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Lorraine Heggessey

"2005 is a year in which Africa will dominate headlines, thoughts and conversations as never before.

People will hear the continent being discussed and dissected on television, radio, in magazines and papers - and yet very few among the UK audience will have experienced Africa first hand. Their overwhelming impression is of Africa 'the problem', but that is only part of the story. There is a vibrant, diverse continent waiting to be discovered.

We have put together a wide range of programmes to give the viewers a more rounded portrayal of African life and culture through special editions of favourite shows as well as new commissions.

I have been there and it changed my viewpoint completely. My hope for this season is that viewers enjoy the programmes and begin to appreciate the richness of what Africa has to offer.

BBC One is a window onto the world for the UK. I hope people enjoy the view."



BBC One leads the BBC Africa initiative with drama, arts, entertainment, news, documentary, natural history, sport and children's programmes providing different opportunities for audiences to build up a broader picture of the continent. There will also be complementary programmes across the other television channels, from documentaries to international films and from music to art.

BBC Radios 1, 1Xtra, 2, 3, 4, Five Live, 6 Music, BBC 7 and the Asian Network will also feature a spectacular range of African-themed programmes, including live music events, documentaries and features, plus news and current affairs.

bbc.co.uk will host the website for the *Africa 05* series of events and exhibitions. The online service will provide a central point for viewers and listeners to find out more about the BBC season and to engage with interactive content about Africa.

The BBC's global audience will see the output via BBC Prime and BBC World which will broadcast much of the output to the African continent during BBC One's week. And 1000 African Schools will be twinned with UK counterparts as part of the BBC's World Class project.

contents

- P.2 - HOLBY CITY
- P.5 - TRAUMA IN AFRICA
- P.4 - STRICTLY COME DANCING AFRICA
- P.3 - WORLDS APART
- P.5 - CBBC ON ONE
- P.5 - GROUND FORCE SPECIAL
- P.6 - GELDOF IN AFRICA
- P.8 - GIRL IN THE CAFÉ, THE
- P.10 - SONGS OF PRAISE
- P.11 - ELEPHANT DIARIES
- P.11 - ROLF ON AFRICAN ART
- P.12 - BBC NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS



holby city

Dr Ric Griffin (Hugh Quarshie) leaves behind his colleagues at Holby City and travels to Ghana. Staying with his brother's family and working in a charity hospital makes him question his return to Holby. Diane (Patricia Potter) travels to Ghana to bring him back but she can see what a difference his work is making to the local community.

DS

hugh quarshie:

"Ric was born in Ghana and trained there as a doctor and was always meant to return at some point, so I think there will be interesting issues involving his family and on a domestic level. Although in Ghana there is still much emphasis on hierarchy and status, there is also a focus on hospitality, food and warmth."

worlds apart

A British family pack their bags and head for a new life in Northern Namibia. Staying with a family of the Himba tribe they find that their new lifestyle means more than simply giving up the comforts of their UK home. The family find everything is now about sheer survival, from keeping warm and getting enough food to coping with the challenges of the natural environment.

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Tony Heald/Alamy.com



strictly african dancing

Five celebrities of African origin are each paired with an African dance troupe for intensive training before performing a traditional African dance.

They will dance to live music, while a panel of African dance experts judge their skills, and viewers at home vote for their favourites.

As the novice dancers rebuild links with their heritage, viewers learn about the culture in which they are immersed. The celebrities learn about the significance of their dances traditional values, as each tribe teaches them steps that have been passed down from generation to generation.

cbbc on bbc one

CBBC reflects the rich culture and complex diversity of Africa across its programmes.

Xchange takes a group of children from a British school to meet peers in Africa, and the programme's *After School Club* will come from an African School.

Newsround's award-winning team of reporters and press packers will file special reports from and about Africa and CBBC's *Smart* has a one-off creative African art special.

CBBC presenters Rani and Abs also travel to South Africa, testing children's friendships with some terrible tasks in a special episode of reality game show *Best Of Friends*.

CHILDREN'S PUBLICITY

trauma in africa

Johannesburg, South Africa, is one of the most violent cities on earth; gang warfare is rife and gunshot wounds and amputations are everyday occurrences. *Trauma* reveals the extreme conditions local staff battle with in South Africa's busiest hospital, government-run Johannesburg General Hospital. Joining the local medical practitioners are paramedic Martin Bomford, emergency medical technician Tim Burnett and Consultant Alastair Wilson of the Royal London Hospital. Filming in A&E, on the air-ambulance and out on the road with the paramedics, the series shows the problems faced by a two-tier healthcare system that favours the rich when every day is a battle.

GM

ground force special

Ground Force teams up with The Eden Project to tackle one of its biggest challenges yet: building a "Garden for Africa" in the UK's entirely different climate.

The garden will celebrate the continent's heritage in the horticultural and visual arts and will be designed and planted with African trees and shrubs. It will offer a fantastic setting in which to display traditional and modern sculptures. Celebrity helpers will be on hand as Charlie Dimmock and Tommy Walsh set to work.

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geldof in africa

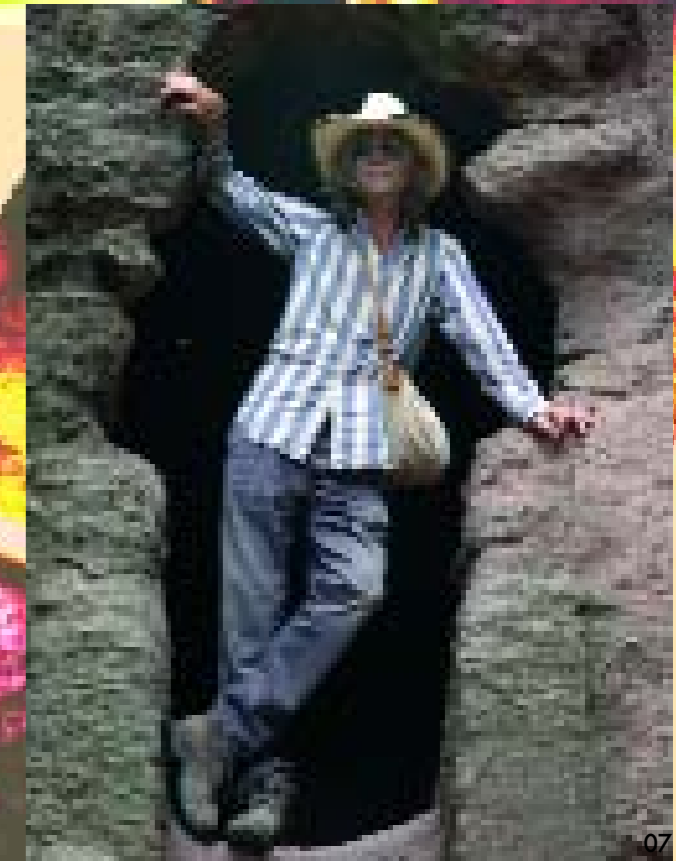
bob geldof:

"In Europe we live in effect East to West across one vast temperate climate zone. Africa on the other hand lying North to South has the lot, desert with its vast seas of sand, tropical with its jungles, equatorial with its rainforest, savannah and coastal with its animal and fish. In fact practically everything except Arctic. And within this immense continent more peoples, more language, more cultures, more animals than anywhere else on our world. It is quite simply the most extraordinary, beautiful and luminous place on our planet."

Leaving Live Aid and politics to one side, Bob Geldof makes a personal journey through Africa to learn more about the culture and, through people's experiences, understand the forces that make the continent what it is.

Travelling through West Africa (Ghana, Benin and Mali); Central Africa (DR Congo and Uganda); and East Africa (Ethiopia, Tanzania and Somalia), Geldof explores the continent that the rest of the world seems to be leaving behind

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the girl in the café

In a funny and poignant love story, award-winning screenwriter Richard Curtis combines his unique comedic touch with a powerful humanitarian message about the willingness of the richest nations to combat poverty in the Third World. Curtis's first feature for the BBC stars Bill Nighy (*Love Actually*, *State Of Play*) and Kelly Macdonald (*Gosford Park*, *Trainspotting*, *State Of Play*) and tells the story of hard-working and painfully shy civil servant Lawrence, whose life changes when he meets a mysterious girl in a café in Whitehall. He takes her on a romantic mini-break to the G8 Summit with potentially global consequences.

DRAMA PUBLICITY

richard curtis:

"The Girl In The Café is a romantic film set at the G8 Summit of world leaders. Not an obvious match with the Africa season. But actually this year, the G8 in Scotland in July could radically improve the future for millions of people in Africa - and this film is about that - 8 men, in one room, for two days, holding the fate of millions in their hands."





songs of praise

Kwame Kwei-Armah travels to South Africa for Songs of Praise to reflect on the pivotal role that music and songs play in people's lives.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu talks about the importance of music to South Africans and how they express their spirituality through music.

Performances come from the Soweto Gospel Choir, the Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society and Ladysmith Black Mambazo perform in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

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elephant diaries



In *Elephant Diaries*, the BBC gains unprecedented access to Kenya's elephant rehabilitation centres to capture on film, for the first time, the dramatic rescue of orphaned elephants and their reintroduction to the wild. Michaela Strachan visits a unique orphanage in Nairobi, where keepers provide roundtheclock care to infant elephant calves who have been separated from their herd in the wild. Since 1977, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has successfully saved and hand-reared 62 infant African elephant calves, two from the day they were born. Meanwhile Jonathan Scott visits a rehabilitation centre in Tsavo to witness the gradual process of re-integration into the wild.

DC

rolf on african art

Over many millennia, African art has evolved into many forms, from rock art and sculpture to textiles, beadwork and pottery. Rolf Harris discovers the diversity of African art, learning how the Shamans produced rock art, creating his own piece of sculpture with a group of Makonde wood carvers and, finally, producing a painting that reflects the African people and landscapes that have inspired him.

DC

rolf harris:

I've always been fascinated by the small bronze weights used to measure gold. They are shaped into little figures and I used to collect them. I'm also in awe of the bronze sculptures from Benin. These life-size sculptures are truly amazing. Created a couple of hundred years ago, they are some of the first bronze sculptures in the world. They were being produced long before Rodin became famous for his bronzes or Donatello produced "David". The sculptures are phenomenal and I've always wondered how on earth they created them.

bbc news and current affairs

BBC News will play a full part in the Africa season with live broadcasts from the continent and special editions of news and current affairs programmes dedicated to African issues.

There will be a special edition of *Question Time* from South Africa debating the issues that matter to people from across the continent. Natasha Kaplinsky will present *BBC Breakfast from Africa*, and George Alagiah will present a series of special reports for the BBC Six and Ten O'Clock News bulletins.

PR

production credits

BBC NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS / A BBC PRODUCTION
ELEPHANT DIARIES / A BBC/DISCOVERY CHANNEL CO-PRODUCTION
GELDOF IN AFRICA / A BROOK LAPPING PRODUCTION
GIRL IN THE CAFÉ, THE / A TIGHTROPE PRODUCTION
GROUND FORCE SPECIAL / AN ENDEMOL PRODUCTION
HOLBY CITY / A BBC PRODUCTION
ROLF ON AFRICAN ART / A BBC PRODUCTION
SONGS OF PRAISE / A BBC PRODUCTION
STRICTLY COME DANCING AFRICA / A BBC FORMAT ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION
TRAUMA IN AFRICA / A BBC PRODUCTION
WORLDS APART / AN ENDEMOL PRODUCTION