

A press pack published in November 2002 to mark Channel 4's 20 year anniversary

From the Chief Executive

Some TV channels make an enormous meal out of their anniversaries. Not Channel 4.

The channel was created twenty years ago to do new things in television and to make trouble. Two decades on, the best way of marking our birthday is by rolling up our sleeves and doing just that. Finding and backing new ideas and new talent. Making new waves.

And that's what we're doing. Right now we're in the middle of the biggest creative re-invention of Channel 4 in its history. We're making significant changes to the schedule and investing more money than ever before in new talent and new programmes of every kind. Behind the scenes, we're also determined to change Channel 4 as an organisation and recapture the spirit of adventure and courage which Jeremy Isaacs and his team brought to Charlotte Street twenty years ago.

Already this year we've announced plans to cut Channel 4's overhead by a third, freeing up an extra £30 million annually to be invested where it matters most – in programming. Next year, 2003, will be a year of transition, though I hope you'll begin to see some striking changes in the schedule. But the following year, 2004, is one we're building from scratch, as if we were scheduling a new channel for the first time. In such an atmosphere of change, it is understandable if our anniversary feels like a bit of a distraction.

But the birthday is a reminder of the values that have characterised Channel 4 over the last 20 years and which I'm determined will inform its future. This information pack offers a snapshot of Channel 4 as a creative catalyst – the groundbreaking programmes that have moved on the whole of British TV, the challenging of social conventions, the discovery and promotion of great new talent. It's also a moment to thank the UK's independent sector. They too are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. Channel 4 would be nothing without them.

Since 1992, multi-channel TV has grown from almost nothing to claim more than 20% of television viewing in the UK and Channel 5 has arrived to claim a further 6%. In this fragmenting market, while ITV has lost more than 40% of its audience and BBC 1 more than a fifth, Channel 4 has remained rock solid at 10%. Proof, if it were needed, that however television develops over the next 20 years, there will still be an appetite for intelligent, high-quality programming that dares to take risks and dares to be different.

Mark Thompson, November 2002

Channel 4 autumn highlights in 2002

Programmes surrounding Channel 4's anniversary on 2nd November include:

ARRANGED MARRIAGE

October

A documentary series on young British Muslims trying to reconcile their parent's traditional views with their own modern desires.

THE BATTLE OF ORGREAVE

October

On 18th June 1984, at the height of the miners' strike, a violent clash took place between picketing miners and police near the Orgreave coking plant. Seventeen years later, in June 2001, the artist Jeremy Deller devised a re-enactment of 'The Battle of Orgreave'. Many of those taking part were veterans of the original conflict. Mike Figgis' film follows Jeremy and all those involved as they recreate and re-evaluate the events of this momentous day.

FALLING APART

October

Falling Apart is a powerful, contemporary drama that charts the course of a marriage from its blissful beginnings to its tragic ending in domestic violence. Starring Hermione Norris and Mark Strong this is the first TV drama from award-winning documentary filmmaker Brian Hill and producer Katie Bailiff.

FELTHAM SINGS

October

This remarkable collaboration between filmmaker Brian Hill and the young offenders of Feltham, tells the story of their lives in song. The experiences the young offenders sing about are dark, but the words of poet Simon Armitage and the music of composer Errol Francis allow the viewer to see them as much more than car thieves, robbers and burglars.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH AFRICA?

October

Why is Sub-Saharan Africa the poorest region in the world? Is it the fault of Africans or European whites or fundamental problems with the environment? Two African born writers, Aminatta Forna and Peter Godwin, dare to ask taboo questions in their efforts to find out.

EDWARD AND MARY

November

Written and presented by Dr David Starkey, **Edward & Mary** is the compelling story of two of England's most striking monarchs: children of different mothers

but both sired by Henry VIII, tied by blood and affection, and torn apart by religion, power, and some of the bloodiest episodes in English history.

CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER

November

The special charity edition of **Big Brother** returns.

THE COMEDY LAB

November

Channel 4's new comedy showcase will again offer primetime TV exposure to the new generation of comic writers and performers. Previous discoveries of **The Comedy Lab** include Tommy Tiernan, Peter Kay and Dom Joly.

HOUSE OF LORDS

November

There was a deafening silence when the new Labour government began its reforms of the House of Lords. Like it or loathe it (and most people loathed it), everyone seemed to agree that the removal of the bulk of the hereditary peerage was a good thing. Yet as 700 odd peers prepared to depart, awkward questions began to be raised as to who and what was to replace them. Documenting this historic moment, as centuries of custom and practice were discarded, was filmmaker Molly Dineen, (**Geri, The Ark, Home from the Hill**).

JAMIE'S KITCHEN

November

Jamie's Kitchen is a new five-part Channel 4 series that follows Jamie Oliver's nine-month struggle to take a team of unemployed 16-to-24-year-olds, with virtually no previous experience of cooking, and turn them into chefs in the high-pressure environment of a London restaurant.

THE OSBOURNES

November

The Osbournes are currently TV's most talked-about family, the entertainment television phenomenon of the year, and about to take up residence at Channel 4. This fly-on-the-wall reality series follows Ozzy Osbourne and the rest of the family – his wife and manager Sharon Osbourne, and their teenage children Kelly and Jack – as they pursue their extraordinary everyday lives in their Beverly Hills mansion.

UNREPORTED WORLD

November

The return of the acclaimed series that explores the stories the Western media often fails to report. In this new series of dramatic dispatches from around the world, reporters highlight the human cost of the concept of identity and the crimes that are committed due to ethnic, national or religious differences. The series is fronted by a team of dedicated young journalists and guest reporters with specialist knowledge of the regions they work in.

Twenty Years Ago, autumn 1982 highlights

Channel 4 opened with **Countdown**, with Richard Whiteley the first face to be seen on the new channel and Carol Vorderman the first woman. The first voice heard was continuity announcer, Paul Coia. **Channel 4 News** started with Peter Sissons and Trevor McDonald as anchors. **Brookside** also formed part of the launch night line-up. Comedy came from **The Paul Hogan Show** and **The Comic Strip Presents... Five Go Mad in Dorset**. Commissioned features included **Walter** and **P'Tang Yang Kipperbang**. **Twenty Twenty Vision** was launched as the channel's flagship current affairs programme, alongside **A Week In Politics**. **What the Papers Say** debuted on Channel 4 after a 26-year run on ITV. **The Tube** launched with unknowns Paula Yates and Jools Holland presenting. The RSC's adaptation of **Nicholas Nickleby** introduced Channel 4's drama output. **The Avengers** and **The Munsters** make an idiosyncratic return to British TV, while **American Football** was introduced to the British public. The channel experienced its first controversy with **The Animals Film** – a look at vivisection. **Opinions** provided 30-minutes of no frills polemic. Keith Allen embarked on his ill-fated chat show **Whatever You Want**. **Black on Black** was a magazine show for the black community. Natural History strand **Fragile Earth** started with a film by Phil Agland.

Fifteen Years Ago, autumn 1987 highlights

Saturday Live continued making stars of Ben Elton, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Harry Enfield, Julian Clary, Paul Whitehouse... the satirical revue show **Who Dares Wins** also continued – the first major comedy exposure for Rory McGrath and Tony Robinson. **Equinox** investigated how snack foods were created and safety conditions on board a Polaris nuclear submarine. Jonathan Porritt concluded his challenging series **Battle for the Planet** about the future of the environment. But the documentary highlight was the transmission of Claude Lanzmann's nine-hour epic film **Shoah** about the Holocaust. Shoah was broadcast over two nights with no commercial breaks. Drama included Peter Bowles in **The Irish RM**. Minority sports receiving their 15 minutes of fame included **The British Speed Chess Championship**, while the more mainstream **Channel 4 Racing** continued with John McCrirrick and Derek Thompson settling in for an ongoing run... Angela Carter talked about her novels, including **The Company of Wolves** recently filmed by Channel 4, in **Off the Page**. **The Eleventh Hour** – from 1982 the outlet for Channel 4's experimental filmmaking – continued with **The First Betrayal**, a history of the British Labour Movement. **Dispatches** debuted, replacing **Diverse Reports** as the flagship current affairs strand... Jonathan Ross continued reinventing the chat show with **The Last Resort**, while Anneka Rice's bottom achieved small screen immortality in another series of **Treasure Hunt**.

Ten Years Ago, autumn 1992 highlights

A revolution in early morning television occurred as **The Big Breakfast** launched, hosted by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin, and backed up by Paula Yates, Bob Geldoff and Mark Lamarr. It would run for 9 years. The sporting

highlight was **Kabbadi** – the Indian sport where players hold their breath between turns. **Four-Mations**, Channel 4's animation strand, continued in this period. **Desmonds** continued and a new series of **Black Bag** started with an investigation into policing in Brixton. **Without Walls** asked "Was Michelangelo gay?" and Jimmy Saville explained why he was on the road to Hell in **The Obituary Show**. Channel 4's commitment to short films – continued today through the Film Four Lab – was amplified by a new series of **Short and Curlies**. **Jonathan Ross met Madonna** in an hour-long special and discussed her scandalous new book Sex. **Clive Anderson** rounded off Friday night with an interview with Michael Palin. **Equinox** investigated chaos theory and crop circles, while hot shot new documentary strand **Cutting Edge** followed a psychiatric "crisis unit". **Critical Eye** followed the fortunes of English, Scottish and German football fans at the European Championship in Sweden. **The Word** returned for a new Friday night series, hosted by Terry Christian, Mark Lamarr, Katie Puckrick and Dani Behr

Five Years Ago, autumn 1997 highlights

Rory Bremner started a new series and quickly got his teeth into the new Labour Government. The satirical theme continued in the evergreen **Drop the Dead Donkey**. **ER** led a host of top quality US imports including **NYPD Blue**, **Frasier** and **Friends**. Anthony Powell's epic drama **A Dance to the Music of Time** approached its climax, while **Cutting Edge** slipped into the murky world of life at The Daily Sport in **Sex, Lies and Aliens**. **The Ba Ba Zee**, the channel's experimental Black programming strand continued with documentaries on legendary reggae producer Lee "Scratch" Perry, racism in Brazil and the US-led destruction of the Haitian pig. Chris Evans continued his meteoric rise with **TFI Friday**. Channel 4's triple Emmy award winning children's series **Wise Up** investigated racial prejudice in a South London Bowling club, while ethics strand **Witness** questioned whether Myra Hindley should remain imprisoned. New flagship arts documentary strand **Art House** started with a look at Van Gogh fakes. Meanwhile, on **Football Italia**, a young Ronaldo appeared for Inter Milan against Parma...

Top 10 Channel groundbreakers

Big Brother (Endemol UK Productions) 2001 –

The godfather of reality TV and TV's first major cross-platform concept, **Big Brother** is a 24-carat phenomenon. The show has helped launch the internet as a mass entertainment medium with UK consumers, provoked seismic shifts in the red top newspaper sector and re-written the rules of modern celebrity. The first series was already intriguing millions when 'Nasty' Nick Bateman decided to try to influence the eviction voting of his fellow housemates. The ensuing outcry propelled **Big Brother** into a stratosphere – 38 million viewers watched at least one episode of the first series. Subsequent series have been streamed on E4, helping to knock Sky One off the top of the multi-channel ratings. **Big Brother** has also driven consumer interest in interactive TV applications, with more than 10 million votes cast via remote control. **Big Brother** has spawned a host of imitations, but none has recreated the extraordinary hold that the original has on the British viewing public.

Brass Eye (Talkback) 1997, 2001

Chris Morris' lampoon of the broadcast news media exposed the willingness of public figures to offer mindless endorsements of spurious campaigns. David Ames MP was persuaded to raise the danger of the new Czech killer drug "cake" in the House of Commons, in the name of a pressure group "FUKD and BOMBD". When Chief Executive, Michael Grade, overruled the inclusion of a spoof musical based on the life of the Yorkshire Ripper, Morris inserted the slogan "Grade is a C****" in a frame of the transmitted programme. In 2001, Morris was back to tackle media-inspired hysteria surrounding paedophiles. The programme was condemned unseen by Prisons Minister, Beverly Hughes, and prompted a press storm, thousands of calls from viewers and an ITC intervention on the grounds that the pre-transmission warning had not adequately indicated the satirical nature of the show!

Brookside (Mersey TV) 1982 –

Brookside broke all the rules of soap opera, and in the process established the agenda for the next 20 years of popular drama. The first episodes even included expletives to add realism to the already grittily real plotlines. The series was earthier, harsher, more socially aware than the likes of **Crossroads** and **Coronation Street**, and light years away from the US wish fulfilment fantasies of **Dallas** and **Dynasty**. It showed the way forward for the BBC's first foray into TV soap with **EastEnders**. The series, created and lovingly overseen by Phil Redmond, has proved an extraordinary talent factory with Sue Johnston, Ricky Tomlinson, Anna Friel, Amanda Burton all emerging from its cast list, alongside one of TV's most acclaimed dramatists, Jimmy McGovern. Memorable moments include *that* lesbian kiss, brother and sister incest and the notorious body under the patio storyline.

Channel 4 News (ITN) 1982 –

Now widely perceived to be the most authoritative, in-depth and innovative news programme on British television, **Channel 4 News** had a difficult birth. Early newscasters, Peter Sissons and Trevor MacDonald, struggled with wobbly sets, questionable technology and a general lack of resources. Ratings were so low at one point that Chief Executive, Jeremy Isaacs, predicted the bulletin would be pulled after a year or two. However, over the next twenty years **Channel 4 News** has proved itself time and time again, through reporting of the highest journalistic standards and authoritative anchors including Jon Snow, Sheena MacDonald, Zeinab Badawi and Krishnan Guru-Murthy. The programme has been consistently lauded for going where other news programmes do not wish to tread and for telling the less fashionable and more difficult stories from around the globe. The programme went to 7 days a week in January 2001 and since then has enjoyed some of its highest ever ratings, particularly amongst younger viewers with 16-34s making up a higher proportion of the Channel 4 News programme than for any other mainstream news bulletin.

Channel 4 also has an enviable track record in current affairs journalism, with investigative current affairs strands, such as **Twenty Twenty Vision**, ably supporting the flagship news bulletin from the early days of the channel. When **Dispatches** launched in 1987, Channel 4 had journalism and production values to rival, and often surpass, Panorama and World In Action.

Cutting Edge (Various) 1992 –

Cutting Edge quickly established itself as an original, high quality and innovative strand bringing documentaries to a wide audience. Classics include: **The Impossible Job**, the programme that helped seal Graham Taylor's fate as England manager in the run up to 1994 World Cup (do I not like that!); **The Club**, a profile of a suburban golf club that revealed the layers of prejudice deep rooted in British society; **The Builders Are Coming**, a humorous and welcome amplification of the ills of cowboy builders; and, **Sex, Lies and Aliens**, following the day-to-day workings of The Daily Sport news team. Now much imitated and despite the odd editorial scrape, **Cutting Edge** continues to be at the forefront of modern documentary with episodes as diverse as **Boys Alone** and **Did Barry George Kill Jill Dando?**

Desmond's (Humphrey Barclay Productions) 1989 – 1995

Black on Black, **Eastern Eye** and **The Bandung File** had all successfully presented documentary and factual magazine programmes to multicultural audiences, but there was no successful black British sitcom until **Desmond's**. Thanks to a great script (by Trix Worrell), a fantastic ensemble cast and a star lead in Norman Beaton, the goings-on at the Peckham barber shop reached large audiences and helped pull black comedy out of the minority ghetto. As a core part of its remit, Channel 4 is committed to reflecting the diversity of modern Britain in the heart of its peak time schedule. Successes include

feature films from **My Beautiful Launderette** to **East is East**, new drama **White Teeth**, challenging factual series like Darcus Howe's **White Tribe** and **The Black and Asian History Map**; **Indian Summer** and **Caribbean Summer** seasons of programmes tied into its coverage of Test match cricket, and award-winning coverage of the epic Hindu **Kumbh Mela** festival last year.

Friends (Warner Bros) 1995 –

From its earliest days, Channel 4 has discovered the best that US television has to offer to intelligent British audiences. Millions tuned into early successes like **Cheers**, **Roseanne**, **The Golden Girls** and **Hill Street Blues**, and Channel 4's reputation as the home of the best US programmes was consolidated by the acquisition of **Friends** and **ER** in the mid 1990s. **Frasier**, **NYPD Blue**, **Homicide**, **Thirtysomething**, and **Ellen** were all fine additions to the portfolio, and in the last few years **ER**, **Sex and the City**, **The Sopranos**, **The West Wing** and **Six Feet Under** have confirmed Channel 4 as having the sharpest ear and quickest chequebook for hot American shows. Here's looking forward to **The Simpsons'** arrival in 2004...

Film on Four (Various) 1982 –

In the 1980s it felt like George Harrison and Channel 4 were the only things keeping the British film industry going. After the bleakness of the 1970s, Channel 4 helped re-launch British films to an international audience, often tackling gritty domestic subjects at the same time. Early successes included **My Beautiful Launderette**, **The Company of Wolves**, **Mona Lisa**, **Letter to Brezhnev** and Derek Jarman's **Jubilee** and **Sebastiane**. In the 1990s Film on Four went mega with hits like **Four Weddings and a Funeral** (which grossed £162m at the international box office), **Trainspotting**, **The Madness of King George**, **Shallow Grave**, **The Crying Game** and **Secrets and Lies**. In 1994 Channel 4 Films accounted for 17 Oscar nominations – only surpassed by Warner Bros. Great directors like Ken Loach, Peter Greenaway, Wim Wenders, Neil Jordan, Sir Richard Eyre and James Ivory have all enjoyed creative backing from Film Four. Stephen Frears' **Walter** (starring Sir Ian McKellen) was the first commissioned film to be transmitted - on Channel 4's opening night. The channel is hoping to recapture the creative spirit behind its most successful filmmaking through the new-look FilmFour, which will relaunch in 2003 with a £10 million annual budget to invest in film production.

Network 7 (London Weekend Television) 1987 – 1988

Groundbreaking yooof-TV broadcast from a "low-tech squat" in Limehouse, it mixed live material with mini-documentaries, a gossip column, cartoons and celebrity interviews. Phone polls gauged youngsters' opinions on drugs, sex, sport and even politics. On one occasion the programme even engineered the coming out of gay men and women to their friends live on Sunday lunchtime TV. Before **Network 7**, there was little or no TV entertainment that catered for 16 to 24-year-olds. **Network 7** also reinvented the language of live broadcasting with its low-fi camera work, and edge-of-disaster feel. Indeed, it

paved the way for **The Big Breakfast** whose fun, bright, irreverent style crashed through all previous expectations of what breakfast TV should be. Original presenters Chris Evans – in his first major TV presenting role - and Gaby Roslin, caught the tone brilliantly, and another presenter duo, Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen, successfully revived the show in 1997.

Out on Tuesday (Various) 1989 – 1994

The first weekly magazine series aimed at gay and lesbians on British TV, **Out** dragged lesbian and gay lifestyles into the open. Channel 4's early programming for gay and lesbians arguably affected the whole of broadcasting, extending the range of subjects that might be dealt with so that a drama with a sustained gay theme like **Queer as Folk** is recognised as great drama first and gay drama second. Channel 4's first programme for gay interest was **One in Five** in January 1983. MPs called for it to be banned before it went on air. Gay interest reached the mainstream in programmes like **Brookside, Ellen, Tales of the City** and **The Celluloid Closet** and Channel 4 films like **My Beautiful Launderette, Caravaggio, Bent, Maurice, Beautiful Thing** and **Prick Up Your Ears**.

Saturday Live (London Weekend Television) 1985 – 1988

The launch pad for a generation of comic talent. **Saturday Live** (and later **Friday Night Live**) gave us Harry Enfield's Stavros and Loadsamoney and Ben Elton's diatribes, as well as the early talents of Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Paul Whitehouse, Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Adrian Edmondson, Rik Mayall and Julian Clary. Many of these stars featured in **The Comic Strip Presents...**, which throughout the 1980s provided a platform for comics to experiment with the form of television comedy. Channel 4 has continued to back the best cutting-edge comic talent, with **Da Ali G Show, Trigger Happy TV, Smack the Pony, Black Books** and **Spaced**, amongst its recent high-profile successes.

Other Channel 4 Programmes broke the mould...

- **4Later** – the experimental, the arcane, and the downright weird.
- **1900/1940s/Edwardian Country House** – accessible, formatted documentary at its best.
- **Ali G** – respect, innit?
- **A Very British Coup** – seminal Channel 4 drama, brilliantly conceived and with something to say.
- **American Football/Italian Football/Tour de France/Sumo Wrestling** – discovering public appetites for sports they never knew existed.
- **After Dark** – open ended discussion programme that could go on all night
- **Beneath the Veil** – investigative journalism at its very best.
- **Black Books** – hit comedy developed from Channel 4's sitcom festival.
- **The Comic Strip** – now-mainstream comics experimenting with the form
- **Countdown** – Richard and Carol's invulnerable parlour game for grannies, doleys and students
- **Creature Comforts** – Oscar-wining animation from Wallace and Gromit's creator Nick Park
- **Don't Forget Your Toothbrush** – Chris Evans' innovative game show
- **Dispatches** – amongst the most incisive journalism on television
- **Drop the Dead Donkey** – classy satire meets mainstream sitcom
- **The Dying Rooms** – harrowing undercover expose of Chinese orphanages
- **The Eleventh Hour** – radical film-makers broke into the mainstream
- **Faking It** – eye-opening role reversals, calling the experts bluff
- **Father Ted** – inspired anarchic surreal comedy from Craggy Rock
- **GBH** – Alan Bleasdale's epic take on the Militant Left
- **The Kumbh Mela** – the largest gathering of people in human history
- **The Last Resort** – Jonathan Ross reinvents the British chat show
- **Max Headroom** – cool music show presented by a robot
- **Queer as Folk** – hip, cutting edge drama with a gay theme
- **Right to Reply** – invented public access with the Video Box
- **Red Light Zone** – radical season on prostitution and pornography
- **Secret History** – revisionist history revealing often unpalatable truths
- **The Slot** – innovative shorts on every subject imaginable
- **Test Match Cricket** – reinvented coverage of the nation's summer game.
- **Time Team** – involving, interactive, brought archaeology to life.
- **True Stories** – dedicated to international feature length documentaries
- **The Tube** – transformed the post punk aesthetic into great music TV
- **V Graham Norton** – inspired camp with the Queen of Kitsch
- **The Week in Politics** – where politicians said what they actually felt
- **Whose Line is It Anyway** – started the impro boom and launched the careers of Merton, Proops, Slattery, Lawrence, Anderson et al.
- **Wise Up** – 3 times Emmy award winning children's programme where the kids get more answers out of the politicians than Paxman.
- **Without Walls** – eclectic arts strand, famous for slating Mother Teresa and psychoanalysing Princess Diana
- **The Word** – love it or hate it, a cultural signpost for early 1990s Britain

Compliance and Controversies

In pushing the boundaries of TV for twenty years, Channel 4 has consistently provoked national debate over taste, decency and programme content...

- **1982 – The Animal Film.** The IBA (forerunner of the ITC) demanded a 12-minute cut claiming interviews with ALF activists incited people to commit crime or disorder.
- **1982 (November) – Semi-Tough.** Film starring Burt Reynolds. Transmitted at 9pm, it opened with a stream of “motherfuckers”.
- **1983 (New Year) – One in Five.** Gay lifestyle programme – some MPs called for Channel 4 to be closed down.
- **1985 (March) – 20/20 Vision: MI5 Official Secrets.** Banned by IBA.
- **1985 – Berlin Alexanderplatz.** Rainer Werner Fassbinder’s film, described by one paper as “15 hours and 20 minutes of degradation redeemed by art”.
- **1986 (August).** Introduction of white triangle with red border for late-night feature films “for which special discretion may be required.”
- **1990 – The Word.** Episode featuring a man having a colostomy bag emptied over his head “caused serious concern” for the ITC.
- **1991 – Dispatches: The Committee.** Investigation of alleged collusion between the RUC and nationalist terrorists in Ulster running death squads goes to the High Court. C4 is fined £75,000 for refusing to reveal sources.
- **1991 – Banned Season.** Season is investigated by the Obscene Publications Squad and referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Banned programmes included **Death on the Rock**, **Scum** and **The Life of Brian**. ITC ruled that **Dick**, a documentary on why the male organ is not seen on screen should not be shown. But the first male erection ever shown on UK TV did appear on a video screen in the discussion programme **Sex and the Censors**. No action was taken.
- **1993 – Brookside.** ITC issued a warning over depiction of a knife as a murder weapon by Beth Jordache. This scene was shown at 5.05pm.
- **1995 – Dyke TV.** Described as “15 solid hours of sex pervert TV” by the Daily Mail, but as “an interesting treatment of lesbian issues and culture” by the Mothers’ Union. Also the year of **The Red Light Zone** and **Brookside**’s lesbian kiss.
- **1996 – TFI Friday.** Shaun Ryder swears 13 times. ITC issues warning.
- **1997 – Brass Eye.** Praised by the ITC for its satire and innovation.
- **1998 – Fetishes.** Nick Broomfield ‘s film features bondage, men in nappies and a black man in a sexually subservient “Plantation” fantasy. **The Devil Amongst Us** features paedophiles discussing their crimes.
- **1999 – Queer as Folk** depicted underage gay sex. **Animal Passions**, a documentary on bestiality also troubled some.
- **2001 – Brass Eye Special: Paedophilia.** Prompts Media Secretary, Tessa Jowell, to consult ITC on pre-transmission vetting.
- **2002 – Big Brother.** Contestant Jade Goody is suspected of performing a sexual act on PJ Ellis under the sheets live on E4. She also ends up naked after losing a drinking game.

Channel 4 Opening Night – Tuesday 2nd November 1982

3.7m	4.45pm	COUNTDOWN Richard Whiteley hosts this fast-moving crossword quiz game, with this week's resident wordsmith, Ted Moul .
2.7m	5.15pm	PREVIEW Looking ahead to the new channel's programmes with all four C4 announcers: Paul Coia, Keith Harrison, Olga Hubicka and David Stranks .
2.1m	5.30pm	THE BODY SHOW Yvonne Ocampo introduces the first of a series showing how everyone can enjoy keeping fit to music with the exercises dancers use.
1.5m	6.00pm	PEOPLE'S COURT Real-life Californian court cases are tried in the studio. Tonight retired Judge Wapner tries The Case of One Bald Tyre and The Case of the One Hot Roller Skate.
1.0m	6.30pm	BOOK FOUR The channel's new book programme considers writing about war featuring Len Deighton (in a rare TV interview), William Boyd and Fay Weldon .
1.2m	7.00pm	CHANNEL FOUR NEWS Britain's first hour-long nightly news programme is launched by ITN with Peter Sissons, Sarah Hogg, Godfrey Hodgson and Trevor McDonald .
2.8m	8.00pm	BROOKSIDE Britain's new twice-weekly serial set and shot on a new Merseyside estate. Tonight, the Collins family move in to a few unwelcome surprises...
3.5m	8.30pm	THE PAUL HOGAN SHOW Australian TV's top-rated comic comes to British screens featuring 'Divorce Australian Style', with the guests reassembling to reclaim their gifts, and – live from a downtown pool hall – 'Pot Belly'.
3.7m	9.00pm	FILM ON FOUR: WALTER Ian McKellen gives a sensitive portrayal as a mentally-handicapped man in the first of this series of feature films commissioned specially by Channel 4.
3.4m	10.15pm	THE COMIC STRIP PRESENTS...FIVE GO MAD IN DORSET Those famous brats have a ripping time on their summer hols in this hilarious spoof from the Comic Strip team.
1.0m	10.45pm	THE RAVING BEAUTIES' IN THE PINK Anna Carteret, Sue Jones-Davies and Fanny Viner (The Raving Beauties) in a witty, provocative revue celebrating women's lives.
	11.45pm	CLOSE

Channel Bore?

When Channel 4 first appeared it provoked a mixed reaction from the press:

- “Trendy enough to make your teeth peel” Nancy Banks-Smith, *The Guardian* 3.11.82
- “Channel 4-Letter TV Chief in Walkout – Storm over a soap opera”. Barrie Mattei, *The Sun* 3.11.82 – reference to a Brookside producer quitting on the opening day over the inclusion of swear words in the programme.
- “4 Out of Ten”. Charlie Catchpole, *The Sun*, 3.3.82
- “There was a tendency, perhaps, to excessive wind...(Channel 4 is) the SDP of television”. Peter Ackroyd, *The Times* 3.3.82
- Countdown: “winner of the Crummiest Quiz Ever Seen on TV Award, Hilary Kingsley, *The Mirror*
- “A lusty, noisy and decidedly provoking infant...good luck to the brat.” Herbert Kretzmer, *Daily Mail*, 3.3.82
- “4’s a Bore – it is just not good enough” *The Sun*, 1.11.83
- “Channel 4 has shown viewers what real television should be about”. *The Mirror*, 14.11.82
- “Judging by what I have seen so far, Channel 4 should more fairly be called Channel More – more choices and more quality”. *Sunday Mirror*, 7.11.82
- “The channel, which was vilified in its early days on the air by much of the press, now faces equally unreasonable degrees of uncritical favour” *FT*, 16.9.85

20 years of Channel 4 – a chronology

Pre launch

Home Secretary, Lord Whitelaw outlines plans for a fourth channel in 1979... 1980 Broadcasting Act details public service requirements and constitution of fourth channel... Established as a subsidiary of the IBA and financed by a subscription levied on the ITV companies, which sell Channel 4's airtime in return... Company comes into being on January 1st 1981... former Labour minister, Edmund Dell, is Chairman and Jeremy Isaacs is Chief Executive (appointment announced September 1980).

1982

Channel 4 goes on air at 4.45pm on Tuesday 2 November... First person to speak is continuity announcer, Paul Coia... First face seen on Channel 4 is Richard Whiteley, presenting **Countdown**.

Programmes - **Brookside, Countdown, Channel 4 News, The Snowman, Right to Reply, A Week in Politics, The Comic Strip Presents...**

1983

Programmes – **The Tube, American Football, Treasure Hunt, Film on Four**

1984

Takes over coverage of horse racing from ITV... Output increased by 25% with weekdays starting at 2.30pm instead of 5pm.

Programmes – **Who Dares Wins, Baby Baby**

1985

A Woman of Substance secures Channel 4's largest ever audience of 13.8 million (January)... Channel 4 takes over broadcasting of schools programming from ITV in September... IBA bans Channel 4's **20/20 Vision: M15 Official Secrets**

Programmes – **The Max Headroom Show, Saturday Live, Bandung File, Tour de France, Hill Street Blues, Jubilee.**

Films – **My Beautiful Laundrette**

1986

Peacock Report recommends that Channel 4 should be given the option to sell its own airtime... Channel 4 introduces the white triangle with red borders for late night films "for which special discretion may be required"... Mary

Whitehouse lobbies advertisers to boycott Channel 4. Lloyds Bank, Kelloggs and Sainsbury's are among those who oblige.

Programmes – **The Last Resort, After Dark, Equinox, The Media Show**

1987

Sir Richard Attenborough replaces Edmund Dell as Channel 4 chairman... Channel 4 broadcasts Shoah, Claude Lanzmann's 9-hour study of the holocaust, over two nights without commercial breaks... The channel moves into operating profit.

Programmes – **Tony Harrison's V, Comic Strip: The Strike, Network 7, Dispatches, Porterhouse Blue, 15-to-1, Caravaggio, Baka: People of the Rainforest, When the Wind Blows.**

Films – **Letter to Brezhnev, Hope & Glory, Wish You Were Here, Prick Up Your Ears.**

1988

Michael Grade replaces Jeremy Isaacs as Chief Executive... Liz Forgan appointed Director of Programmes... Channel 4 sees off DTI proposal to broadcast via DBS satellite.

Programmes – **A Very British Coup, Roseanne**

Films – **Mona Lisa**

1989

Programmes – **The Mahabharata, The Crystal Maze, Desmond's, The Thin Blue Line, Hard News, Norbert Smith: A Life, Tour de France, Whose Line is it Anyway?, Out on Tuesday**

1990

1990 Broadcasting Act preserves Channel 4 in public ownership... Act enshrines terms of the funding formula with ITV, whereby ITV agrees to fund Channel 4 if it falls below 14% of total TV advertising revenue, once it starts selling its own airtime in 1993... **Brookside** goes from twice to three times weekly.

Programmes – **Drop the Dead Donkey, Vic Reeves' Big Night Out, Without Walls, Cutting Edge, Creature Comforts, Traffik, The Manageress.**

1991

Banned season is broadcast... Michael Grade given £500,000 golden handcuffs to stay on for five years... Stewart Butterfield appointed as first Director of Advertising Sales and Marketing... **Dispatches: The Committee** broadcast. Court case to last 10 years.

Programmes – **GBH, Secret History, J'Accuse, The Leader, His Driver and The Driver's Wife, The Word, Black Bag**

1992

Sir Michael Bishop replaces Sir Richard Attenborough as Chairman... **The Big Breakfast** goes on air on September 28... Channel 4 breaks through 10% audience share barrier for first time.

Programmes – **The Big Breakfast, Rude Women, The Camomile Lawn, The Turner Prize, Football Italia**

Films – **The Crying Game, Peter's Friends, Howard's End**

1993

Channel 4 TV Corporation comes into being... channel starts selling its own airtime... Makes payment of £38m to ITV companies under terms of funding formula... John Willis appointed as Director of Programmes... exceeds BBC 2 in annual share of TV viewing for the first time... wins five Oscars, four for **Howard's End**.

Programmes – **Lipstick on Your Collar, Gimme Shelter, Alternative Queen's Xmas Message, Bloody Bosnia, Tales of the City, Blue, Eurotrash, Rory Bremner – Who Else?.**

Films – **Naked, Raining Stones**

1994

Channel 4 moves into Richard Rogers' designed headquarters at 124 Horseferry Road... Michael Grade launches campaign for early review of funding formula arrangements with ITV.

Programmes – **Glyndebourne, Without Walls: Dennis Potter, Beyond the Clouds, Cutting Edge: Graham Taylor – An Impossible Job, Don't Forget Your Toothbrush, Time Team.**

Films – **Four Weddings and a Funeral**

1995

Four Weddings and a Funeral gets 12 million viewers... **Brookside** catapulted to 9 million at climax of body under the patio storyline... launch of new teen soap, **Hollyoaks**... Michael Grade labelled Pornographer in Chief by Daily Mail after **Red Light Zone** and **The Last Temptation of Christ**... Oscars for **The Madness of King George** and **Bob's Birthday**.

Programmes – **True Stories: The Betrayed, The Politician's Wife, Father Ted, Friends, Red Light Zone, ER, The Dying Rooms, Crapston Villas, Wise Up**

Films - **Shallow Grave, The Madness of King George**

1996

Wins battle against privatisation in 1996 Broadcasting Act.

Programmes – **Brass Eye, Return to the Dying Rooms, Cold Lazarus, Karaoke, Scott of the Arms Antics, The Girlie Show, Pond Life, Gulliver's Travels, TFI Friday**

Films – **Trainspotting, Secrets and Lies, Brassed Off, Bandit Queen**

1997

Michael Jackson appointed Chief Executive... Nations and Regions initiative launches in Glasgow... Media Secretary, Chris Smith, announces abolition of Channel 4's funding formula payments to ITV in 1998.

Programmes – **Adam and Joe Show, The Dinner Party, A Dance to the Music of Time, Against Nature**

Films – **Fever Pitch, Welcome to Sarajevo.**

1998

Vanni Treves replaces Sir Michael Bishop as Chairman... ITC publishes revised licence... ITN regains contract to produce **Channel 4 News**, including new Saturday edition... Launch of FilmFour Ltd as standalone subsidiary... Tim Gardam appointed Director of Programmes... Channel 4 acquires rights to Test Match cricket... Launch of FilmFour channel.

Programmes – **4 Later, So Graham Norton, The 11 O'clock Show, Top Tens.**

Films – **Hilary and Jackie, My Name is Joe, The Land Girls, Elizabeth**

1999

Channel 4 makes final funding formula payment to ITV... **Queer as Folk** broadcast... Channel 4 acquires terrestrial and pay-TV rights to next three series of **Friends** and **ER**... Launch of Channel 4 Interactive division.

Programmes – **Test Match Cricket, Queer as Folk, The Valley, Geri, Spaced, This is Modern Art, 1900 House, Staying Lost, Untold, Smack the Pony, Kid in the Corner, Shanghai Vice, Tina Goes Shopping.**

Films – **East is East, Buena Vista Social Club**

2000

Channel 4 News becomes seven days a week service... Launch of online homework help service, **homeworkhigh.com**... Restructuring of education interests into 4 Learning... First series of **Big Brother**.

Programmes – **15, Big Brother, Black Books, Da Ali G Show, The Day the World Took Off, Elizabeth, Jam, Nigella Bites, Slavery, Trigger Happy TV, White Tribe.**

2001

Launch of 4 Ventures Ltd... launch of digital entertainment channel E4... Channel 4 claims 11 of 19 Bafta awards for programming in 2000/01... Go Racing consortium secures deal to acquire media and related rights to British horseracing for next 10 years... **Brass Eye Special** on paedophilia, prompting 7,000 calls and letters.

Programmes – **Banzai, Beckett on Film, Beneath the Veil, Brass Eye Special, Faking It, Gas Attack, Kumbh Mela, Plague Fire War Treason, Teachers, Testing God, Tina Takes a Break, West Wing.**

Films – **Sexy Beast**

2002

Mark Thompson joins channel as fourth Chief Executive in March 2002, replacing Michael Jackson... E4 becomes UK's most watched multi-channel service for 10 weeks of Big Brother III... Management tables a proposal to fold filmmaking arm, FilmFour Ltd, back into Channel 4 and reduce the channel's film investment... Thompson delivers the MacTaggart Lecture at Edinburgh International TV Festival.

Programmes – **The Book Group, Death, Edwardian Country House, Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights, Shackleton, Six Feet Under, The Trust, V Graham Norton, White Teeth, The Whole Warhol.**

Channel 4 the starmaker – 20 years of talent (A to Z)

- A** Fiona Allen (**Smack the Pony**); Keith Allen (**Comic Strip, Whatever You Want**); Clive Anderson (**Whose Line Is It Anyway?**)
- B** Zeinab Badawi (**C4 News**); Bill Bailey (**Black Books**); Zoe Ball (**The Priory**); Sasha Baron-Cohen (**Ali G Innit/The 11 O’Clock Show**); Helen Baxendale (**Friends, The Investigator**); Richie Benaud (**Test Cricket**); John Bird (**Bremner, Bird and Fortune**); Richard Blackwood (**The Richard Blackwood Show**); Roger Bolton (**Right to Reply**); Jo Brand (**Jo Brand Through the Cakehole**); Ewan Bremner (**Trainspotting, The Secret Life of Michael Fry**); Rory Bremner (**Rory Bremner Who Else?**); Adam Buxton (**Takeover TV/The Adam and Joe Show**)
- C** Antoine de Caunes (**Eurotrash**); Julian Clary (**Saturday Live**); Terry Christian (**The Word**); Joe Cornish (**Takeover TV/Adam and Joe Show**)
- D** Daniel Day Lewis (**My Beautiful Launderette**); Jack Dee (**Jack Dee**); Lindsay Duncan (**GBH**)
- E** Adrian Edmondson (**Comic Strip Presents**); Harry Enfield (**Saturday Live**); Chris Evans (**Big Breakfast, Don’t Forget Your Toothbrush, TFI Friday**); Lee Evans (**The World of Lee Evans**); Trevor Eve (**The Politician’s Wife**).
- F** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall (**Cook on the Wild Side, River Cottage**); Judy Finnigan (**Richard & Judy**); John Fortune (**Bremner, Bird and Fortune**); Dawn French (**Comic Strip Presents**); Anna Friel (**Brookside, Land Girls**); Stephen Fry (**Saturday Live**)
- G** Jean-Paul Gaultier (**Eurotrash**); Mary Gouldring (**The Gouldring Audit**); Hugh Grant (**Four Weddings and a Funeral**); Muriel Gray (**The Tube, The Media Show**); Krishnan Guru-Murthy (**C4 News**);
- H** Tony Harrison (**V**); Nigel Hawthorne (**The Madness of King George, The Fragile Heart**); Harry Hill (**The Harry Hill Show**); Ian Hislop (**The Canterbury Tales**); Jools Holland (**The Tube**); Darcus Howe (**Devil’s Advocate, White Tribe**); Sean Hughes (**Sean’s Show**); Simon Hughes (**Test Match Cricket**)
- I** Armando Iannucci (**Armando Iannucci Show/Brass Eye**); Michael Ignatieff (**Voices**); Eddie Izzard (**Cows/Channel Izzard**).
- J** Peter Jay (**A Week in Politics**); David Jason (**Porterhouse Blue**); David Jessel (**Trial and Error**); Dom Joly (**Trigger Happy TV**).
- L** Mark Lamarr (**The Word/Big Breakfast**); Hugh Laurie (**Saturday Live**); Josie Lawrence (**Whose Line**); Nigella Lawson (**Nigella Bites**);

Robert Lindsay (**GBH, Jake's Progress**); Cheri Lunghi (**The Manageress**)

M Trevor MacDonald (**C4 News**); Doon Mackichan (**Smack the Pony, Brass Eye**); Richard Madeley (**Richard & Judy**); Rik Mayall (**Comic Strip**); Ray McAnally (**A Very British Coup**); Davina McCall (**Streetmate, Big Brother**); Sheena McDonald (**C4 News/Right to Reply**); Rory McGrath (**Who Dares Wins**); Ewan McGregor (**Trainspotting, Shallow Grave**); Mike McShane (**Whose Line, S&M**); Paul Merton (**Whose Line**); Dylan Moran (**Black Books**); Michael Moore (**The Awful Truth**); Chris Morris (**Brass Eye**); Bob Mortimer (**Vic Reeves' Big Night Out**); Jimmy Mulville (**Who Dare Wins**)

N Mark Nicholas (**Test Cricket**); Graham Norton (**So/V Graham Norton**)

O Richard O'Brien (**Crystal Maze**); Ardal O'Hanlon (**Father Ted**); Dermot O'Leary (**T4, Big Brother's Little Brother**)

P Michael Palin (**GBH**); Neil Pearson (**Drop the Dead Donkey**); Sally Phillips (**Smack the Pony**); Trevor Phillips; Nigel Planer (**Comic Strip**); Greg Proops (**Whose Line**)

R Mark Radcliffe (**The White Room**); Andrew Rawnsley (**A Week in Politics**); Dermot Reeve (**Test Cricket**); Vic Reeves (**Vic Reeves' Big Night Out**); Anneka Rice (**Treasure Hunt**); Ian Richardson (**Porterhouse Blue**); James Richardson (**Football Italia**); Tony Robinson (**Who Dares Wins, Time Team**); Jon Ronson; Gaby Roslin (**Big Breakfast, Real Holiday Show**); Jonathan Ross (**The Last Resort/The Incredibly Strange Film Show**); Simon Russell-Beale (**Dance to the Music of Time**)

S Jennifer Saunders (**Comic Strip**); Lily Savage; Alexei Sayle (**Comic Strip**); John Sessions (**Whose Line, Porterhouse Blue**); Peter Sissons (**C4 News**); Tony Slattery (**Whose Line, S&M**); Jon Snow (**C4 News**); David Starkey (**Elizabeth, Henry VIII**); Juliet Stephenson (**The Politician's Wife**); William G Stewart (**Fifteen to One**)

T Lisa Tarbuck (**Big Breakfast**); Mark Thomas (**Mark Thomas Comedy Product**); Emma Thompson (**Thompson**); Sandi Toksvig (**Whose Line**); Stephen Tompkinson (**Drop the Dead Donkey**)

V Denise Van Outen (**Big Breakfast**); Johnny Vaughan (**Big Breakfast**); Carol Vorderman (**Countdown**)

W Julie Walters (**Jake's Progress, GBH**); Ruby Wax (**Don't Miss Wax**); Jo Whiley (**Jo Whiley**); Richard Whiteley (**Countdown**); Paul Whitehouse (**Saturday Live**)

Y Paula Yates (**The Tube, Big Breakfast**)

The Worst of Channel 4?

Sometimes the urge to innovate has led Channel 4 to overstep the mark...

- **The Girlie Show**
- **The Word**
- Shaun Ryder and Black Grape performing a live expletive-filled version of the Sex Pistols' *Pretty Vacant* on **TFI Friday** after censure from the ITC over his swearing in a previous episode.
- Amy Irving blacked up in **The Far Pavilions**
- **The Minipops** – hideous kids sing pop songs amid excruciating dance routines
- **Zastozzi, a Romance** – “Shelley’s unreadable novel transmogrified into unwatchable TV...pretentious poppycock” *Broadcast*
- **Eurocops** – each episode of cop drama made by different European broadcaster. Nice idea, poor quality all-round.
- **Centrepoint** – Nigel Williams four-part drama “an expensive fiasco in which ambition far outstretched ability” *Broadcast*
- **Watch the Woman** – Women’s magazine. “The more serious it tried to be, the more hilarious it got. A major embarrassment for all concerned, it was soon pulped.” *Broadcast*
- **Club X** – “a cacophonous mish-mash of pop world phonies, vacuous presenters and fringe music... the ineptitude of the on-screen personae was insultingly genuine.”
- **Chateauvallon** – dubbed French soap opera
- **Tandoori Nights** – PC too far? Poor quality Asian sitcom.
- **Whatever You Want** – Keith Allen chat show where he regularly insulted guests – after 16th of 26 programmes it was pulled.
- **The Friday Alternative** – end of week chat and gossip - “sometimes hilariously bad” Julian Barnes, *The Observer* 11/83
- And many many more...

Top 50 programmes on Channel 4 – 1982 to 2002

1. **Woman of Substance**, 04/01/1985, 14 million, Portman Productions
2. **Four Weddings and a Funeral**, 15/11/1995, 12.4 million, Working Title Films
3. **Gregory's Girl**, 08/01/1985, 10.75 million, Scottish Television Enterprises
4. **Big Brother Final 2002**, 27/07/2002, 10 million, Endemol UK
5. **Big Brother Final 2000**, 15/09/2000, 9.45 million, Endemol UK
6. **Nuns on the Run**, 18/04/1993, 9.2 million, Paragon International
7. **The Price**, 14/2/85 & 17/2/85, 8.9 million, Astramead
8. **Cutting Edge: P. Company**, 23/03/1992 & 27/03/1992, 8.65 million, MBC
9. **Relative Strangers**, 14/01/1985, 8.65 million, Phillipa Walker Productions
10. **The Miracle of Kathy Miller**, 21/04/1987, 8.3 million, MCA TV
11. **Brookside**, 3/11/93 & 10/11/93, 8.3 million, Mersey TV
12. **International Snooker**, 16/12/1984, 8.25 million, ITV
13. **Hold the Dream**, 05/05/1987, 8.1 million, Portman Productions
14. **Big Brother Final 2001**, 27/07/2000, 8 million, Endemol UK
15. **Coast of Dreams**, 17/2/92 & 21/2/92, 7.9 million, Touch Productions
16. **Treasure Hunt**, 17/03/1988, 7.85 million, Chatsworth Television
17. **Inspector Morse**, 21/10/1991, 7.8 million, Central Productions
18. **Cutting Edge: Shops and Robbers**, 14/02/1994, 7.8 million, Insight TV
19. **Camomile Lawn**, 05/03/1992, 7.6 million, Zed TV
20. **Cutting Edge: A is for Accident**, 13/02/1995, 7.2 million, Uden Associates
21. **Female Parts**, 11/05/1992, 7.1 million, Glass Pictures
22. **Cutting Edge: Navy Blues**, 12/12/1993, 6.9 million, Twenty Twenty
23. **Wish You Were Here**, 15/02/1990, 6.7 million, Zenith Entertainment
24. **Cutting Edge Classics: P. Company**, 23/03/1992, 6.7 million, MBC
25. **Castaway**, 26/11/1990, 6.6 million, Cannon Screen Entertainment
26. **Cutting Edge: Casualties**, 25/11/1991, 6.6 million, Double Exposure
27. **Secret History: The Roswell Incident**, 28/08/1995, 6.6m, Union Pictures
28. **Friends**, 11/12/1998, 6.5 million, Warner Bros
29. **Auf Wiedersehen, Pet**, 11/03/1995, 6.4 million, Carlton Television
30. **GBH**, 06/06/1991, 6 million, GBH Films
31. **Cosby Show**, 24/11/1991, 5.9 million, Viacom International
32. **Crystal Maze - Kids Special**, 27/12/1992, 5.9 million, Chatsworth Television
33. **Rita, Sue and Bob Too**, 10/05/1990, 5.8m, Oscar Lewenstein Productions
34. **Gulliver's Travels**, 07/04/1996, 5.8 million, Jim Henson Productions
35. **Falklands War**, 03/02/1992, 5.7 million, Fine Art Productions
36. **Real Holiday Show**, 22/03/1995, 5.7 million, Chapter One
37. **Rising Damp**, 13/06/1991, 5.6 million, Polygram Filmed Entertainment
38. **Lipstick on Your Collar**, 21/02/1993, 5.6m, Whistling Gypsy Productions
39. **Riverdance**, 31/12/1995, 5.6 million, RTE
40. **Evening Shade**, 10/02/1992, 5.5 million, MTM International
41. **Desmond's**, 25/01/1993, 5.5 million, Humphrey Barclay Productions
42. **Cutting Edge: Car Thieves**, 08/01/1996, 5.5 million, Touch Productions
43. **Merlin**, 04/04/1999, 5.4 million, Hallmark Entertainment
44. **Dispatches: Diana - The Accident**, 04/06/1998, 5.4 million, 3BM TV
45. **Cutting Edge: Graham Taylor - The Impossible Job**, 24/01/1994, 5.3 million, Chrysalis TV
46. **Cutting Edge: Gazza's Coming Home**, 07/10/1996, 5.3m, Chrysalis Sport
47. **Roseanne**, 03/04/1992, 5.3 million, Paramount TV
48. **The Rector's Wife**, 03/03/1994, 5.3 million, Talisman Films
49. **Drop the Dead Donkey**, 28/01/1993, 5.2 million, Hat Trick Productions
50. **Take My Daughters Please**, 10/01/1991, 5.2 million, NBC International

Channel 4 historical data 1983 to 2001

Year	Audience Share %	Programming Spend £m	Turnover £m	Staff Numbers
1983	4.4	65	84	N/A
1984	5.8	92	106	N/A
1985	7.4	98	113	N/A
1986	7.9	100	132	N/A
1987	8.5	113	141	291
1988	8.9	138	171	323
1989	8.8	162	192	353
1990*	9.0	184	227.5	402
1990	-	149	188	428
1991	9.6	184	268	458
1992	10.1	184	267	516
1993	11.0	184	344	522
1994	10.7	210	408	535
1995	10.9	250	464	531
1996	10.7	293.5	519	560
1997	10.6	336	553	606
1998	10.3	362	590.5	723
1999	10.3	396	642	769
2000	10.5	410	716	934
2001	10.0	425	731	1,081

✳ From Channel 4 launch in November 1982 through to 1990, financial year-end was 31st March.

✳ From 1990, Channel 4 moved to financial year-end on 31st December.

✳ First set of figures for 1990 represent three months to 31st March, second set of figures for 1990 represent nine months to 31st December.

1982 – that was the year that...

- Leonid Brezhnev died as did Grace Kelly, John Belushi, Marty Feldman, Carl Orff, Ingrid Bergman and Henry Fonda
- Israel invaded Lebanon
- First successful artificial heart operation.
- European doctors offered liposuction for the first time.
- Rings around Neptune were discovered.
- PacMan was Time Magazine's "Man of the Year."
- World Cup Final: Italy vs. West Germany Score: 3-1
- The Falklands conflict: Almost 1,000 people died
- Prince William was born.
- An intruder got into the Queen's bedroom in Buckingham Palace.
- The government gave the go-ahead for satellite television
- The Barbican was opened
- CND and Greenham Common protests were at their height.
- Jane Fonda's Workout Book was to be seen on many coffee tables.

Number one records in 1982 included:

- Land Of Make Believe - BUCKS FIZZ
- Oh Julie - SHAKIN' STEVENS
- The Model / Computer Love - KRAFTWERK
- A Town Called Malice / Precious - JAM
- The Lion Sleeps Tonight - TIGHT FIT
- Seven Tears - GOOMBAY DANCE BAND
- Ebony & Ivory - PAUL McCARTNEY WITH STEVIE WONDER
- House Of Fun - MADNESS
- Fame - IRENE CARA
- Come On Eileen - DEXY'S MIDNIGHT RUNNERS
- Eye Of The Tiger - SURVIVOR
- Pass The Dutchie - MUSICAL YOUTH
- Do You Really Want To Hurt Me - CULTURE CLUB
- I Don't Wanna Dance - EDDY GRANT
- Beat Surrender - JAM
- Save Your Love - RENEE AND RENATO

In 1982 in the cinema we were watching...

- **Annie, Chariots of Fire, Conan the Barbarian, E.T. - The Extra-Terrestrial, Firefox, Rambo II: First Blood, Friday The 13th, Part III.**

While elsewhere on UK TV the nation was tuning into...

- **Dallas, M*A*S*H, Magnum PI, Dynasty, The A-Team, The Young Ones, Knight Rider, Boys from the Blackstuff.**