. However, this time, has Diarmuid bitten off more than he can chew? BBC cameras have been following him every step of the way — and he's even been filming himself with his own personal Diarmuid cam. With unique access to his private life, this series builds an intimate portrait of one of Britain's most well-known figures.



A YEAR AT KEW

Alan Titchmarsh narrates a fascinating series which looks behind the scenes at one of the nation's best-loved gardens. Through the seasons, A Year At Kew follows the stories of some of the hundreds of staff committed to keeping the Royal Botanical Gardens looking their best for more than a million visitors each year.

The programme also reveals the scientific side of the Gardens, including the work to save species around the world which may otherwise be doomed to extinction, as well as other aspects of Kew's cutting-edge conservation work.

THE FOUR MINUTE MILE

To mark the 50th anniversary of one of the greatest sporting achievements of all time, The Four Minute Mile explores Roger Bannister's extraordinary athletic feat.

This is the story of a legendary day — 6 May 1954 — when a young medical student at Oxford University ran his way into history in just three minutes and 59.4 seconds. Bannister's is also a story of human achievement born of self-sacrifice and youthful idealism, of the triumph of the amateur spirit in an age of austerity.

The build-up to the event is related by Roger Bannister and by friends, rivals, journalists and eye-witnesses. Archive footage and dramatic reconstruction evoke the atmosphere of post-war Britain finding a new hero.



D-DAY TO BERLIN

D-Day is over and the Allied troops have carved a fragile foothold in Normandy — but this is no time for celebration. As occupied Europe waits expectantly, the Allies still face the very real threat of annihilation.

D-Day To Berlin is a powerful new series recounting the Allies' remarkable progress from the beaches of Normandy to their ultimate victory in Germany, just 11 months later. Powerful and fast-moving, the series tells the story of the greatest ever combined military operation, through the moving testimonies of those who took part.

The series, produced by Andrew Williams, of the award-winning Battle Of The Atlantic, looks at the tensions between Montgomery and Eisenhower and asks whether the western Allies could have reached Berlin even earlier and changed the shape of post-war Europe.

BATTLEFIELD BRITAIN

Britain is a country that has been forged by centuries of warfare. Using amazing graphics to recreate the epic scale of war, father-and-son team Peter and Dan Snow tell the story of battles that have shaped the country in which we live. From Boudica's uprising against the Romans to the Battle of Britain, the series journeys through 2,000 years of invasion, civil war and rebellion.

Peter reveals how the strategies of the best and worst commanders determined the fate of the British Isles, while Dan gives the soldiers' perspective of what it must have been like to ride, march, fly and sail into battle.





THIS WORLD

After an acclaimed first series, *This World* returns to BBC Two with a new run of compelling international current affairs. The programmes continue to investigate the most contentious global issues, and bring viewers powerful, access-based documentaries.

The series includes a portrayal of modern American policing, as cameras follow the Los Angeles Police Department over a year in their attempt to combat gangs. There is also an evocative insight into the children affected by the Middle East conflict in a film from Saira Shah and James Miller.

ONE DAY OF WAR

Every 30 seconds, two people are killed in conflicts around the world. *One Day At War* follows individual fighters in 16 of these wars, over the same 24-hour period.

The world's best television cameramen document the stories of a range of fighters, from child soldiers and an American peace keeper, to women commandos and veteran vigilantes, in conflicts from Burma to Burundi, Congo to Colombia.

The documentary tells the true and often shocking story of the modern world at war: it goes behind the headlines and provides a revealing portrayal of the people who fight for their land, their religion and their ideas.

MAKE ME HONEST

In this groundbreaking new series, five ordinary members of the public are given six months to help five criminals go straight by acting as their mentors.

The volunteers — ranging from a criminal lawyer to a stay-at-home dad — use their experience, common sense and sheer determination to guide the repeat offenders as they face life outside prison.

Make Me Honest tackles the serious problem of crime head on. Compelling and emotional, the series asks if one committed individual can really change an offender's life and keep them on the straight and narrow.



BOMBING BRIGHTON

With extensive access to the original police investigation, exclusive interviews and dramatic special effects, *Bombing Brighton* is the definitive account of the act of terrorism that came close to wiping out the British government.

Award-winning reporter, Peter Taylor has painstakingly researched the extraordinary events of October 12 1984, and reveals new details of how the assassination plot was carried out. The programme also discloses the complex intelligence and detective work that led to the capture of the bomber and the foiling of an even more devastating bomb plot.

WORLD WEDDINGS

World Weddings tells five personal stories of nuptials in extreme, hazardous or divisive situations around the world.

The programme charts the emotional and physical challenges as people seek romance against the odds, are forced into wedlock against their will, or simply strive to marry the person they love.

From American men seeking Russian brides on the web, to a Hindu/Muslim love story in a country blighted by sectarian tensions, *World Weddings* throws light on unseen areas of the world.

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

As a nation we're living longer, and this shift is redefining what it means to be old. Currently one in three people in the UK are aged 50 years or over. The Time of your life is a new season devoted to celebrating the wealth of experiences and opportunities open to this generation. Through a rich and varied range of programmes, including documentaries and drama, The Time of Your life challenges perspectives and attitudes to growing older and via personal stories, shows how we can all add life to our years. The season explores common themes such as loneliness, dating and relationships, love, money and sexuality.

Programmes include:

WOULD LIKE TO MEET ESTHER

When a partner dies, many widows find it difficult to move on. They often feel guilty and sometimes feel as if they're being unfaithful to the love of their life.

Esther Rantzen lost her husband, Desmond Wilcox, in September 2000 after 32 years of marriage. She isn't looking for anyone to replace him but she's beginning to wonder what the future holds and has decided it's time to explore the possibility of meeting a new companion.

This very personal journey follows Esther, with the help of the Would Like To Meet team, as she attempts to regain confidence and face the huge but exciting challenge of making new single male friends.

WHAT I WISH I'D KNOWN WHEN I WAS 20

Life is about learning from mistakes, but there is also much to be said for learning from the experiences of others. BBC Two hears from an esteemed, eclectic line-up of contributors who reveal what they wish they'd known at the age of 20, covering all facets of life, from marriage, money and children, to careers and success. Joan Rivers, Elliott Gould, Tony Benn, John Mortimer, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Lord Patrick Lichfield, Mo Mowlam, Joan Bakewell, John Peel and Mary Quant are among the cast of contributors sharing their own life rules, learned through hard-won experience and some extraordinary personal stories.

WHEN I AM 64

Public school teacher Jim (Alun Armstrong) and taxi driver Ray (Paul Freeman) were both in their twenties when the Beatles had their famous hit about growing old. Now that they're on the verge of retirement themselves, a chance meeting throws the two strangers together.

But far from seeing it as the end of their lives, Ray and Jim see 64 as a chance to start again - with permission to try the things they never dared in youth. In so doing, the two must overcome the prejudices of Ray's son and daughter - Little Ray (Jason Flemyng) and Caz (Tamzin Outhwaite) — and challenge the preconceptions of old age, family loyalty and sexuality.

TRADING AGES

Is growing old merely a state of mind, or do people think, feel and act differently in old age? Trading Ages explores people's attitudes old age, giving two individuals the opportunity to experience a snapshot of their future life as elderly people.

With the help of advanced prosthetics and make-up, 29-year-old Karoline Bell is transformed into an elderly woman, while 32-year-old Nick Sydney becomes a septuagenarian. Immersed into everyday life in these guises, they gain an insight into what it's like to live as an older person.

For both contributors, this is a very personal experience which challenges their perceptions about themselves as young people to dramatic effect.

