

WINTER/SPRING 2007 HIGHLIGHTS



PARTY ANIMALS

POWER, POLITICS AND SEXUAL INTRIGUE COLLIDE IN THIS NEW WARM AND WITTY DRAMA SERIES FROM THE MAKERS OF THIS LIFE.

Like most twenty-somethings, Scott, Danny, Ashika and Kirsty spend much of their day worrying about love, sex, friendship and paying the rent. Unlike most twenty-somethings, the rest of the time they're worrying about running the country...

Drawing on a wealth of first-hand research, *Party Animals* presents Westminster from the ground up. Danny is the devoted researcher of a Home Office Junior Minister, but times are tough. The Government is in crisis, Danny's boss is struggling with a difficult home life and he's caught in the crossfire. Add to this the distracting presence of scheming intern Kirsty, and Danny is about to make an almighty blunder...

His mistake and a scurrilous rumour set in motion a chain of events that binds all four characters together – and changes their lives for ever.

Scott is played by Andrew Buchan, Danny by Matt Smith, Ashika by Shelley Conn and Kirsty by Andrea Riseborough.





DR ALICE

If people knew more about how their bodies worked, they might have a better chance of staying healthy. Dr Alice Roberts, a senior teaching Fellow at the Department of Anatomy at Bristol University and presenter on BBC Two's *Coast*, is on a mission to help people understand the machinations of the major organs and, in doing so, avoid a lifestyle which could be leading them to an early grave.

Each week, she undergoes tests on her own body and dissects animal organs to learn more about how they function. Armed with this information, Dr Alice offers essential advice on how to look after one's heart, lungs, brain, eyes, skin and kidneys.

From the effect energy drinks have on the kidneys to finding out why pecan nuts help keep your organs on top form, this series is a must for those wanting to hold on to their health and live to a ripe old age.

THE VERDICT

TWELVE WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES ... ONE DECISION.

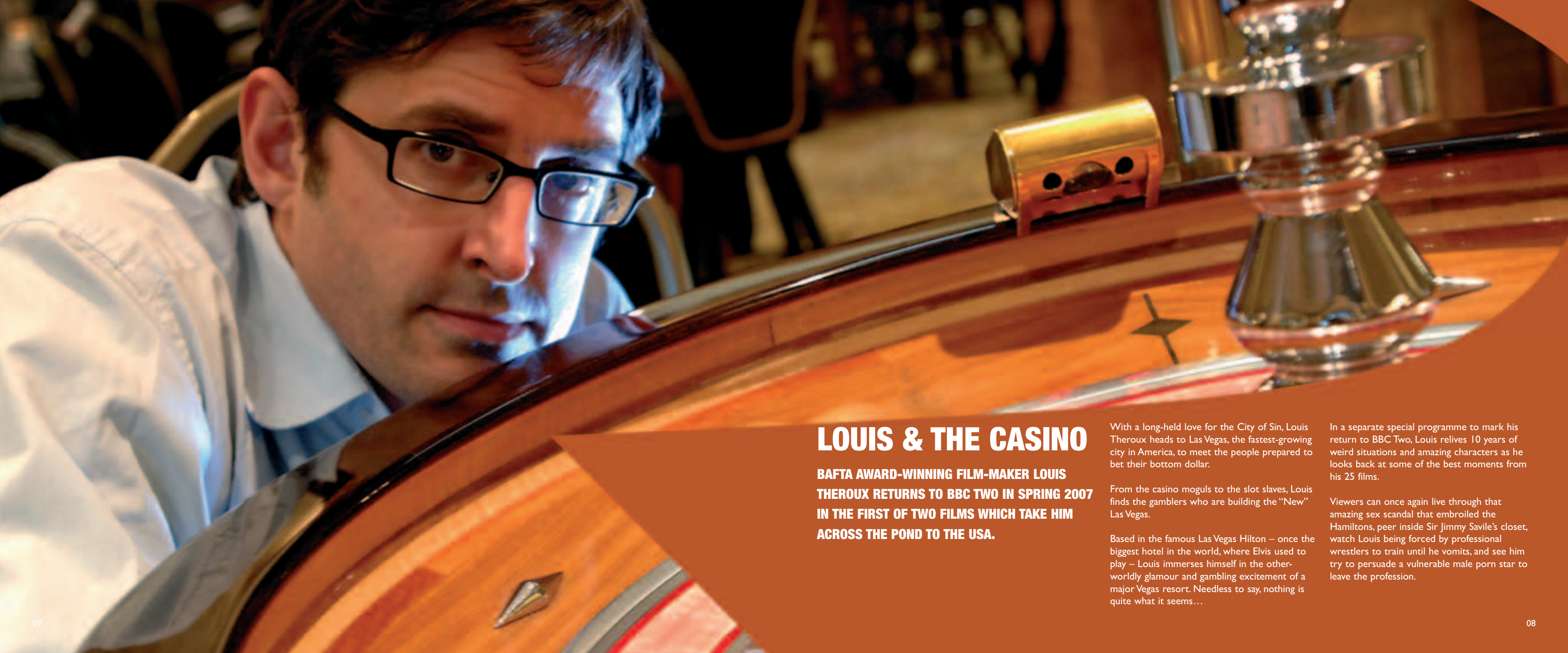
The Verdict is an exciting multi-media event that sees 12 high-profile people sit in judgement on a complete trial. The programmes focus on a highly contemporary and controversial case, improvised by actors and contested by real barristers and a real judge.

As on a real jury, the 12 personalities come from a variety of backgrounds and have a wide range of often conflicting opinions. *The Verdict* is a timely examination of the jury system, with viewers actually able to see how a jury reaches its conclusions.

The series shows the daily highlights from the courtroom, building from the prosecution case to the moment when the jury has to retire and reach its judgement.

There will be a switch-over programme on BBC Three and a full interactive service, ensuring that viewers can fully engage with *The Verdict*.





LOUIS & THE CASINO

BAFTA AWARD-WINNING FILM-MAKER LOUIS THEROUX RETURNS TO BBC TWO IN SPRING 2007 IN THE FIRST OF TWO FILMS WHICH TAKE HIM ACROSS THE POND TO THE USA.

With a long-held love for the City of Sin, Louis Theroux heads to Las Vegas, the fastest-growing city in America, to meet the people prepared to bet their bottom dollar.

From the casino moguls to the slot slaves, Louis finds the gamblers who are building the “New” Las Vegas.

Based in the famous Las Vegas Hilton – once the biggest hotel in the world, where Elvis used to play – Louis immerses himself in the other-worldly glamour and gambling excitement of a major Vegas resort. Needless to say, nothing is quite what it seems...

In a separate special programme to mark his return to BBC Two, Louis relives 10 years of weird situations and amazing characters as he looks back at some of the best moments from his 25 films.

Viewers can once again live through that amazing sex scandal that embroiled the Hamiltons, peer inside Sir Jimmy Savile’s closet, watch Louis being forced by professional wrestlers to train until he vomits, and see him try to persuade a vulnerable male porn star to leave the profession.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF VIVIENNE VYLE

VIVIENNE VYLE IS JENNIFER SAUNDERS'S LATEST COMIC CREATION AND THE STAR OF THIS NEW COMEDY, WRITTEN BY DR TANYA BYRON WITH JENNIFER SAUNDERS.

Vivienne Vyle is a Daytime TV presenter and agony aunt; the woman Britain turns on to for real-life confessions and shocking revelations. Every day, before a live audience, Vivienne addresses the big issues such as: "My Son Calls The Wrong Man Daddy" and "I Want A Vagina..."

Vivienne's mission is to resolve dilemmas and personal and family relationships, but what about her own issues? And who's really helping who get through a sad and pathetic life?

Vivienne is egged on by her manic producer, Helena (Miranda Richardson), who believes that on-air rows and punch-ups are the only way to keep the ratings up, and real-life psychotherapist Jason Watkins, who plays Jonathan.

Dysfunctionality rules in the studio, behind the scenes and in Vivienne's home life, where partner Jared (Conleth Hill) is called upon time and again to be her emotional prop.



HEROES

Heroes, the top-rating new series in America, chronicles the lives of ordinary people who discover they possess extraordinary powers.

From creator/writer Tim Kring (*Crossing Jordan*), *Heroes* begins as a total eclipse casts its shadow across the globe.

A genetics professor in India (played by Sendhil Ramamurthy) is led by his father's disappearance to uncover a secret theory – that there are people with super powers living among us. These include a young dreamer (Milo Ventimiglia) who tries to convince his politician brother (Adrian Pasdar) that he can fly; a high-school cheerleader (Hayden Panettiere) who learns that she is totally indestructible; and a Las Vegas stripper (Ali Larter), struggling to make ends meet to support her young son (Noah Gray-Cabey), who discovers that her mirror image has a secret.

Their ultimate destiny is nothing less than saving the world...

Heroes also stars Santiago Cabrera, Tawny Cypress, Greg Grunberg and Masi Oka.





WILD CARIBBEAN

THE MAGIC AND DRAMA OF THE CARIBBEAN IS BROUGHT TO LIFE IN THIS NEW SERIES FROM THE BBC'S NATURAL HISTORY UNIT.

Wild Caribbean promises to be a glorious spectacle of sun, sand and warm blue seas – spiced with the area's remarkable and diverse wildlife, culture and history.

To many, it is simply the ideal holiday destination – crystal blue waters, sandy beaches and magical coral reefs abound. But this enthralling series reveals that there is far more to the Caribbean than this.

Beyond its tropical beauty, the Caribbean conceals many dark and mysterious secrets. Its violent past is manifested in volcanic eruptions, dangerous reefs and powerful hurricanes – all of them both destructive and creative for its wildlife, its landscape and its people.

Wild Caribbean uncovers the secrets of the Caribbean, from the islands to the shores of Central America.



THE RETREAT

EXPLORING ISLAMIC FAITH, TRADITION AND CULTURE, THIS SERIES FOLLOWS SIX PEOPLE AS THEY SPEND A MONTH AT A REMOTE ISLAMIC RETREAT.

Away from the pressures of modern life, the participants pray daily; reflect and study. The three men and three women include both non-Muslims who are looking for spiritual enlightenment and Muslims who are seeking a deeper understanding of their faith.

The final week at the retreat is a real test of their strength and commitment as the volunteers are expected to fast between sunrise and sunset, to mark the Muslim Holy month of Ramadan.

By the makers of the groundbreaking *The Monastery* and *The Convent*, the series offers an invaluable insight into Islam and explores the personal spiritual journeys of those taking part.

THE GRAHAM NORTON SHOW

WELCOME TO GRAHAM'S WORLD.

Graham Norton, the multi-award winning comedy talk-show host, presents his brand-new talk show based on the people, trends, stories and aspects of celebrity culture that interest him most – all with a distinctly irreverent BBC Two feel.

Expect trademark Norton comedy monologues, celebrity chat, eccentric stories and characters, and home-grown weirdness from the Great British viewing public.

The show is all about the stuff that you won't see on the *10 O'clock News* – from celebrity guests' anecdotes, through the sillier stories buzzing round the wires to the unique quirks and obsessions of the Norton audience.

The Graham Norton Show will feature the host telling the sharpest jokes, trading quips with the celebrities who fascinate him and interacting with his eccentric viewership. The show will link to a major new website – the focal point for stories, uploads, joke submissions and all forms of shameless self-promotion.

Great guests, great jokes, great stories, great characters. All this, and Graham Norton, too.





THE MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON

AND OTHER TALES OF COMPETITIVE PEOPLE

From championship pigeon racers to the battle of the Elvis impersonators to high-profile hairdressing, this series delves into the world of unconventional, international competitions where passion is paramount and the stakes are high.

This series of three films is directed by Morgan Matthews, whose previous works include the acclaimed *Taxidermy – Stuff The World* and *Rudegirls*.

The lucrative world of international pigeon racing is the focus of *The Million Dollar Pigeon*, which follows obsessive British players from Barnsley to the biggest contest of them all – the Million Dollar Pigeon Race in South Africa.

Blue Suede Jew tells the story of Gilles Elmalih as he travels from Jerusalem to Memphis for the ultimate Elvis impersonation showdown.

Hair Wars! meets ex-world champion hairdresser John Phelps. Previously banned from competition, and with trouble at home, he tries to pull his family together with a return to the cut-and-thrust world of competitive hairdressing.



TELEVISION THE OPERA

Television The Opera presents... is a new series of contemporary musical comedies based on television shows, written by Richard Thomas and Stewart Lee, the team behind *Jerry Springer – The Opera*.

The series takes landmark TV programmes, including *Wife Swap* and *Question Time*, and gives them a full operatic interpretation.

The series features an ensemble cast from the worlds of opera and West End theatre, backed by a 45-piece BBC orchestra and central comedy performances portraying well-known television personalities.





CAN GERRY ROBINSON CHANGE THE NHS?

Sir Gerry Robinson, the ruthless turnaround king of big business (and star of BBC Two's *I'll Show Them Who's Boss*), is spending six months in the NHS to slash waiting times and to find a formula that really works.

At present, patients can wait up to three months to see an NHS consultant; Sir Gerry's challenge in a Yorkshire hospital is to cut that to two weeks.

Patients can also find themselves waiting up to six months for an operation and Sir Gerry is determined to reduce that figure to only four weeks.

Sir Gerry brings his management experience to bear on four areas – orthopaedics, ophthalmology, child health and endoscopy – to see if it is possible to make a real difference.



THE SEVEN AGES OF ROCK

Rock is the music that refuses to go away. It is now enjoying a renaissance via bands such as Arctic Monkeys and Franz Ferdinand, who are reviving the sound of guitar-based rock. With incredible exclusive access and interviews and rare performance archive, *The Seven Ages Of Rock* charts the definitive history of the emergence and rebirth of rock as a global force.

Made by the team which produced the critically acclaimed and award-winning *Soul Deep* and *Lost Highway*, the series explores seven eras of musicians who have shaped rock. The journey goes from the blues-based guitar rock of Jimi Hendrix to Oasis and beyond, stopping en route to delve into progressive rock, punk, heavy metal, stadium, grunge and indie.



THE TRUTH ABOUT FOOD

THIS WINTER BBC TWO REVEALS THE TRUTH ABOUT FOOD. CUTTING THROUGH THE SPIN, AND FEATURING ORIGINAL EXPERIMENTS ON VOLUNTEERS, THIS SERIES UNCOVERS THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE FOOD PEOPLE EAT AND JUST WHAT IT DOES TO THEIR BODIES.

Each week, well-known personalities join viewers on a journey of discovery to find out what food can do for them. Using innovative methods and the latest technology, the foods that can help people slim, improve their skin and even aid a man in getting an erection, are revealed.

With more than 500 volunteers and over 50 worldwide nutritionists, doctors and experts taking part, the results are astonishing.

The presenters are: Colin Jackson, Jan Ravens, Andrea Oliver, Fiona Bruce, Vic Reeves and Liza Tarbuck.



THE CONSPIRACY FILES

THE CONSPIRACY FILES INVESTIGATES THE FACTS BEHIND FOUR CONSPIRACY THEORIES THAT HAVE ENTERED THE MAINSTREAM.

Each programme in the series explores the inconsistencies in official accounts, and asks where the truth really lies.

The Conspiracy Files examines some of the theories surrounding the events of 9/11, before looking at the Oklahoma bomb – the biggest domestic terrorist attack in the US before 9/11. The blast killed 168 people when a truck-bomb exploded outside a government building.

The final programme looks at the death of weapons inspector Dr David Kelly – and meets those who, despite the official explanation, argue that the medical evidence doesn't point to suicide.





THE INVASION OF ISLINGTON

In the first of three daring documentaries, presenter Tim Samuels leads an entire Cornish village as they arrive en masse in London and annex Islington. The village of Lanreath in Cornwall is on the brink of extinction, they've lost their post office, shop and pub, the bus service has ended, farmers are selling up and now their school is under threat. So they invaded the heartland of New Labour and brought their sheep and cows with them.

Viewers can watch out for two more chutzpah-based mass stunts to come, as the disenfranchised up and down the country fight back.

ANDREW MARR'S HISTORY OF MODERN BRITAIN

Andrew Marr's History Of Modern Britain is an epic account of the events that have shaped our lives since the end of the Second World War. His journey through recent British history combines archive, anecdote and analysis to tell our national story.

Drawing on his detailed knowledge of contemporary politics and first-hand experience of the people who rule Britain today, Andrew Marr helps viewers see themselves in the context of modern history.

In each episode, Marr explores the drama of the landmark events that have shaped our world today. He also teases out the telling little details that reveal the impact of national and international events on the people of Britain. The series tells the story of the extraordinary decades that took us from victory to despair, from international power and glory to humiliation and decline, and from economic ruin to stubborn new hopes and promises of another new dawn.



SUPERGRASS

BBC Two viewers are transported back to Seventies London, the age of the supergrass – and the men who “ran” them – in this feature-length docu-drama.

With insight from real-life major players, *Supergrass* illuminates a world that seems a million miles away, yet is in fact near history. It explores the grey area that existed between the underworld and Scotland Yard, where supergrasses were the only way to crack the gangs who were causing havoc in Sweeney London.

From 1972, through its heyday years, to the chaos that ensued when the system fell foul of different agendas, *Supergrass* tells the stories of dramatic crimes and outrageous criminals. It features figures such as Bertie Smalls and Maurice O’Maloney, as well as the detectives who “ran” the grasses, such as Tony Lundy – the supergrass master who kept grasses under control but was always under suspicion of having a too cosy relationship with the villains.

Supergrass is the story of policing at a time when rules were sketchy and frequently broken.



THE LAST DAYS OF THE RAJ

The Last Days Of The Raj and *Partition* detail two separate, but inextricably linked, episodes in Indian history.

The programmes form a prelude to BBC Two's special summer season of programming to mark the 60th anniversary of the partition of India, which created two new sovereign states – India and Pakistan.

The Last Days Of The Raj shows how British expatriates tried to recreate an idyllic version of British life in India. Using previously unseen home-movie footage, testimony from people living in India at the time and dramatisation, the series marks the 60th anniversary of the British Raj in India. The programmes include interviews from both Indian and British contributors and give a sense of what life was like living under, or as part of, the Raj.

PARTITION

A separate, one-off drama-documentary, *Partition* recounts the final, crucial days leading to the partition of India and the creation of two sovereign states, India and Pakistan, on 15 August 1947.

The partition of India led to the biggest migration in history as the subcontinent was carved up to create Pakistan. The programme explores the untold stories of the civil servants charged by the British Government with the enormous task of working out the most complex “divorce” in history, and examines how they went about dividing a country of 400 million people.

BBC TWO PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN A PAN-BBC SEASON OF PROGRAMMES COMMEMORATING THE BI-CENTENARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT



ROUGH CROSSINGS

Rough Crossings, presented by Simon Schama, tells the story of Britain, the slave trade and the American War of Independence. It focuses on the little-known, heroic story of three incredible men: freed slaves Thomas Peters and David George and English Naval Officer John Clarkson. Clarkson was the younger brother of Thomas Clarkson, arguably Britain's greatest abolitionist and the great influence on William Wilberforce

Combining Schama's trademark compelling storytelling with reconstruction and dramatisation, *Rough Crossings* follows the fortunes of Peters and George – who fought on the side of the British during the American War of Independence.

Their dream of being free leads them first to Nova Scotia, Canada, where they are met with nothing more than broken promises, unrelenting racism and hardship. Then they hear of The Sierra Leone Company's plan to offer hundreds of former slaves free passage to Africa.

Peters, George and Clarkson lead the convoy of ships to Sierra Leone. But will they all make it? And even if they do ... will they all survive?

**MOIRA STUART ...
IN SEARCH OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE**

William Wilberforce's name has become synonymous with the ending of the slave trade (in 1807) and of slavery (1833). Yet few people in modern Britain know the true and gripping story of this country's moral, economic and political struggle to abolish the slave trade.

Moira Stuart takes viewers on a journey of discovery across three continents in a quest to uncover the truth about Wilberforce. In doing so, she reveals how the myth of this one man has overshadowed the great work done by many others – including Thomas Clarkson and the enslaved Africans themselves.



SLAVE CHILDREN

In a remarkable journey across five continents, six *Slave Children* tell their stories in *This World*.

Using the acclaimed format pioneered by *One Day Of War*, *Coming Of Age* and *Living Positive*, *This World* presents an extraordinary snapshot of an extraordinary business as Britain marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. In an industry worth around £17b a year, children are bought and sold like bags of sugar.

They labour 16 hours a day in sweatshops, break stones deep underground in mines, are mutilated to work as street beggars or service brothels around the world. They are not paid for their labours, are often beaten or abused, and cannot return to the families who sold them in the first place.

NUCLEAR SECRETS

There are currently 27,000 nuclear warheads in existence and most are far more powerful than those used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nine countries possess, or are suspected of possessing, nuclear weapons; dozens more have access to nuclear materials and the technology to turn them into weapons.

Through five spy thriller programmes, *Nuclear Secrets* charts the true story of the race for nuclear supremacy – from the creation of the A-Bomb to the present-day market in nuclear secrets across the world.

In the Forties, Klaus Fuchs betrayed Britain by passing secrets to the Soviets. By the Sixties, Colonel Oleg Penkovsky had become one of the Soviet Union's greatest traitors. In the Eighties, Mordechai Va'anunu blew the whistle on the Israeli bomb, highlighting the spread of nuclear weapons to the Middle East, and in the 21st century, AQ Khan, "father" of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, was caught selling nuclear technology to Libya and Iran.

The series reveals that, once opened, the Pandora's Box of atomic secrets can never be closed.



THE MADNESS OF MODERN PARENTING

All parents want the best for their children but more people than ever seem to be turning into panic-stricken obsessives in their over-zealous attempts to get it all absolutely right.

As this series shows, the madness can descend on many fronts – from competing against other parents to plan the most elaborate birthday party for their precious offspring, to the quest for the perfect family holiday.

Then there are the lengths parents will go to to get the very best for their child, whether faking church attendance for the sake of a decent school entry or spending all weekend doing their child's complicated school project, alone.

A selection of bemused mums and dads reflect on their madder moments in this entertaining, witty and affectionate look at the absurd behaviour being displayed by parents all over Britain.



SWEET BABY JAMES

It's time for viewers to forget their figures as handsome TV chef James Martin returns to his first love – desserts – and cooks up the most scrumptious sweets from today and yesterday in a brand-new series.

Everything from sticky toffee pudding to croquembouche is lovingly created with James's passion and panache.

His recipes are influenced by the people and places that inspired his life-long dedication to desserts, starting out at Castle Howard where he grew up and first learnt to cook at the age of five.

Each location provides the theme for his delicious desserts and also inspires James to get out of the kitchen and on to the foodie front line, meeting fellow dessert devotees, campaigning for puddings and digging deeper into the world of sweets.

If your mouth isn't watering by the time the credits roll, you might want to check you've still got a pulse!

PARIS

A sumptuous new series is set to tempt viewers to fall in love with Paris this spring.

Parisian art historian Sandrine Voillet reveals the tempestuous history, immortal beauty and Bohemian soul of the city she adores. Guiding viewers through more than 400 years of Paris' history, she celebrates the art, literature, music, films and design that have combined to create the spectacular "City of Lights".

This is the tale of the lavish court of the Sun King, Louis XIV, and the sexual decadence of revolutionary Paris; the crazy years of the early 1900s, played out in the Moulin Rouge and Folies Bergère; the jazz explosion of the Thirties; and the Sixties heyday of hedonism, expressed through film noir, music and literature.

Sandrine also discovers the cast of extraordinary characters who were inspired by the city, including Catherine de Medici, Voltaire, the Marquis de Sade, Victor Hugo, Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, Coco Chanel and Miles Davis.





MAXWELL

Maxwell tells the story of the dramatic final months of media tycoon Robert Maxwell's life.

In this one-off drama-documentary, Maxwell's world is collapsing. Cracks are appearing in his multi-billion-pound business empire, his marriage is on the rocks and his weight has ballooned dangerously.

He owns some of the world's best-known media companies – Macmillan Publishing; the New York Daily News; MTV; and the Daily Mirror – but his obsession with both power and his great rival, Rupert Murdoch, is causing his downfall.

With time running out, he retreats to the heart of his web and sets about saving his skin. He is trapped and paranoid. His attempts to stem the tide of debts culminate in his stealing a billion pounds from his companies and their pension funds. But he is still hurtling towards disaster and, ultimately, death.

Maxwell is a gripping account of how greed and ambition destroyed a man and led him to commit one of the world's biggest-ever frauds.

The film is written by Craig Warner, who was Bafta-nominated for *The Queen's Sister*. It is produced and directed by Colin Barr, who made *The Secretary Who Stole £4 Million* and *The Lavender List*.

WHAT MAKES BRITAIN RICH?

To find out what makes Britain's money and who gets it, Peter and Dan Snow probe the workings of the British economy. With a gross domestic product of over £1 trillion, the UK economy is the fifth largest in the world and Peter and Dan reveal who controls it.

In the same way in which they tackled the question of land ownership in the popular *Whose Britain Is It Anyway?*, the pair build up a surprising picture of the economy and pose the fundamental questions about wealth in Britain.

They meet the economic winners and losers – from billionaire hedge-fund mogul Michael Hintze and self-made publishing millionaire Felix Dennis, to Cornish fishermen who can't afford to buy homes in their own villages, as rich weekenders price them out of the market.





IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

Following an overwhelming number of requests from viewers asking for help on green living, Dick Strawbridge returns to the screen. His efforts in *It's Not Easy Being Green* to create the green dream in a dilapidated farmhouse – a sustainable lifestyle with all mod cons – have inspired many.

So inventor Dick and his son, James, now turn their hand to helping some of these viewers around the country follow their own eco-lifestyle dreams. Dick uses his military skills to take on the role of green project manager, aided by his young apprentice.

Projects range from the low-key to the large-scale, from questions on organic livestock to growing veg in window boxes. Budding “greens” include a doctor in the North who is building an eco-mansion on a seven-acre plot; a jobless man in London who wants to minimise his bills; and a 26-year-old nuclear engineer who wants to run her first house on solar and wind power.

HYPERDRIVE

The spaceship *HMS Camden Lock* powers its way through the galaxy once again, still promoting the tourist wonders and business opportunities of the UK – now including Wales. No matter what the mission, the crew of the *Camden Lock* can jump to action at a moment's notice – as long as they are not celebrating Shoegiving Day or making reverse-polarity cheese sandwiches.

Commander Michael Henderson is still at the helm, always ready to fight the good fight against unwanted alien advances. He has York, his First Officer and resident total psychopath, at his side, and Diplomatic Officer Teal, who still harbours a secret love for her Commander. Meanwhile, the hapless Vine and Jeffers spend most of their time avoiding conflict and winding each other up.

The cast includes Nick Frost, Kevin Eldon, Miranda Hart, Dan Antopolski and Stephen Evans.





ROME

Kevin McKidd, Ray Stevenson, James Purefoy, Polly Walker, Tobias Menzies, Lindsay Duncan and Kerry Condon return for a second series of the BBC and HBO's *Rome*, the epic tale of the rise of one of the world's most powerful Empires told through the stories of masters and slaves alike.

Having lost his wife, and played an integral part in Caesar's death, Vorenus begins the series a broken man. However, with the ever-loyal Pullo alongside him, Vorenus soon becomes a key player in Mark Antony's fight for control of *Rome*. In the wake of Caesar's death, a vicious struggle for power and supremacy erupts, with Brutus and Servilia pitted against Mark Antony and Atia. With so much to play for, who will ultimately triumph?

Simon Woods joins the cast as Atia's son, Octavian, who turns against Mark Antony and Atia, leaving the city in order to raise an army and make his own bid for power.

CAPTURING MARY

Britain's finest television, film and stage actors star alongside talented newcomers in two new films written and directed by the inimitable, award-winning auteur Stephen Poliakoff for both BBC Two and BBC One.

The two films are linked together by an exquisite house frozen in time and a young, highly individual man, Joe, through whose eyes viewers see the world. Joe, is the concierge at the grand mansion and is played by newcomer Danny Lee Wynter.

Capturing Mary, the film for BBC Two, is set in the same exquisite, empty house. The legendary Dame Maggie Smith heads the cast as Mary, a once-brilliant writer and critic, reflecting on her younger self (played by Ruth Wilson), and David Walliams plays the mercurial Greville.

As Mary looks back on her prime, remembering parties and functions with the cultural elite, played out as echoes and shadows in the empty palazzo, she is haunted by the memory of the supremely charming but subtly evil Greville, who feigned friendship, but actually brought destruction.



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