



**BBC TWO  
WINTER HIGHLIGHTS 2005**

**BBC  
TWO**

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## THE ROTTERS' CLUB

Adapted in four parts by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais from Jonathan Coe's novel, *The Rotters' Club* is the story of three Birmingham families set against a backdrop of the class conflict and strike action – not to mention Blue Nun and prog-rock – that made up the socio-political landscape of Seventies Britain.

The ensemble cast features new talent including Geoff Breton, Nicholas Shaw and Rasmus Hardiker, alongside established names Sarah Lancashire, Hugo Speer, Mark Williams and Kevin Doyle.

Ben, Doug and Philip attend King William's School, a middle-class institution that's set to give them a start in life that their parents never had. Aspiring writer Ben lusts after "posh" Cicely Boyd, Doug flies the flag for socialism and prog-rock lover Philip is desperate to start his own band.

Ben's dad Colin is in middle management at Leyland's Longbridge works, while Doug's shop-steward father Bill is a dedicated trade union man. Philip's bus driver dad Sam and housewife mum Barbara seem happy, but does Barbara want more from life?

*The Rotters' Club* is a tragi-comic blend of the personal and the political, taking in everything from strike action to the delights of first love. A tale not just of individuals but of an entire era, it is enriched by a real sense of life in the Seventies.

Drama publicity

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

In 2005, Holocaust Memorial Day coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp. To commemorate the anniversary, Westminster Hall will host the biggest ever assembly of British-based survivors of the camps and ghettos of Nazi Europe.

The event, organised by the Home Office in conjunction with the BBC, will be attended by HM The Queen, accompanied by the HRH Duke of Edinburgh, and major political leaders. The broadcast sees the worldwide premiere of *Annelies*, an original oratorio based on the diaries of Anne Frank and performed by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Clare College Choir. Cantor Stephen Leas performs the memorial prayer at the event.

CR

## HOLOCAUST – A MUSIC MEMORIAL FILM FROM AUSCHWITZ

To mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, BBC Two presents a landmark music film reflecting and remembering the human tragedy of the Holocaust. The film features performances, recorded for the first time on location in Auschwitz, from acclaimed international artists including violinist Maxim Vengerov, pianist Emanuel Ax, soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, baritone Gerald Finley and clarinetist David Krakauer.

For many victims and survivors of the camps, music played a unique and precious role as part of daily life. It formed part of a complex relationship between life and death, yet for many was their salvation. The concentration camps are sadly synonymous with many famous musicians, including Jewish composers Hans Krása, Pavel Haas and Viktor Ullmann and women's orchestra director Alma Rosé, the niece of the composer Gustav Mahler.

Film from Auschwitz, archive material and orchestral performances are combined with powerful stories from three camp survivors to form a moving and challenging musical sequence that takes the audience on a factual, emotional and musical journey.

SD

## AUSCHWITZ – THE NAZIS & THE “FINAL SOLUTION”

Sixty years on, Auschwitz still has a unique place in history. Within its walls the biggest mass murder ever recorded occurred. Yet it is hard to grasp how and why such a chilling place existed.

Now the full, untold story of Auschwitz can be revealed in a definitive BBC documentary series to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the camp next January. And for the first time ever on television, photo-real graphics rebuild Auschwitz as it looked under the Nazis, in order to properly tell the true and accurate story of what actually happened.

Written and produced by Bafta Award-winning producer Laurence Rees, using fresh new research, *Auschwitz – The Nazis & The “Final Solution”* offers viewers a unique perspective on a camp in which more than one million people were ruthlessly murdered.

The series follows the trail of evil from the very first discussions about “the Jewish question”, to the creation of labour camps and the development of Auschwitz as a mechanised factory for mass murder. It interweaves new testimony from camp survivors and members of the SS with archive footage and drama reconstructions of some of the key decision-making moments.

CR





### MY LIFE AS A CHILD

Television has tried various ways to give an insight into a child's view of the world but this series takes on an entirely new approach. Avoiding interviewers and outside interference as much as possible, My Life As A Child gives cameras to children, aged from 5 to 11, allowing them to capture their own unique perspective on the world.

Viewers discover how the world looks through a child's eyes, and what really matters to them. The kids set the agenda and call the shots, and their perspective makes the everyday extraordinary as they take viewers through their days at home and school, all filmed in their own time and on their own terms.

The series promises to be funny, touching and revealing, and to challenge adult preconceptions about what's important and meaningful to young minds.

KA

### BLAME THE PARENTS

From anti-social behaviour to youth crime and truancy, teenagers often make headlines for all the wrong reasons, with the blame placed firmly at the feet of the parents. Blame The Parents follows the parents of five different families, all with troublesome teenagers.

Faced with the fact that they can no longer keep their teens in line, the parents have volunteered to join a government-run course designed to help them with their parenting skills. Capturing the rows, tantrums and angry confrontations, these are parents at their wits' end, struggling to cope. With the pressure piling on, the series follows their progress on the course, what they learn and how they fare as they attempt to take back control at home.

GM



### SWEET SIXTEEN

Directed by Ken Loach, Sweet Sixteen is set in the rundown Scottish town of Greenock and follows teenage scally Liam (Martin Compston) as he struggles to prepare for the release of his ex-heroin addict mum from prison.

Desperate to find the money to build a proper family home, Liam muscled in on his mum's boyfriend's drug business. Liam and his pal Pinball (William Ruane) set themselves up as dealers, displaying an entrepreneurial skill that has little other outlet on Glasgow's unemployment-ridden estates.

In the shadow of the closed-down shipbuilding yards, Liam works his way up through the ranks of the local underworld, where his astute business sense ironically reflects the Thatcherite ethos of self-help. Sweet Sixteen is a BBC film.

FRONT DESK

## THE APPRENTICE

Sir Alan Sugar fronts *The Apprentice*, the series that gives an exclusive insight into the competitive world of business.

As one of Britain's most recognised entrepreneurs, Sir Alan guides 14 of the country's most ambitious candidates as they vie for his approval, and the knowledge that they can make it in the business world.

*The Apprentice* sees the candidates face the most gruelling and intense interview of their lives. They then carry out weekly assignments to test out their business acumen and entrepreneurial skills with Sir Alan setting them a real business task.

Sir Alan will fire one of the candidates in the weekly boardroom showdown, leaving the rest of the team to battle it out. The candidate who proves their worth will secure a six-figure salary and a year-long job with one of his companies.

Entertainment publicity





### THIS WORLD – COMING OF AGE

Children across the world, from widely different backgrounds, celebrate their coming of age. Each child tells their own personal story, revealing the political, social and religious themes that divide people and the universal human themes that bring them together.

The children's stories are also a testament to the age-old struggle between traditional ways of life and the pressure to modernise. The programme travels to Israel for a bar mitzvah; Uganda for a circumcision ceremony; Canada for an Inuit boy's coming of age; Russia for a skinhead gang member's initiation; and Malaysia for a boy's first reading of the Quran.

Coming Of Age is a special programme that launches the new series of This World.

PR

### TRIBE

Explorer Bruce Parry embarks on a real-life Boy's Own adventure as he spends a month living with each of the six remotest tribes in the world.

From the poisonous and sometimes fatal rebirthing initiations practised by the Babongo people of Gabon, to the fierce fighting displays of the Suri in Ethiopia's Omo Valley; from taking dinner with a cannibal in Papua New Guinea to having a sharpened bone put through his nose, Bruce shares lives and customs increasingly threatened and gives a voice to those the corporate, capitalist world is too swift to ignore.

JW



## GROWN UP GAPPERS

Eight people share a common fantasy – to step off the treadmill of daily life, pack their life into a rucksack and go exploring the world as travellers, rather than cosseted tourists. All have reached a stage in their lives at which they want to give up their everyday responsibilities in favour of a major lifestyle change.

But rather than just selling up and heading for the easy life abroad, they're seeking out new experiences, adventures and personal fulfilment. Travelling to a range of far-flung destinations, and sampling everything from voluntary work in Bolivia to carnival in Brazil, the series follows the highs and lows of these very personal journeys.

BJO

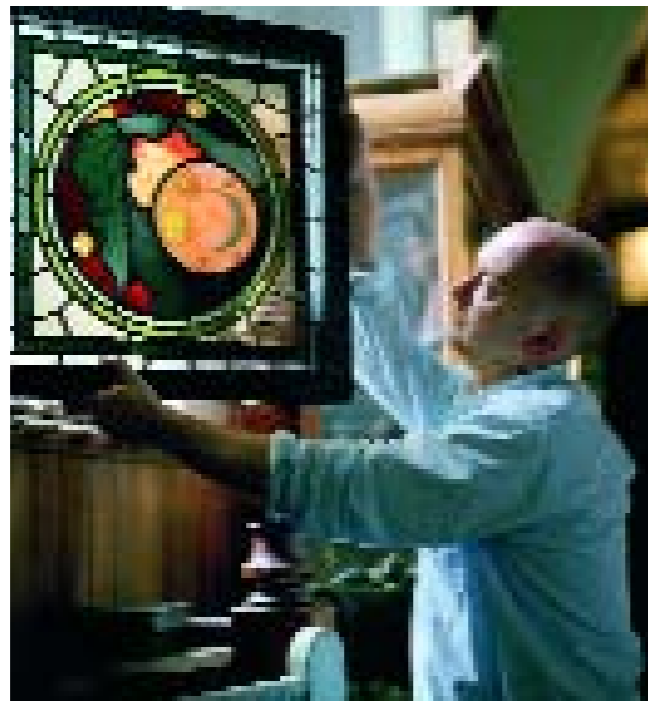
## THE RECLAIMERS

There's a gargoyle out there with your name on it. The trend for recycling salvaged sinks, tiles, parquet flooring and gargoyles, or anything else that can be gleaned from about-to-be-demolished noteworthy buildings, has boomed. Architectural salvage websites have seen a 1,500 per cent increase in visits in the past five years.

The reclaimers are the antique dealers who inhabit the creaky, competitive world of salvage and scour condemned buildings against the clock for the perfect Victorian hospital sink or Fifties door handles for period restoration enthusiasts.

They have to claim the hidden gems before they get sent to the skip or are demolished and turned to dust. Clients range from those desperate to restore precise historical detail to their home to those who just want to use a font for a bird bath.

GM



## PAY OFF YOUR MORTGAGE IN TWO YEARS

In *Pay Off Your Mortgage In Two Years*, eight households across the UK will attempt to do just that.

Eighty-five per cent of 23 to 40-year-olds cite paying off their mortgage as their biggest single ambition – and most people say the need to pay their mortgage each month is the primary barrier to them taking off and living their “dream life”.

With personal debt in the UK now topping £1 trillion and many people struggling to manage escalating debts, this is a timely project.

This ambitious new documentary series challenges eight households to take part in a major experiment to discover whether it is possible – through maximising their income and minimising their outgoings – to clear their mortgages in just two years.

The series is packed full of practical advice, money-making suggestions and money-saving tips, designed to offer ideas, support and inspiration to viewers attempting to manage their finances more efficiently and ditch their debt.

Financial consultant Jasmine Birtles, who maximises her own income by working part-time as a stand-up comedienne, promises to be tough on the volunteers to try to help them reach their target.

SB2





## THE ROBINSONS

From the creators of *The Worst Week Of My Life* comes a brand-new comedy series starring Martin Freeman and Hugh Bonneville.

The Robinsons aren't related to any of the famous Robinsons: Sugar Ray, Edward G. Smokey or even Anne. No, they're a bog standard, run-of-the-mill family from Wimbledon, South London who have "done quite well".

All of them, that is, except the youngest, Ed (the black sheep of the family), who is 32, recently divorced after a disastrous marriage that lasted five-and-a-half months, doing a job that he hates and living in his aunt's housing association flat in Bermondsey. What's gone wrong in his life? I mean, how difficult is it to find a girlfriend, a decent job, a good dry cleaners and the Meaning of Life?

Ed finds himself constantly imagining Robinsons from previous generations to whom he does not always measure up.

Anna Massey, Abigail Cruttenden and Amanda Root also star.

KC2

## KATH & KIM

The hit Australian comedy series *Kath & Kim* comes to BBC Two.

Kath Day is a forty-something single woman who likes to keep herself trim, and cleanses and tones of an evening. She's proud of her townhouse and considers herself high maintenance.

Her daughter Kim is a pouting princess whose glass of Bailey's Irish Cream is always half empty rather than half full, and who believes she's a hornbag\* in anyone's language. She's separated from her husband of two months and is consoling herself by stuffing her face.

With Kath's new fiancé, Kel, Kim's second-best friend, Sharon, and her estranged husband Brett, they love to make mountains out of molehills.

[\*In our language, that's a foxy chick! – Ed]

KH



## IN SEARCH OF MYTHS AND HEROES

Michael Wood goes in search of four of the most famous myths in the world: the legend of Shangri-la, Jason and the Golden Fleece, the Queen of Sheba and King Arthur and the Holy Grail.

These four romantic journeys take him to some of the remotest and most exciting places on earth including Western Tibet, the plains of Southern Iraq, and the Horn of Africa. Here he seeks out not only the historic past and literal truth, but also the mythic spirit of these legends which still captivate us today.

JA/RI

## CATHEDRAL

Britain's cathedrals rank amongst the world's finest buildings. More than just architectural masterpieces, they have provided the backdrop and focus to the nation's belief. Cathedral tells their story, revealing the faith behind the foundations.

Beneath the breathtaking beauty and engineering ingenuity of these buildings lie some dramatic stories of riot, fire, war – and even cold-blooded murder. This five-part series recreates these key moments in the buildings' extraordinary history.

With dramatic reconstruction and CGI, the programme focuses on some of Britain's best-loved cathedrals – Canterbury, York, Lincoln, Edinburgh and Winchester – and shows how the buildings, the locations and the nation itself were shaped by faith. It also explains how the buildings were built and rebuilt, and unravels the mysteries of how political, design and engineering obstacles were overcome.

DC



## AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 TREASURES

From the Taj Mahal to the Kremlin, through to the Parthenon and the Great Wall of China, historian and TV presenter Dan Cruickshank has been set a monumental challenge – to journey non-stop across the globe in search of the most significant man-made treasures on the planet.

In this major new series, Cruickshank charts the rise and fall of many of the world's greatest civilisations to create a unique picture of humankind through history. Travelling in an epic round-the-world trip to 44 countries in just five months, he risks life and limb to reach and re-evaluate some of our most remote and revered treasures. Around The World In 80 Treasures celebrates the world as a diverse treasure house of art and ancient artefacts.

KA





### JERRY SPRINGER – THE OPERA

From TV to the theatre and back to TV again, the talk show phenomenon that was turned into a hit stage show comes to BBC Two. Written by Stewart Lee and Richard Thomas, the outrageous musical-comedy-opera hybrid that is *Jerry Springer - The Opera* made theatre history by winning all possible theatre awards for Best Musical including *The Olivier Awards* and *The Critics' Circle Theatre Awards*.

Filmed in the West End's Cambridge Theatre it stars David Soul (*Starsky & Hutch*) as Jerry Springer, America's favourite talk show host who suffers the worst day in his career when faced with trailer trash, transsexuals, nappy wearers and a tap-dancing troupe of Ku Klux Klansmen.

KA

### ARENA – FRANCIS BACON

Francis Bacon's notorious penchant for alcohol, his addiction to roulette and chaotic private life made him a scandalously decadent figure. But in his lifetime he created some of the greatest paintings in the history of Western art. His complex and disturbing canvases are instantly recognisable, and enormously valuable. Yet Bacon, born in Ireland, only began painting in his late thirties after a career as a furniture designer.

BBC Arena is the only broadcaster, since Bacon's death in 1992, to be granted exclusive permission to make a film about his life. With unlimited access to Bacon's work and previously unseen archive footage, this is a definitive account of a true genius.

IC

### THE CULTURE SHOW

Covering everything and anything – from architecture to art house cinema, computer games to choreography, and shock resignations to startlingly original works of art – *The Culture Show* returns for a second season of arts and culture news.

Lively, fast-moving and authoritative, *The Culture Show* features some of the UK's most passionate and outspoken voices and offers a range of views, interviews and breaking news from the worlds of high art, popular culture and everything else in between. Brought to viewers from a different city or venue every week, *The Culture Show* explores the range and diversity of arts across the country.

IC



### HORIZON – EINSTEIN

Continuing its 40th anniversary season, *Horizon* celebrates the centenary of Einstein's Theory of Relativity with a two-part documentary which looks at the life and work of the legendary genius.

Albert Einstein cemented his reputation as one of the greatest thinkers of all time in 1905, the year he published his work on relativity. Other work completed during 1905 would ultimately develop into quantum mechanics and the natural law (the  $e=mc^2$  formula) which would make the atomic bomb possible.

Using dramatic reconstruction *Horizon* examines both Einstein's triumphs and how he subsequently became alienated by the scientific community in his futile pursuit of a Theory of Everything.

Other topics covered in the season include the truth about MMR and Neanderthal man.

KC

## TORTURE – THE CRUEL SCIENCE

Torture – The Cruel Science charts the rise of modern torture, examining the people, science and even artistry behind the cruelty. It examines governments' changing attitude to the use of torture and looks at the shifts in public attitudes towards such state-sanctioned activity.

The art of the interrogator has never been more in demand. In today's age of terrorism, extracting information from the enemy can be more important than flexing military might. The attacks of 9/11 triggered the subsequent capture, confinement and interrogation of thousands of terrorist suspects in Afghanistan, Guantanamo and Iraq. Torture – The Cruel Science examines how the lessons of the last 50 years have been put to use in the hunt for Al-Qaeda, and how Western democracies such as America have redefined their approach to interrogation and torture.

KR

## COCKERELL ON HOWARD

Tory Leader Michael Howard is the subject of Michael Cockerell's latest TV portrait.

Cockerell has gained behind-the-scenes access to Howard, who has, previously, been notably camera-shy. Both Howard and his wife, the former fashion model Sandra Paul, are filmed at work and play and they talk candidly about their lives.

Michael Howard's is a remarkable political and personal journey. The son of Jewish political refugees from Hitler's Europe, he was born in Wales and from grammar school in the Valleys rose to join the "Cambridge Mafia" of future Tory Cabinet Ministers. Despite the memorable "something of the night" tag, Howard was chosen Tory leader by acclamation last year. However, opinion polls suggest that he faces an extremely tough challenge in ousting Tony Blair.

PR

## SWEENEY INVESTIGATES

John Sweeney digs deep to find the truth behind people and issues in the news in this new investigative series.

He delves into the secrets of the Kaballah celebrity cult made famous by devotees including Madonna and Demi Moore, and finds disturbing evidence of damaged lives and battered bank balances.

Red Caps Down examines the deaths of six British Military Police in Al Majar last year. Sweeney raises new questions about the competence of the investigation and the state of the British Army.

Sweeney also investigates the secretive world of Roman Abramovich, owner of Chelsea Football Club. In 1995 he was a 29-year-old oil trader in Moscow. Nine years later he is the richest man in Britain, the richest man in Russia and the 22nd richest man in the world.

KR





### THE ANN WIDDECOMBE PROJECT

Ann Widdecombe is a woman of strong opinions who rarely shirks from telling others exactly what she thinks. Whether it's holding regular one-to-one surgeries for her constituents or voicing her views in the media, Ann is always at the ready to make a stand and tell it how it is. Now it's time to put Ann's old-fashioned values to the test. How will her blunt, no-nonsense philosophy fare against the messy realities of people's personal problems?

Ann develops her new role of agony aunt to the nation, ready to tackle any problem. The series follows Ann from town to town as she attempts to solve family crises, love quandaries and workplace spats.

PA

### LOOK AROUND YOU

Taking inspiration from the golden era of late Seventies and early Eighties television, and in particular the BBC's Tomorrow's World, the new series of Look Around You shows the very latest developments in science and technology, from the computer made especially for women (with scented keyboard), to the horseracing betting system (designed by a horse).

Shot with the same particular brand of humour as the first series, Look Around You returns in a new 30-minute format. Presented with aplomb by the very talented Peter Packard, Jack Morgan, Pam Bachelor and Pealy Maghti, the enthusiastic team offers an insight into what life might be like some 20 years into the future, in the year 2000...

Peter is played by Peter Serafinowicz, Jack by Robert Popper, Pam by Olivia Colman and Pealy by Josie D'Arby.

GJ



### THE KEITH BARRET SHOW

After the success of the first series, Rob Brydon returns to BBC Two screens in January 2005 as Wales' most famous divorcee with The Keith Barret Show.

Each week Keith invites a celebrity couple into the studio for half an hour of questions and debate on what makes for a successful relationship. As ever, the studio audience will be fully involved joining Keith in quizzing the happy couple.

Entertainment publicity

## PAKISTANI NIGHTS

A five part series of provocative documentaries for BBC TWO reflecting on what it means to be a British Pakistani.

The programmes offer an upbeat look at Pakistani lives across the UK and are as diverse as the community they reflect. Through tracing the evolution of the word 'Paki', exploring why Pakistanis continue to marry within the family despite medical risks and documenting the acting career of Atta Yaqub (Ae Fond Kiss) as he is plucked from relative obscurity, the series offers a revealing insight into the Pakistani experience in Britain.'

BJO

## NO WIN, NO FEE

This six-part observational documentary series offers viewers an absorbing insight into the personal injury industry.

The UK's centre for personal injury is the North West of England and the programme is given unrestricted access to one of the UK's leading personal injury companies, the Manchester-based Amelans.

No Win, No Fee follows the company, including bosses Andrew and Martin, as it tries to generate new business, sift through new claims to separate the genuine from the fraudulent and use whatever legal means necessary to deliver their clients the compensation they deserve.

MB

## COMPULSION

Whether it's drugs, booze or gambling, Compulsion is a series of films giving an insight into the forces that drive people to the edge and revealing the devastating effects of living with addiction.

James is a charming and articulate man – until he gets money in his pocket. A compulsive gambler, his cycle of self-destruction has lost him a life of respectability.

While James fights his demons in The Confession, his friend is the subject of Waiting For Brian. Living in a hostel, Brian's (pictured) drinking problem has spiralled out of control.

Matt and Camilla try to repair their relationship after living a life of rock 'n' roll excess in Love Will Tear Us Apart; The Trouble With Jonny follows a man on a destructive journey out of psychiatric care; and Casino Dreamer peels back the causes of Jan's gambling addiction.

CD2





## OUTLAWS

Outlaws is a darkly comic dissection of the criminal justice system as seen through the eyes of Duty Brief Bruce Dunbar (Phil Daniels), an ambulance-chasing criminal lawyer, and his ever-optimistic junior Theo Gulliver (Ray Emmet Brown).

The series is set in the fast-turnaround world of the magistrates' court, where offenders are processed through the system, released, fined, bailed, sentenced or referred to Crown Court. For men like Dunbar, time is of the essence: legal aid pays by the hour, not by the case. Just don't ask him to care about his clients – juvenile shoplifters, bungling burglars, drunk drivers: the sad, the mad, the hardly bad and the rarely dangerous.

Created and written by Steve Coombes, Outlaws premiered on BBC Three. Writers for the 12-part series also include Tony Basgallop, Richard Zajdlc, Jimmy Gardner and Anita Pandolfo.

MO

## MY LIFE IN FILM

Wherever there's a good film, there's a great episode of My Life In Film.

Kris Marshall is Art, an aspiring low-budget film-maker whose over-active imagination turns everyday life into classic cinematic adventures. Art and his friend Jones (Andrew Scott) think they're the English Coen brothers – except that they're not brothers and they haven't made any films.

Against this backdrop of playful homage, My Life In Film explores the isosceles triangle of love, friendship and obsession between Art, Jones and Beth (Alice Lowe), with a knowing nod to films such as The Shining, Shallow Grave, Rear Window and Top Gun.

My Life In Film premiered on BBC Three in October 2004.

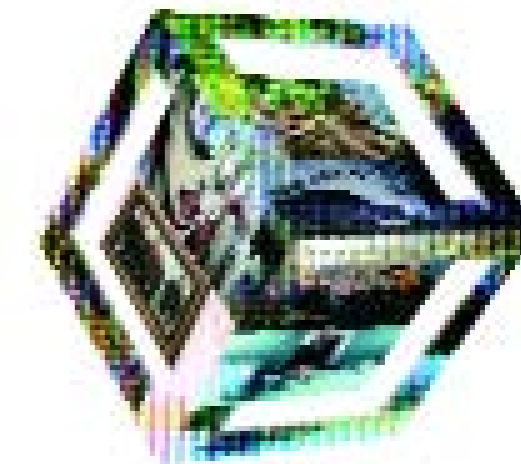
HT



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