



Winter/Spring
Highlights 2007



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The Edwardians – People Like Us?

In just a few years at the start of the 20th century, Britain changed in unimaginable ways. From the first foray into aviation, to the invention of labour-saving devices for the home, to the rise of “the brand”, and the birth of not only “the High Street”, but also of the “commuter class”, mass consumerism and tabloid journalism, the Edwardians lived lives not too distant from our own.

This new BBC Four season investigates, interrogates and celebrates the richness and excitement of this pioneering and world-changing time.

The season includes some of the era's best-known names, from literary giants such as George and Weedon Grossmith and Saki, to the doyenne of the music hall, Marie Lloyd. Along the way, it also uncovers lesser-known figures. It hears about trailblazers in the fields of social reform, journalism, photography, entrepreneurship and technical invention, uncovering what it really felt like to be Edwardian.

Dramas

The season launches with Andrew Davies's brilliant, two-part adaptation of the classic comedy novel ***The Diary Of A Nobody***, starring Hugh Bonneville as the wonderfully pompous diarist Mr Charles Pooter – the Victor Meldrew of his day – who guides his audience through the minutiae of middle-class manners.

It first appeared in *Punch* as a two-and-a-half-column sketch in 1888, and George and Weedon Grossmith's superb satire on the snobberies of suburbia was considered so successful that it was released as a novel in 1892. It's testament to its success that it has never been out of print since publication. Evelyn Waugh described it as "the funniest book in the world" and this superb drama is sure to delight all those who enjoy a good tongue-in-cheek comedy.

During the Edwardian era, people of all classes had more spare time and disposable income than ever before, fuelling a massive expansion in the entertainment industry – the undisputed king of which was the music hall.

In a compelling drama about the life of one of the biggest stars of the time, Marie Lloyd – starring Jessie Wallace as Marie – the season exposes the seedy underbelly of this peculiarly Edwardian entertainment.

Marie Lloyd follows the star's rise to fame and depicts her inevitable, spectacular fall. Famed for her generosity and good humour, Marie was, nevertheless, dogged by a failed love life and scandal upon scandal, laying her open to the vicious talons of the emerging tabloid media. Uniquely, the film intersperses drama sequences depicting Marie's life with some her most famous songs, such as *My Old Man Said Follow The Van* and *A Little Bit Of What You Fancy Does You Good*, painting a poignant portrait of the mad, bad and often sad world she inhabited.

The season hosts another gem of a drama series in ***The Short Stories Of Saki, "Unabridged"*** (working title). Saki is known as the master of the short story and these three tales – *The Storyteller*, *The Lumber Room* and *Sredni Vashtar* – feature detested aunts, wayward children and malicious animals in a hot house of Edwardian sensibilities. (The cast is to be confirmed).



Documentaries

In addition to pioneering literature, art at the turn of the century went through groundbreaking changes, too. In ***Sickert V Sargent***, celebrated art critic Waldemar Januczack looks at the work of Walter Sickert and John Sargent – both masters of their time. Sickert famously announced "...any fool can paint, drawing is the thing". Januczack steps into the fray, comparing the works of the two artists.

Today's tabloid media are so powerful that it's hard to think of a time without them, but they were very much an Edwardian invention. In ***Gotcha!*** (working title), Kelvin MacKenzie explains why and how the "tabloids" emerged at the beginning of the 20th century. Doing what he does best, MacKenzie delves into the

murky past to reveal the genius of Alfred Harmsworth Northcliffe – the founder of *The Mail* – pinpointing the "X factor" that sent *The Mail's* circulation soaring. Along the way, he also paints a unique portrait of the British public a century ago.

Striding forward – with a stiff upper lip – is Ian Hislop, as he takes an affectionate look at one of the most influential and bestselling books of the 20th century. *Scouting For Boys*, by Baden Powell, is a hotchpotch of true crime stories, stern moralising, adventure tales and practical tips and advice. In this quirky documentary, also entitled ***Scouting For Boys*** (working title), Hislop finds out how the book serves as a window on the Edwardian psyche.



Further investigation into all things “foodie” can be found in **The Edwardian Larder** (working title). The Edwardian era saw the invention of ground-breaking brands such as Marmite, Oxo and Bird’s Custard; this fascinating documentary finds out just why “brands” were born and why they were such a hit with the Edwardians.

In the early 20th century, shopping began to slowly resemble the leisure pastime it is today. In **Edwardian Retail** (working title), the truth behind the entrepreneurs involved in the retail explosion is revealed. Explaining why it happened, and just what impact it had on society, the programme sheds new light on the history of our High Street. In **Edwardian Archetypes** (working title), the real “must-have” objects of desire of the age are discussed, from bicycles to typewriters, vacuum cleaners and beyond.

Not everyone, however, was a fan of this emerging consumerist society; novelist John Carey looks at the loathing middle-class intellectuals had for the burgeoning mass culture in **Flight Of The Intellectuals**.

A treat for real fans of the Edwardian period is served up in **How To Be Edwardian**, a programme dedicated to getting viewers up to speed on the etiquette of the age. In **The Return Of The Edwardians**, Peter York rounds off the season nicely with a look at why the Seventies was the golden age of the Edwardian rip-off: from *Upstairs Downstairs* to Laura Ashley, he uncovers why the decade known for free love and flower power went potty for all things Edwardian.

From *Scouting For Boys* to hunting for penguin eggs, BBC Four's Edwardian season also looks back to the time when, prior to Captain Scott's fateful journey to Antarctica in 1912, Scott and his men spent two years conducting scientific experiments in that harsh environment. One such task saw three men set forth in the snow, facing the harshest of conditions and risking their lives and their sanity – all for a penguin egg. In **The Worst Journey In The World**, Mark Gatiss tells this often overlooked story of epic endurance.

The season also peruses what the Edwardians liked to cook, eat and buy as, above all else, the Edwardian years were undoubtedly a time when food and retail goods took centre stage.

How would a modern-day couple “about town” fare on an Edwardian gourmet’s diet? The season investigates – with side-splitting results – in **Edwardian Supersize Me**. Ensnared in a privileged Edwardian home, food critic and writer Giles Coren and comedian Sue Perkins gamely accept the challenge to exist on a gargantuan dietary regime, with parlour games and all things turn of the century thrown in for good measure...





Archive Of The World

In 1907, the Lumière Brothers unveiled their latest invention to the public. It was called the *autochrome* – the world's first practical system for taking true colour photographs. Flabbergasted by this amazing technological development, French financier Albert Kahn resolved to undertake what would become one of the most ambitious projects in the history of photography.

For the next two decades, Kahn spent much of his vast personal fortune on the creation of what he called "a photographic inventory of the planet as it is inhabited and managed by humanity at the beginning of the 20th century". In this fascinating, nine-part series for BBC Four, *Archive Of The World* charts his photographic journey across the continents.



Between 1908 and 1930, Kahn dispatched his team of photographers to more than 50 countries around the world. In the course of these missions, they took more than 72,000 *autochromes*. Many of these luminously beautiful colour pictures document the intimate details of everyday life. However, more importantly, Kahn's photographers also used the system to record some of the most momentous events of the age, including the collapse of the empires, the birth of new states and the mechanised destruction of Europe during the First World War.

In addition to Kahn's stunning *autochromes*, the series showcases highlights of the 100 hours of cine footage shot by his photographers to offer today's viewers unique, new, colourful insights into the cultural and political shape of the world in the formative years of the last century.

The Genius Of Photography

For the first time on British television, BBC Four chronicles the history of photography.

A comprehensive look at one of the most influential art forms in the world, the series explores every aspect of photography – from daguerreotype to digital, portraits to photo-journalism and art to advertising – in the UK, America, China, Japan, Africa and beyond.

The series explores a multitude of the greatest photographs ever taken and the photographers who took them, from the likes of Jacques-Henri Lartigue and Man Ray, to the more contemporary genius of professionals such as Richard Avedon, Sally Mann and Martin Parr.

Centre stage in the series is the photography itself, which, interspersed with exclusive interviews with some of the world's greatest photographers, conjures up a picture of just how the camera has changed the way in which people view themselves and the world around them.



THE WAY WE LIVE NOW SEASON

BBC Four holds up a mirror to the British this winter. Unpicking the foibles, idiosyncrasies, behaviour and lifestyles of the British today, this mini-season questions just where “Middle England” really is, observing the Brits on holiday, sitting in waiting rooms and indulging in their favourite pastimes.





Holidays

Fresh from probing the nooks and crannies of the National Trust, director Patrick Forbes continues his tour of Britain's psyche with *Holidays*, a four-part examination of our national obsession with time off.

The series packs its case and heads for the coastal town of Rock, where new money is driving Cornish property prices to astronomic heights. Britain's most expensive property is not a Mayfair mansion but a three-bed semi on the Rock waterfront, priced at £2.3m or £1,800 per square metre.

In the North West, viewers witness the desperate drama of Blackpool's battle with the Dome – ranches, Prescott and all – to secure the “super casino” licence and reverse years of decline.

In Turkey, the series meets harassed Sunsail executive Andy Hancock, as he bids to get his company's million-pound development ready in time for the waiting hordes of middle-class clients.

Finally, *Holidays* catches up with industry giant MyTravel. The company organises package holidays to Florida for more than a million Brits a year, but this year it is also offering something a little different: its first package holiday to China. But can China cope with the British working-class holidaymaker? “There seems an awful lot of rice on this menu,” says one.

Trophy People

Presented by comedian Marcus Brigstocke, this light-hearted, four-part documentary series celebrates British people's passion for unusual pastimes and uncovers their deep-rooted competitive spirit.

The nation's will to win may be under question in the world of sport, but when it comes to Britain's best bell-ringer or Scrabble player, there's an unquenchable desire to come out on top.

The Hunt For Middle England

Flick through any newspaper and it soon becomes clear that Middle England is a force to be reckoned with. Politicians are desperate to woo it, asylum seekers had best avoid it, and anyone who sees themselves as an upstanding citizen could do a lot worse than move to it (if they can afford its escalating house prices, that is). Middle England is where elections are won, where “normality” reigns and where moral laws are written. It’s powerful, it’s scary and it’s the heart of the country – but where the hell is it?

To track down Mr and Mrs Middle England, actor and comedian Chris Addison (*The Thick Of It*, *The State We’re In*) quizzes demographers, politicians and statisticians. Do Middling folk really love fair play, manners and wind chimes and hate high taxes, white vans and perverts? These are some of the questions Chris sets out to answer as he hunts down Middle England, taking to the road for this hilarious ramble and rant around our green and pleasant land.

The Waiting Room

Like a television version of confession, this series draws out the dreams and preoccupations of different groups of people living in Britain today by talking to them in the one place where they have a bit of time to spare: the waiting room.

While they watch their clothes tumble through the drier or the varnish set on their freshly painted nails, the contributors in these films spill out their life stories with breathtaking honesty. For the most part, what they want to talk about is love: how they hope for love, how they wish they had found love, how they regret having missed out on love or thrown away the chance of love, and how they have given up everything else in life for love.

Sometimes funny, sometimes sad and sometimes touching, this series stops Britons in their tracks for just a few minutes to force them to reflect on what really matters in their lives. Confined to a single room with neither commentary nor captions, the films simply offer viewers the chance to discover what preoccupies ordinary people living in Britain today.





The Reichenbach Falls (working title)

DI Buchan is a cop on the edge. Jack Harvey is a successful crime writer with the world at his feet. In this new drama, the lives of these two former friends are thrown together when a 100-year-old body is discovered beneath the streets of Edinburgh.

Jack Harvey (Alastair Mackenzie, *Monarch Of The Glen*) is a best-selling crime novelist about to launch his new novel, *St Bernard's Well*, while DI Buchan's (Alec Newman, *Angel*) murder investigation takes him into the dark, Jekyll-and-Hyde underworld of Edinburgh and on a parallel journey into the Scottish capital's literary past that leads him to question the very nature of his own existence. The shattering truth will bring the lives of these two very different men together and blow them apart.

The Reichenbach Falls, written by James Mavor and based on an original idea by Ian Rankin, also stars: Nina Sosanya (*Sorted*, *Casanova*) as Buchan's detective sidekick, Sinead Burns; Richard Wilson (*One Foot In The Grave*) as Arthur Conan Doyle; John Sessions (*Low Winter Sun*) as Professor Bell, an academic who assists the investigation; and Laura Fraser (*Casanova*) as Clara, Buchan's ex-wife. *The Reichenbach Falls* reflects Rankin's fascination with his home town and the legacy of a city that has produced so many of our literary classics and icons, from *Kidnapped* to *The 39 Steps* and from Sherlock Holmes to Miss Jean Brodie.

BBC Four gets into a tight spot with four exciting new comedies in which the central characters are all stuck in very different situations.

Freezing

Freezing is a modern, urban comedy about what happens when fame and promise start to fade away.

Elizabeth is an Oscar-nominated American actress who was discovered by Robert Redford. She's acted in numerous successful films with stars including Brad Pitt, Sean Penn and Robert de Niro. But that was then; now she lives in a West London suburb with her publisher husband, Matt, and spends a lot of time worrying about where the next job will come from. So does Matt, because he's just been replaced by his assistant at the publishing firm where he worked for 15 years. As a result – and for the first time in their marriage – Matt and Elizabeth now have to spend their days together at home, as two freelancers seeking work.

Freezing has a stellar cast including Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern, Tom Hollander and Ben Miles, with cameos from Richard E Grant, Joely Richardson and Alan Yentob. It is written by James Wood, directed by Simon Curtis and produced by Kenton Allen and Simon Curtis.

Stuck

Adrian (a fortysomething, well-groomed, sharp-suited ad executive) is in the driver's seat and is pompous, pernickety and tense. Simon (late twenties, creative-looking in his hip-casual clothes) is in the passenger seat. He is laid-back and doesn't want to be there. The two have nothing in common except work. Simon's on the way up the career ladder, while Adrian is on the way down. On the back seat is a laptop and some presentation portfolios, all very neatly stacked. The car is stationary...

Stuck is written by Mark Warren and teams up ex-*EastEnders* David Gillespie with *History Boys* actor Samuel Anderson. The executive producers are Henry Normal and Lindsay Hughes.





HR

Jonathan Pryce and Nicholas Le Provost star as two, middle-aged men; one is a middle manager, the other his HR person. Both of them are under threat in the brave new world of management consultancy.

HR is a piece about the “tight spot” many employees find themselves in when working in modern, faceless corporations, and about the madness going on in offices, at away days and by water coolers all over the country.

It is written by Nigel Williams and Jon Plowman is the executive producer.

Lift

Paul, Sunita, Rocco and Christabel are four ill-fitting people who want to be as far away from one another as possible. Businessman Paul is late for a make-or-break meeting and on the edge of meltdown; Sunita will not shut up about her inappropriate life experiences; Rocco is a 17-year-old with seven different, very evident major phobias; and dangerously jolly Christabel is challenged in the bladder area.

Unfortunately, it's not possible for them to be apart as they're stuck in a lift. Will they ever get out? And, if they do, will all four still be alive? It's a little like *Lost* – only more cramped.

Lift stars Douglas Hodge, Rasmus Hardiker and Nina Wadia, and is written by the Edinburgh 2006 if.comedie Panel Award-winner Mark Watson. The executive producers are Beryl Vertue and Sue Vertue and it is produced by Mark Freeland.



The Women's Institute

Having recently hit the headlines for two events – the release of their nude calendar and their “hand-bagging” of Prime Minister Tony Blair – the Women's Institute (WI), the largest women's organisation in Britain, has proved that it is about much more than simply making jam and singing *Jerusalem*. In this new, three-part observational documentary series, a great iconic British institution, and one of the last bastions of Middle England, allows viewers a look inside as it finds its way into the 21st century.

A modern and feisty 38-year-old has opened a new branch of the WI on the Isle of Wight and is determined to add a bit of “stardust and glamour” to the organisation. Meanwhile, in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales, a more traditional WI is planning to tackle an assault course to celebrate its 60th anniversary. The programme also heads to Oxfordshire to take a look at the “jewel in the crown” of the WI – its residential college – and follows a new chairwoman as she attempts to get her refurbishment plan past the committee.

Set in an idyllic “green and pleasant land”, three warm and humorous films tell the stories of and shed light on the lives of a formidable group of women who are holding communities together across Britain.

SCIENCE YOU CAN'T SEE SEASON

The 20th century saw scientific breakthroughs unprecedented in history, but the most important weren't just invisible, they were barely comprehensible, even to the geniuses who pioneered them. This series attempts the impossible – to make these breakthroughs not just visible, but also understandable. From the particles that go to make up the atom, and the bizarre laws they obey, to mathematics so staggeringly abstruse that they have driven mathematicians to insanity and beyond, welcome to a short season of *Science You Can't See*.

Dangerous Knowledge

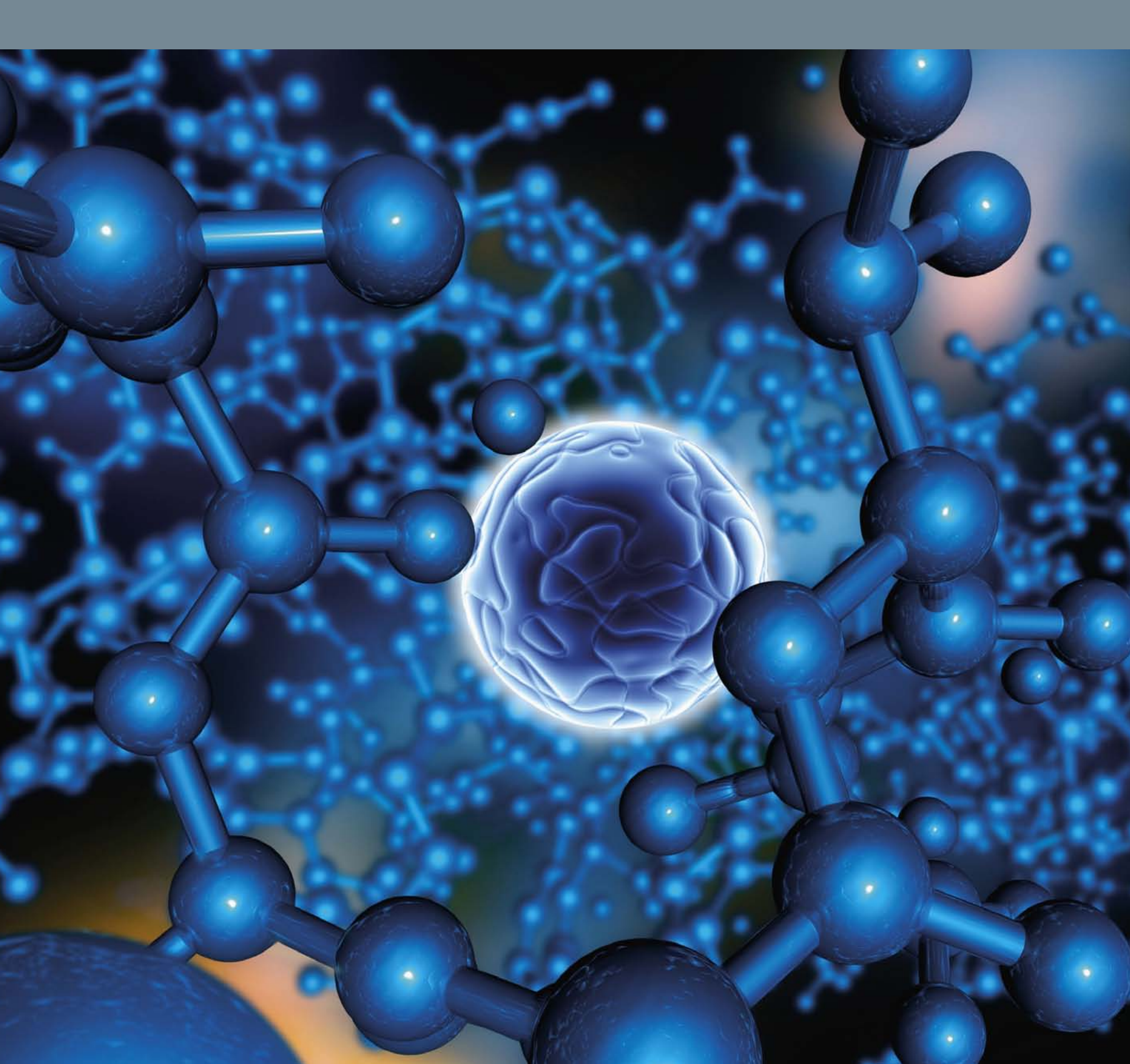
In the hit feature film *The Matrix*, few people had glimpsed the true nature of reality and most saw only what was on the surface of their world. Very few people could see the numbers that made up the “Matrix” – but, in real life, such people really do exist.

Over the last century, a handful of mathematicians have lifted the veil and seen facets of the universe as it really is. But these people were often so disturbed by what they discovered that they were driven insane or even committed suicide. *Dangerous Knowledge* is about what caused these crises: the “Matrix” that lies behind our reality.

Film-maker David Malone explores how a small group of the most brilliant minds – among them Georg Cantor, Kurt Gödel, Alan Turing and Ludwig Boltzman – unravelled our cosy certainties about maths and the universe. He also shows how, once they had looked at these problems, these men could not look away.

Today's great mathematicians, such as Greg Chaitin and Roger Penrose, talk from personal experience about what it's like to understand the “Matrix” as it really is. They demonstrate and bring to life some of today's most mind-bending ideas and look back at the moments of crisis and madness when the great thinkers got too close to knowledge they couldn't handle. As they do so, the series tackles some of the most profound questions about the true nature of reality that mathematical thinkers are grappling with today.





Atom

Atom charts the truly extraordinary and awe-inspiring story of humanity's greatest-ever scientific discovery.

No one could have predicted just how bizarre, capricious and weird the world of the atom and the sub-atomic would turn out to be. The discovery of the electron, an object less than a billionth of a millimetre across, shattered the whole edifice of physics and turned 3,000 years of philosophy on its head. Even today, as we peer deeper into the atom, it throws back as many questions as it answers.

Author and physicist Jim Al Khalili takes an epic journey of discovery, from the relatively simple premise that we live in a world made up of atoms, into the outlandish and mysterious realm of quantum theory.

Jim shows how the story of the atom encapsulates nature's ability to exceed the power of the human imagination. As scientists delved deeper into the atom, they unravelled some of nature's most shocking secrets. But, in the process, they had to abandon everything they believed in and create a completely new science – a science that underpins the whole of physics, biology, chemistry and, very possibly, life itself.

Atom reveals science as a gloriously human endeavour, riddled with jealousy, rivalry, missed opportunities and, just occasionally, moments of genius.

Absolute Zero

It has been said that the progress of civilisation can be charted through our mastery of heat, from the use of fire to mould metals, to the harnessing of steam power to generate electricity. But, in the 21st century, our future progress may depend upon our mastery of cold...

This scientific detective tale tells the story of a remarkable group of pioneers who wanted to reach the ultimate extreme: Absolute Zero, a place so cold that the physical world as we know it doesn't exist, electricity flows without resistance, fluids defy gravity and the speed of light can be reduced to 38 miles per hour.

The story begins with a Court magician's use of alchemy to make the King shiver and ends in the future with a strange quantum world as physicists get within a few millionths of a degree of this Absolute Zero.

Each film features a strange cast of eccentric characters, including: Captain Birdseye; Frederic "Ice King" Tudor, who founded an empire harvesting ice; and James Dewar, who almost drove himself crazy by trying to liquefy hydrogen.

Absolute Zero became the Holy Grail of temperature physicists and is thought of today as the gateway to many new technologies, among them nano-construction, neurological networks and quantum computing. The possibilities, it seems, are limitless...

Medical Mavericks

Award-winning medical journalist and former doctor Michael Mosley exposes the curious, and sometimes fatal, ways in which doctors have increased medical knowledge through self-experimentation.

Over the last 100 years, medical knowledge has advanced faster than at any time in history, and much of this progress rests on the bravery of a group of unlikely heroes – researchers who decided that the only ethical thing to do was to perform the first tests on themselves.

Stories featured in the series include: the history of anaesthetics; self-experimentation with infectious diseases; the desperate measures taken in the hunt for vaccines; and discoveries of the links between food and health.

Unique archive footage, interviews with experts and dramatic re-enactments all help to set the scene. Gruesomely compelling with surprising insights, this four-part documentary tells the stories of how self-experimentation has contributed to medicine's greatest breakthroughs.





Rageh Inside Iran

Award-winning journalist Rageh Omaar sets out on a personal journey through the politically sensitive cauldron of Tehran, telling the story of the region not through the eyes of politicians, officials and analysts, but through the experiences of ordinary Iranians.

With incredible access, Omaar visits people's homes and travels through a rich variety of neighbourhoods and districts of the city, areas which are rarely filmed. In so doing, he is able to present a unique and intimate view of Tehran and dig deeper into what is both a complex and fascinating society.

The Protestant Revolution

This is a story of a revolution which has affected every person in the West, and nearly every country in the world. It is a revolution which influences the very fabric of existence: from what we do for a living, to who we vote for, who we go to war with and how we see ourselves as individuals and as nations. It has not only shaped the way in which we think about God and faith, but has also had a secular "halo" effect, leading to creations including the novel and minimalist architecture.

Presented by Tristram Hunt, *The Protestant Revolution* investigates the scientific, cultural, economic and political aspects of the movement with the aid of key academic witnesses. It concludes that the reach of Protestantism is so profound that it is impossible to imagine the modern world without it.





Classic Britannia

A powerful mix of composers, stars, institutions, technologies and audiences comes together as *Classic Britannia* tells the compelling story of British classical musical life from 1945 to 2006 – a period bristling with experimentation, confrontation, political engagement, social idealism, fallen crowns and rising stars.

The series features all the key players on Britain's classical music scene: composers and performers ranging from the iconic Benjamin Britten to the revolutionary Cornelius Cardew and from the hugely popular Jacqueline du Pré to today's T-shirted starlets such as Vanessa Mae. Viewers hear from Britain's major living composers and performers and the series also features extraordinary interviews and performances from a wealth of archive material.

Never before has there been such an exhaustive study of what makes Britain's musical heritage so uniquely fascinating. This music, and the people who made it, powerfully reflect Britain's social and political life since the Second World War. The journey starts with the uneasy complacency of a nation victorious in War, explores the explosive creative burst that was the Sixties and Seventies, investigates the conflicts and challenges that faced the arts in Thatcherite Britain, and finally looks at which direction Britain's classical music may take in the future.

Soul Britannia

This major new music series examines the dynamic impact of black American and Caribbean sounds on British music and society.

Travelling from the straight-laced Fifties to the multicultural sounds of today, the three, hour-long films investigate vinyl obsessions, soul dancing, imitation, innovation and more.

As it travels Britain, the series charts the rise of British R&B acts – from Van Morrison to Amy Winehouse and Northern Soul to Soul II Soul. It shows how they, and their accompanying fans and fashions, have transformed British culture for ever.

Soul Britannia features rare archive and performances, as well as fresh interviews and insights from artists including Beverley Knight, Van Morrison, Pete Townshend, Amy Winehouse, Sir Elton John, Mica Paris, Sir Tom Jones, Jazie B, Mick Hucknall, Paul Weller, Massive Attack, Boy George, Solomon Burke, Georgie Fame and Corinne Bailey Rae.





The Art Of Eternity

Andrew Graham-Dixon goes in search of the pre-perspective world – the art of the early Christians, the tumultuous world of the Byzantine Empire and the dramatic shift in Western art between the 12th and 14th centuries – in this new, three-part series.

Andrew journeys through the Mediterranean and Middle East to follow the evolution of this spiritual art form, from the mysterious catacombs of Ancient Rome to Coptic Egypt and Medieval Florence. He also visits the awe-inspiring Gothic cathedrals of France, with their pointed arches and impressive stained-glass windows, and shows how they conveyed a vision of Heaven on Earth to the medieval world.

To many in the West, some of this art seems static, alien and primitive, but Andrew reveals it as bold, sophisticated and complex. Deliberately putting aside ideas of perspective, these medieval artists looked beyond the material world to place the Divine centre stage and to enshrine timeless spiritual truths. And, as Andrew discovers, many in the East still see the Renaissance as a decline in values rather than a progression.



A Short History Of Racism (working title)

Racism has undoubtedly been the main driving-force behind some of history's most atrocious crimes. This new and thought-provoking three-part series chronicles the impact of racism on global human history.

A Short History Of Racism begins by examining how ideas of racial difference have evolved in response to historical events. Looking in detail at Europe's imperial conquests, transatlantic slavery and the process of colonisation, it also illustrates how the idea of "race" and the fact of racism have profoundly affected the development of science, politics and culture in countries all over the world.

As well as tracking the development of racist ideas – from the Enlightenment thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries, through to the race scientists and eugenicists of the past 200 years – the series charts the political ramifications of the notion of racial hierarchies and, in particular, how these ideas became instrumental in colonial genocides, systems of economic exploitation and the emergence of the modern world order.

Featuring shocking archive footage and original films from Europe, Africa, North and South America and Australasia, the series confronts many of the difficult and uncomfortable issues that surround this most incendiary of issues, offering a new way of thinking about the history of racism.

This programme is part of the BBC's season marking the 200th anniversary of the Act of Abolition of the Slave Trade (1807-2007).

Milosevic On Trial

Nicknamed the "Butcher of the Balkans", Slobodan Milosevic died of a heart attack on 11 March 2006, only months before the verdict was due in a four-year war crimes trial that was the biggest since Nuremberg. The trial marked the first time since the Second World War that a former head of state had been indicted before an international tribunal.

The charges against Milosevic were related to atrocities committed during the Kosovan, Bosnian and Croatian Wars, the worst carnage to blight Europe since the Third Reich. The trial took place in a setting a world away from the killing fields.

Acclaimed film-maker Michael Christoffersen was allowed privileged and exclusive access behind the scenes at The Hague throughout the trial, for this powerful documentary, shown as part of the international documentaries strand, *Storyville*, on BBC Four.

The executive producer is Mette Heide. Co-partners include TV 2/Denmark, ZDF/ARTE, YLE, NRK, SVT, RTBF, VRT, VPRO, the National Film Board Of Canada, Sundance Institute, the Danish Film Institute and Media Plus (EU).



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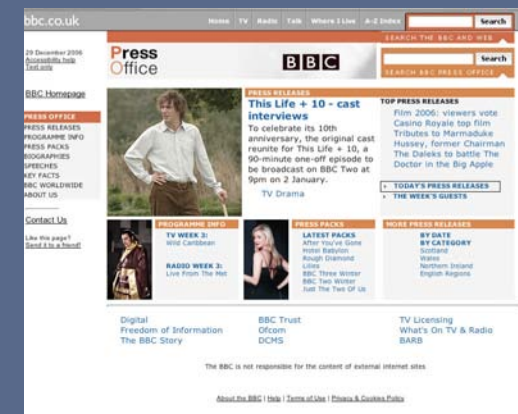
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