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FACTUAL AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS 2004



ONE NIGHT IN BHOPAL

In the early hours of 3 December 1984, a cloud of poisonous gas escaped from a pesticide plant in the Indian city of Bhopal. It drifted into the sleeping city and, within a few hours, thousands of people had died and many thousands more were left crippled for life.

One Night In Bhopal reveals how and why an American-owned chemical factory that was meant to bring prosperity to the people of an Indian city, instead brought death and destruction. By mixing drama, documentary, graphics and archive material, the programme gives an extraordinary insight into the world's worst industrial disaster.



FAT NATION - THE BIG CHALLENGE

The BBC is launching a major new initiative across television, online, radio and interactive services to help Britain take simple steps towards living a healthier life.

Fat Nation – The Big Challenge is a major new series on BBC One in which residents on a Birmingham street kick off the two-year campaign of the same name.

By focusing on an average street, featuring a whole range of different characters, Fat Nation - The Big Challenge tackles a variety of health issues and confronts all the problems associated with obesity, such as diabetes and heart disease.

Over nine programmes, presenter Matt Allwright and a team of experts work with the street's community to improve their nutrition and fitness. The BBC hopes they will inspire other communities across Britain to join in and improve the health of the nation.

Each week challenges are set for the residents and those watching at home can join in by accessing interactive television, SMS and bbc.co.uk/Hi

Using a virtual locker, viewers can log in using their unique 'key' and take part in each week's challenge. A motivational service tracks their progress and allows viewers to monitor their BMI, dietary intake and amount of activity.

Meanwhile, each week challenges are set for the residents, and viewers watching at home can join in by accessing health and training plans via interactive television, SMS or bbc.co.uk.

bbc.co.uk offers practical information and support for those who want help and advice on how to live a healthy life.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

Pudsey Bear is getting ready to party. This year promises to be an extra special BBC Children In Need Appeal because it marks the 25th anniversary of the UK's best-loved charity telethon. The campaign kicks off in September and climaxes in a star-studded night on BBC One. It will once again unite the BBC across TV, radio and online activity as Terry Wogan and Gaby Roslin are joined by a host of celebrities, pop stars and some of TV's favourite faces, all lining up to get the cash rolling in.

Over the past 25 years, BBC Children In Need has raised more than £350m to improve the lives of children in the UK.

The BBC Children In Need Appeal takes place on Friday 19 November, 2004. More information is available at bbc.co.uk/pudsey. Free fund-raising packs are available from September through that address or by calling 0845 607 3333. To donate, call 0845 733 2233.



SLEEP

Counting sheep could be a thing of the past, as BBC One launches the UK's biggest-ever sleep experiment and invites the population to take part in an extensive sleep survey.

Most people have suffered from sleepless nights at some time in their lives – and, for some, it's an ongoing misery, whether caused by psychological, physical or environmental influences. This is the programme for anyone who has ever bemoaned a total lack of sleep, or simply wished for a sound night's slumber.

Viewers can work out their own sleep profile through a series of interactive questions, and go online to make a personal "sleep plan". Through this unique televised experiment, people are able to gain an insight into their own personal sleeping habits and discover how they can harness their sleep for a good night's rest.



WHAT NOT TO WEAR

Trinny Woodall and Susannah Constantine, arguably Britain's favourite straight-talking fashionistas, are back in new, hour-long programmes on BBC One.

In this series, the women keen on the What Not To Wear treatment have volunteered for a sartorial dressing-down and have given Trinny and Susannah full access to their lives for a day. The pair visit their workplace and home, canvassing the views of friends and family before mercilessly dissecting their subject's wardrobe.

Armed with this research, the high priestesses of style lay down strict guidelines before embarking on the celebrated shopping trip as the journey from fashion disaster to snappy dresser begins.

BRITISH ISLES: A NATURAL HISTORY

Natural history enthusiast Alan Titchmarsh turns landscape detective to unravel the epic story of the evolution of the British Isles, from ancient times – when hippos roamed through Trafalgar Square, an immense forest spread from Land's End to John O'Groats and prehistoric reptiles swam in Britain's tropical seas – through to today and into the future.

This series is the first holistic picture of the geology, climatology, natural and human history of the British Isles. Featuring specially tailored regional opt-out programmes, online Walks Through Time, and local museum and wildlife events linked to the series, viewers are encouraged to explore the natural wonders on their doorstep.

During his own voyage of discovery, Alan scales Ben Nevis, swims with sharks in Cornwall and descends a Derbyshire waterfall twice as high as Niagara Falls. He looks at the impact that humans made on the land 8,000 years ago and discovers how quickly they tamed these islands. The Industrial Revolution plundered the Earth's mineral resources and new plants and animals invaded as trade widened.

The series also highlights how nature is reclaiming some landscapes once dominated by man; reassesses the human impact on the environment; and examines the evidence to determine the likelihood of a new Ice Age or the scorched earth devastation of global warming.



FRONT LINE, FRONT ROW

The risks of being a war reporter have never been greater. In the last four years, 62 journalists have died in combat zones. BBC Correspondent Jeremy Bowen explores the lives and motivations of those whose work revolves around death and destruction.

Drawing on his experiences in wars around the world, Bowen gives a frank, unsparing insight into the psychology of the war correspondent. He tells the stories the public don't hear and reveals how drink, drugs and sex can help to create a glamorous fiction that keeps the horrors of the real world at bay.



RAPHAEL

In an age of great painters, the art of Raphael Santi was dizzying in its diversity and brilliance. But had Raphael been living today, his hedonistic lifestyle, as much as his art, would be making headlines. One of the youngest and most successful artists at the Court of Pope Julius II, his alleged appetite for fine wine and women is renowned.

In the final chapter in its Renaissance trilogy (which also featured Leonardo and Michelangelo), BBC One explores the life and work of this controversial artist, with contributions from leading experts and dramatic reconstruction featuring Joe McFadden as Raphael. The film reveals how this relative youngster challenged the pre-eminence of his artistic rivals – Michelangelo and Leonardo – before his life was tragically cut short.

A LIFE OF GRIME - NEW YORK

Hitting the mean streets of the Big Apple, A Life Of Grime follows its unsung heroes – the unflappable environmental health officers in pursuit of urban unmentionables.

In this city, everything is bigger: the cars, the buildings and the pests. Super-sized rats capable of nibbling through concrete, glass and wire thrive and, every summer, giant roaches infest the tenements. Pest inspectors put up a valiant fight against these nasty Bronx residents. Sanitation officer Gail looks and acts like a cop, as she hands out fines for litter crimes. Giftee is another tough nut, policing the down-town restaurants of Manhattan to protect the in-crowd from food poisoning.



IMAGINE

The sky's the limit this season for Imagine, as the series takes a look at the history of skyscraper architecture. Back on ground level, Imagine meets Antonio Pappano, the new director of the Royal Opera House, as he prepares for the first instalment of Wagner's monumental Ring cycle – the ultimate mythical epic, penned a century before The Lord Of The Rings was even published.

Presented by Alan Yentob, this run of the arts strand also features Bruce Nauman, arguably America's greatest conceptual artist, as he undertakes the fifth in The Unilever Series of commissions for Tate Modern's Turbine Hall.

ROLF ON ART - THE BIG EVENT

In a live, one-hour programme from London's Trafalgar Square, Rolf Harris presents the country's largest television art event. Working with The National Gallery, The National Portrait Gallery and the Campaign for Drawing, this paintathon is an art event for everyone. The live programme, a

launch event for the new series of Rolf On Art, is designed to inspire people to pick up their paint brushes and take part in a unique and ambitious painting and drawing day.

As Rolf and hundreds of artists race against time to recreate one of The

National Gallery's most famous paintings on a massive scale, the show will reveal fascinating insights into the life, work and techniques of the artist. Also on offer will be words of encouragement, plus tips and hints on drawing and painting, from Rolf himself.





HIMALAYA WITH MICHAEL PALIN

Michael Palin is back on his travels again, beginning at the Khyber Pass before moving through war-torn Kashmir. In the badlands of Pakistan, he meets up with the gunsmiths whose home-made AK-47s prolong the blood feuds of the North West Frontier; he has a brush with Maoists in Nepal; and succumbs to severe altitude sickness during an ascent of Annapurna. He talks to movers and shakers in the big cities, as well as working people in the highlands, the sherpas, guides and yak herdsmen.

In his most challenging travel adventure yet, Michael enjoys the ups and downs of a journey through the mountains of Pakistan, India, Nepal, China and Bhutan, before descending into the sedimentary plain of Bangladesh, which was formed by the great rivers of the Himalaya.

CHRISTOPHER REEVE

Following on from last year's Christopher Reeve – Hope In Motion, this daytime documentary catches up with the actor and his search for a safe and effective procedure that might lead to a substantial recovery from the horse-riding accident that left him severely paralysed.

In his quest for scientific knowledge that might help him, Reeve travels as far afield as Australia and Israel. In Israel, not only does he discover scientific research which supports his belief that he can recover, but his interaction with bomb victims, and the way he is mobbed when visiting Jerusalem, also act as a remarkable testament to the impact of his visit.

Finally, with the clock ticking on a potential cure, the documentary sees Reeve redouble his efforts to breathe without the aid of a ventilator, and explores scientific research that could offer him a better future.

WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD

Damned if they intervene, damned if they don't – child care social workers are rarely thanked for their work. For the first time a major city child care department has opened its doors for the BBC to film the day-to-day dilemmas of this much maligned profession.

Under-resourced and under-staffed, Bristol social workers grapple with family lives contorted by drugs, violence, neglect and abuse. Filmed over a year, their cases range from children with severe head lice to rape and even murder.

The most difficult aspect of the job is that often abusers aren't faceless paedophiles or evil opportunists, but the very people who are meant to protect children – their parents.



SKINT

People living a hand-to-mouth existence are turning to “buy-back stores” to get their hands on ready money. As debts rise, Victorian-style pawnbrokers and their modern equivalents provide cash credit for goods. Skint follows the fortunes of John, the owner of the biggest Cash Converters franchise in Europe, and his regular customers surviving on very little.

Birmingham-based “Bob the Busker” recently lost his appeal for sickness benefit. Unable to pay his hostel rent, he tries his luck as a street musician. However, as his fortunes fluctuate, his instruments are in and out of the buy-back store. Another customer, Tom, regularly pawns girlfriend Tara’s jewellery to feed their four children. Meanwhile, owner John soaks up the sun on holiday in Tobago.

THE DOBSONS OF DUNCRAIG

Living in a grand castle in the splendour of the Scottish Highlands represents the ultimate fantasy to many. Now, by pooling their resources over three generations, the Dobson family, of Nottingham and Leicester, has made the dream a reality.

However, they face coping with the realities of the dream as the different generations do their best to get along together under the same roof, while struggling to renovate and maintain the castle and estate.



WHEELS OF GOLD

Wheels Of Gold is an observational documentary following the Great Britain Men’s Wheelchair Basketball team as they prepare for the Athens 2004 Paralympics. At the Sydney Paralympics, the Great Britain team came fourth, narrowly missing out on bronze in the dying seconds of the match. Four years later, only gold will do. Coach David Titmuss has brought in new training techniques, nutritional advice, sports psychology and expertise from around the world to make sure the team is in better shape physically and mentally than any previous squad.

BBC Sport has had full access to the squad over the last year. The programme follows individual players in their battles against broken bones, learning the sport from scratch and fighting each other for a coveted place on the team for Athens. Viewers hear their private thoughts and learn how they juggle family life with the expectations of a demanding coach and tough training regime. The programme also explains the personal stories about their disabilities and how much it means to them and their families to make it on to the team for a shot at gold.

MORE THAN MUM

Lucy Baxter, 44, is a remarkable person. Over 20 years, Lucy has adopted three children and is currently fostering a fourth – a handful for anyone, especially as Lucy is a single mum and the children all have Down’s syndrome.

This film tells Lucy’s amazing story as she and sons James, 22, Otto,

16 and Titus, eight, adapt to the arrival of the new addition to their self-made family. It examines why Lucy has made the life choices she has and challenges some of the prejudices and misconceptions that exist about children with disabilities.

WORKING IN THE DARK

In this new show for BBC Daytime, Working In The Dark profiles five workers from a range of professions, including the police and production line workers, who keep Britain ticking over while everyone else rests. Some spend the night tidying up other people’s mess and preparing the world for another day, while others keep watch, making sure that the darkness isn’t dangerous, so we can sleep soundly and safely.

Adrian Chiles (Working Lunch) endures daylight deprivation following five night-workers from the moment they get up to the moment they go to bed. In an increasingly stressful world, he looks at how they manage to juggle work, rest and play in apparently difficult circumstances.



WHO KILLED...CHARLES BRAVO?

In April 1876, Charles Bravo, a young barrister, died a slow and agonising death as poison burned through his body. The inquest was one of the most sensational legal dramas of the time. There were many suspects but no one was ever charged with Bravo’s murder. With its blend of love, sex and crime, set against a background of the English class divide, the case has fascinated criminologists,

historians and writers, including Agatha Christie, ever since.

In this dramatised reconstruction, Julian Fellowes, the Oscar-winning writer of Gosford Park, re-examines the evidence and presents his own theory as to exactly what happened on the night of Charles Bravo’s death.

BRITAIN’S SECRET SHAME – TAKING LIBERTIES

Sally Magnusson presents a new series of award-winning current affairs strand Britain’s Secret Shame which, through shocking human interest stories, puts the law in the dock.

The series asks why people who kill in their cars, while drunk or on drugs, sometimes receive such lenient punishment. It also examines why so many people currently being held on remand – who are innocent until proven guilty – are committing suicide in prisons; and why the Family Courts stand accused of being biased against responsible fathers who simply want to have contact with their children.



SPACE ODYSSEY - VOYAGE TO THE PLANETS

Imagine crashing through the acid storms of Venus, taking a space walk in the magnificent rings of Saturn, or collecting samples on the disintegrating surface of an unstable comet. From the makers of *Walking With Dinosaurs*, this magical new series takes viewers on the ultimate space flight and, by pressing the Red button on their remote control, they can be transported right to the heart of the European Space Agency's mission control room.

Seen through the eyes of five astronauts on a six-year mission to explore the new frontiers of the solar system, it reveals the spectacle – and the dangers – they face when landing on, and exploring, neighbouring worlds.

Using the latest scientific findings and feature film digital effects, *Space Odyssey* is the ultimate grand tour brought to life in a beautiful and moving journey packed with peril and excitement. Along the way, it uncovers the immense physical and emotional challenges that would affect those taking such a trip. From a daring fly-by of the Sun to a marathon mission to the frozen realms of Pluto, this epic voyage takes viewers on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

Viewers with digital TV can take the journey further by tapping into the hi-tech world of the European Space Agency's mission control room – where some of this series was filmed – to meet scientists and astronauts involved in real space missions.

BEAR - SPY IN THE WOOD

This autumn, BBC One takes viewers to within a paw's reach of the world's bears, offering the most intimate portrayal of these engaging creatures ever filmed.

Camouflaged cameras blend in to their environment to capture unprecedented footage of wild pandas, and a new insight into the lives of brown bears and polar bears. The invisible cameras also follow the antics of spectacled bear cubs – the only bears to inhabit South America, and the inspiration for Paddington Bear.

Underwater, viewers follow brown bears diving for salmon and polar bears as they swim between ice floes. This enchanting film – extensively shot with state-of-the-art remote techniques – reveals bear behaviour in the wild, as never seen before.



KIDS COPS

Fifty thousand children play truant from school every day in Britain and the Kids Cops are on their trail. The series begins as the Government rolls out its “fast track” prosecution regime nationwide, giving magistrates the power to send parents of truanting children to prison.

Kids Cops follows the daily work of the police and education welfare officers in two neighbouring authorities in the North West of England as they strive to combat truancy, and reveals that, behind the headlines, the underlying reasons for truancy are many and varied.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

“Agony Aunt” Anna Raeburn and architect John Weir tackle the physical and emotional quandary of too many people living in too little space.

With mortgage costs rising and property prices going through the roof, many people are unable to move, and are left with a home which no longer fits their family. Sharing with elderly parents, working from home and boomerang kids can all put stress upon family relationships.

John suggests practical additions to their homes such as loft conversions, converting out-buildings or moving walls, while Anna considers the emotional welfare of the family. With the work completed, the pair revisits the families to find out if the projects have been a success.

CAN'T SING SINGERS

Celebrating some unlikely heroes, BBC One takes a group of people who can't hold a note and transforms them into talented singers in time for the performance of their lives – a rousing live concert.

The Can't Sing Singers team has gathered Britain's most vocally challenged with the promise that, if they're prepared to work for it, their caterwauling will become music to the nation's ears.

In a live finale, the resulting groups will perform some of the nation's top tunes, with viewers voting for their favourite.

ELGAR'S ENIGMA

Elgar's Enigma Variations is one of the most famous pieces of English music. After composing the work, Elgar was catapulted to fame virtually overnight, prompting a revival of interest in British music almost single-handedly.

Sir Andrew Davis, a renowned interpreter of Elgar's music, presents this programme and conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a selection of the Variations in the glorious setting of Worcester Cathedral.

Sir Andrew and the BBC SO illuminate some of the piece's musical details, such as “the barking dog” and “charming stutter”, and a combination of music, photographs, archive footage, contemporary reconstructions and Malvern scenery creates a living impression of Elgar's world.

Elgar's Enigma is followed immediately on BBC Four by a full performance of the Enigma Variations by Sir Andrew Davis and the BBC SO.

