



BEETHOVEN

A major three-part drama-documentary series on the life and work of Ludwig van Beethoven, presented by conductor Charles Hazlewood, features award-winning actor Paul Rhys in the role of the composer.

Beethoven's life and music epitomise the heroic triumph of man's will over adversity. He lived in turbulent times and his music was equally revolutionary. The series takes contemporary accounts of his tragic life – his abusive father, failed love affairs and his deafness – and weaves them into an analysis of his groundbreaking music.

The series is filmed entirely on location in Europe, with music performed by a specially created period orchestra, and is accompanied by *Beethoven Uncovered* on BBC Four, in which three of the key works are analysed, rehearsed and then performed in full. The series is complemented by BBC Radio 3's *Beethoven Experience*, a full week of programmes dedicated purely to the works of the great composer.

SD

SENSITIVE SKIN

Suddenly it's sexy to be 60, in this dark comedy starring Joanna Lumley and Denis Lawson. *Sensitive Skin* looks at life through the eyes of a successful couple living in metropolitan London. Al and Davina Jackson struggle with sexual temptation and professional jealousy and try to cope with their fear of the future.

Al is a pundit for a broadsheet newspaper and is paid to find imperfection in everything; Davina works in an art gallery and is paid to make life more beautiful. But being 60 isn't simple. The couple's 30-year-old son, Orlando, refuses to acknowledge adulthood, while Davina's sister, Veronica, and her husband, Roger, intimidate the Jacksons with their confident and controlled grasp of life.

Davina is played by Joanna Lumley, Al by Denis Lawson, Orlando by James Lance, Roger by Nicholas Jones and Veronica by Maggie Steed. Frances de la Tour, David Warner and Sir Jonathan Miller also star.

Sensitive Skin is written, produced and directed by Hugo Blick (*Marion & Geoff/Up In Town*).

KC2





SPRINGWATCH WITH BILL ODDIE

The results of the biggest-ever survey into the arrival of spring are revealed as Bill Oddie, Kate Humble and Simon King reunite for *Springwatch* – three weeks of wildlife reports from around the UK, during which viewers can take part and make pledges to actively help the nation's wildlife thrive.

Since January, people across the UK have been recording their first sightings of six key species. Now the BBC's *Springwatch* survey (in association with the Woodland Trust) reveals where the first bumblebees, seven-spot ladybirds, peacock butterflies, swifts, frogspawn and hawthorn have been spotted. This, the most complete picture of the season unfolding across the UK, will enable scientists to understand how spring is changing and what needs to be done to help wildlife thrive in the UK. Viewers can help by pledging to Make Space For Nature at bbc.co.uk/springwatch

Meanwhile, returning to their Devon farm base, Bill and Kate also catch up with the creatures that captured viewers' hearts last year, find out whether the fledgling chicks survived the winter and discover how the mischievous badgers have fared. DC

THE STRANGE CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES & ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

This feature-length drama investigates Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's tortured relationship with his world-famous detective. In real life, the writer experienced what appears to have been a nervous breakdown in a period when he had the world at his feet, with his acclaimed novels and his creation, Sherlock Holmes, known the world over. David Pirie's drama delves into the dark secrets that drove the author to create the fictional phenomenon.

Arthur Conan Doyle (Douglas Henshall) is a physically vital but troubled man at war with his creation. He is further tortured by his feelings for another woman, Jane (Emily Blunt), as his wife succumbs to illness.

Brian Cox is Doyle's mentor, Joseph Bell, Tim McInnerny is the biographer, Selden, and Sinead Cusack is Arthur's mother, Mary.

HM





ASK THE FAMILY WITH DICK & DOM

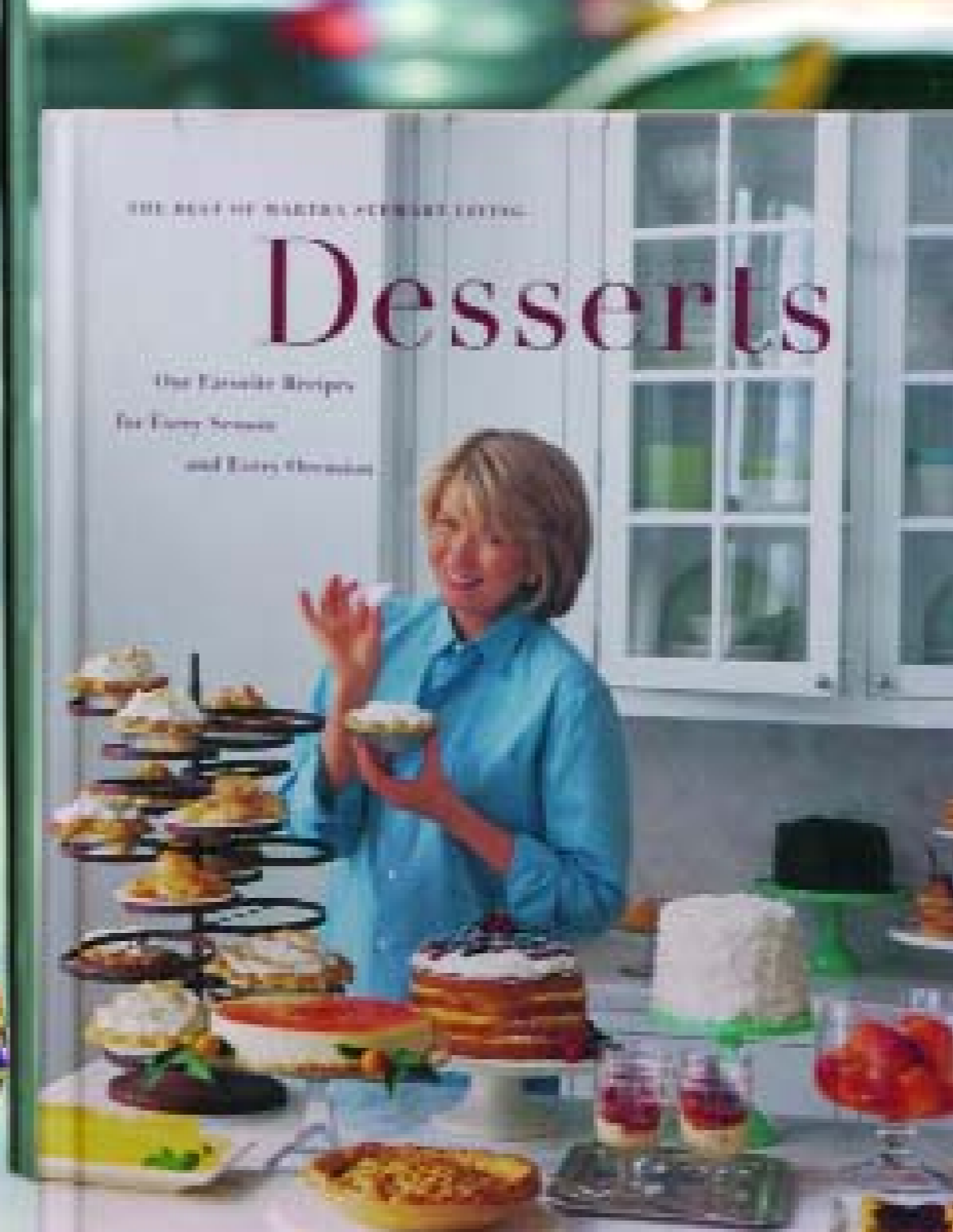
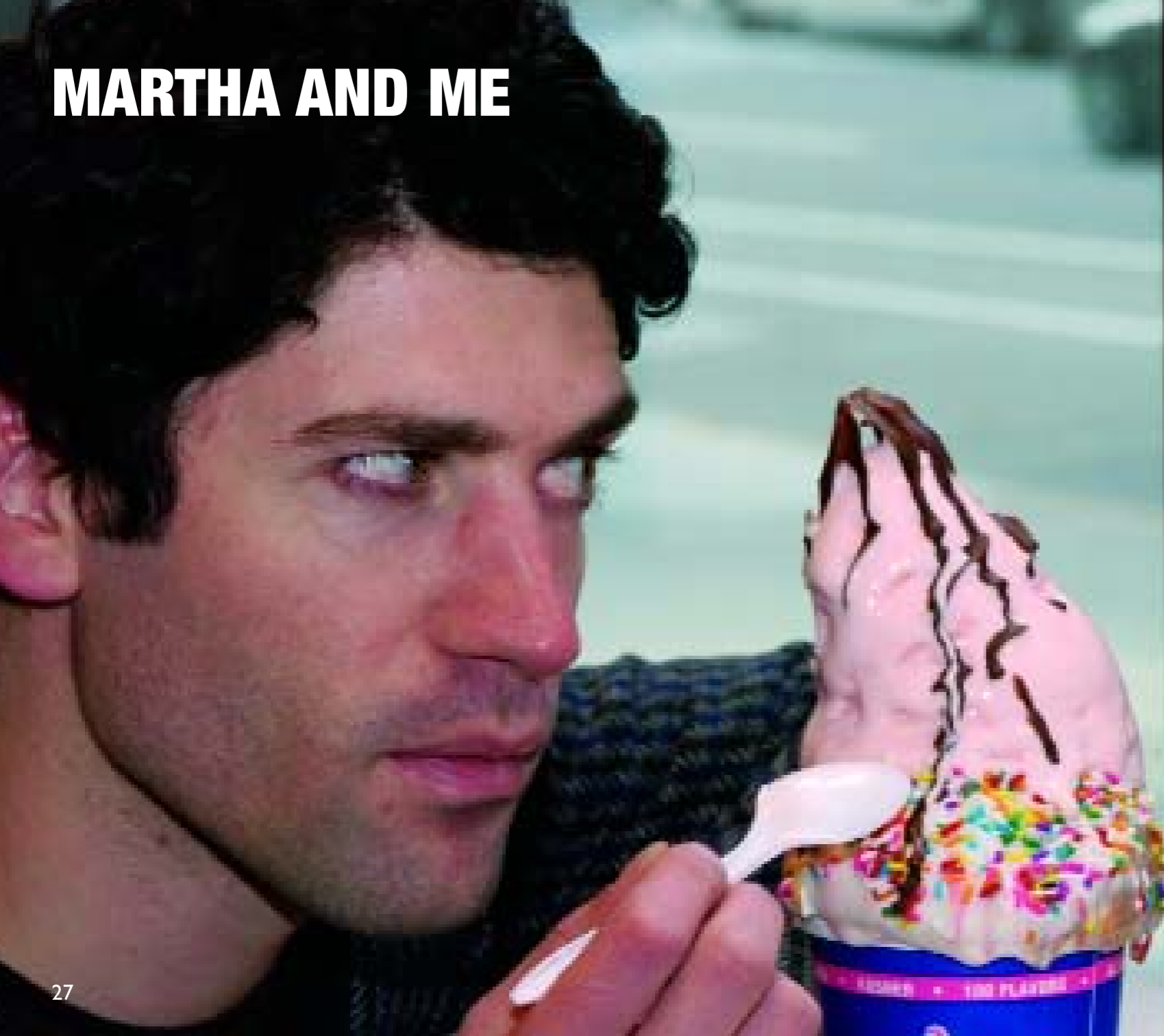
Dick & Dom (aka Richard McCourt and Dominic Wood) burst onto BBC Two this spring with their new early evening quiz show, *Ask The Family With Dick & Dom*.

The new weekday series is an update of the classic BBC general knowledge quiz show hosted by Robert Robinson.

Bafta award-winning Dick & Dom's unique and wacky sense of humour promises to ensure that *Ask The Family With Dick & Dom* is a very lively and entertaining show. The presenters challenge four members of one family – consisting of two adults and two children – to pit their wits against each other in true Dick & Dom style.

KH

MARTHA AND ME



For millions of Americans, Martha Stewart represented the epitome of domesticity and wholesome living - until last year when she was found guilty of making false statements and sentenced to five months in prison in Alderson, Virginia.

Film-maker Jamie Campbell moves to the US to investigate the story of a woman who made herself richer than Her Majesty The Queen, JK Rowling and Madonna by teaching middle America the secrets of how to cook vol-au-vents, trim lawns and stencil their walls.

Jamie sets up a "Martha Stewart-style home" in Alderson, meets Martha's friends, business associates, lawyers and fans, and tries to gain an audience with the extraordinary (but imprisoned) founder of Martha Stewart Omnimedia.

KB

ELUSIVE PEACE: ISRAEL AND THE ARABS



Elusive Peace: Israel and the Arabs is the sequel to Norma Percy's award-winning series, *The Fifty Years War – Israel And The Arabs* (1998), and features three one-hour films tracing the events of the last eight years in the fraught history of the Arab-Israeli peace process. The story is told by the key players on all sides.

Episode one focuses on how Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak tried to negotiate peace with Syria and then, at Camp David, under President Clinton's eye, with Yasser Arafat.

The second instalment explores how Ariel Sharon, in response to a Passover suicide bomb, launched Operation Defensive Shield against the Palestinians and bombed Arafat's compound to rubble. The programme learns how President Bush and Prime Minister Blair intervened to save him.

The final programme tells the inside story of the birth – and death – of President Bush's Road Map to Peace, and how Arafat's death has changed everything.

PR,

SAD TO BE GAY

David Akinsanya hates being gay. He has been living as a gay man for 20 years but, if he could take a pill to make him heterosexual, he'd pop it without a second thought.

In this documentary, David sees if it's possible to go straight. He believes that his homosexuality is learned behaviour, so sets about trying to unlearn it. He attends a controversial treatment centre in America that claims to teach people how to stop being "gay". The film follows the ups and downs of David's turbulent journey and asks whether being gay is something you can choose.

MB,



WOMEN'S EURO 2005

For the first time, the BBC has coverage of the UEFA European Women's Championships, which, in 2005, is hosted by England, from 5-19 June.

BBC Two will broadcast live coverage of all England games, with comprehensive highlights of all the other seven nation's games on the nights when England are not playing.

Women's Euro 2005 will be presented by Celine Hinchcliffe

JM,



CAR NATION

Britons own 22 million cars and spend a significant chunk of their lives behind the wheel. Some become road-rage prone maniacs while for others, the car is a peaceful sanctuary. *Car Nation* takes a novel look at 21st century society, exploring the lives we lead and the people we are by assessing motoring behaviours and obsessions.

Interviews with a chorus of drivers and their respective passengers – family, friends and strangers – illustrate our ever-changing lives and explore our attitudes to each other both on and off the road.

KM,



WAY OUT OF AFRICA

In a major new programme presented by actor Adrian Lester (*Hustle*), *Way Out Of Africa* celebrates the achievements of today's black role models by connecting them with black icons who have gone before them.

If global black history were drawn like a tube map, how would Condoleeza Rice and Nelson Mandela be associated and what would link Mike Tyson with Richard Pryor? By exploring this idea, *Way Out of Africa* constructs an iconic black history map.

The programme features contributions from Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Maya Angelou, Morgan Freeman, Jesse Jackson, Beyoncé, Linford Christie, Rio Ferdinand, Lenny Henry and James Brown.

IC

LIVE AID REMEMBERED

Against the background of Thatcher's Britain, one scruffy rock star marshalled the cream of Britain's pop talent and tried to pull off the impossible – a global televised concert, never before attempted, to save the lives of the millions starving in Africa and force the establishment to sit up and take the problem seriously.

In two 90-minute documentaries, stars from the event remember the day music brought the world to a standstill, while those who watched it, including Prime Minister Tony Blair, recall how they didn't miss a minute of this extraordinary event.

KA,





THE WORLD'S MOST PHOTOGRAPHED

Greta Garbo spent her life famously trying to be “alone”, out of the glare of the camera flash, while photography was crucial in concealing the physical frailty of John F Kennedy. Elvis’s publicity manager outlawed all candid photography of the King but, during a press strike in 1956, a teenager scooped incredible pictures of Elvis backstage and sold them in his school canteen.

The World’s Most Photographed, a major BBC Two series and National Portrait Gallery exhibition developed jointly by the two organisations, explores the power of photography through the intriguing stories of 10 renowned figures – Muhammad Ali, James Dean, Gandhi, Greta Garbo, Audrey Hepburn, Adolf Hitler, JFK, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis and Queen Victoria.

IC

STORYVILLE : FOG OF WAR

Storyville brings a season of feature-length international documentaries to BBC Two, kicking off with Errol Morris’s Academy Award-winning *Fog Of War*.

How does an idealist justify a distinguished military and political career in the United States during turbulent international times? In 1943, Robert S McNamara was commissioned as captain in the US Air Force and served in the UK, India, China and the Pacific. During the Second World War, with US General Curtis LeMay, he was integral in the firebombing of 67 Japanese cities in 1945.

As Secretary of Defense between 1961 and 1968, McNamara’s moral position was called into question again as he played a crucial role with President Kennedy and then President Johnson during the Cuban missile crisis.

The other films in the season include *Lost In La Mancha*, *Etre Et Avoir*, *Bus 174* and *Game Over: Kasparov vs The Machine*.

NR

AFTERMATH

This year, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, *Aftermath*, a new three-part series, looks at the burning issues of 1945: what happened when war ended; how peace was restored; and how the Allies set about the reconstruction of Nazi Germany.

Aftermath - The Election of '45 examines the shock defeat in which Churchill and his party were voted out of office and Clement Attlee and the Labour party took control of the country. *Aftermath – Germany* shows the full destruction of Nazi Germany after seven years of war and how the Allies were faced with having to rebuild the country. *Aftermath – Hirohito* examines the Japanese Emperor’s reign and the role he played during the Second World War.

Aftermath is part of the BBC’s V45 season, commemorating the end of the Second World War.

KB

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