



**Channel 4's  
25 year Anniversary**

# CHANNEL 4 AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

## Programmes surrounding Channel 4's anniversary on 2nd November 2007 include:

### BRITZ (October)

A two-part thriller written and directed by Peter Kosminsky, this powerful and provocative drama is set in post 7/7 Britain, and features two young and British-born Muslim siblings, played by Riz Ahmed (*The Road to Guantanamo*) and Manjinder Virk (*Bradford Riots*), who find the new terror laws have set their altered lives on a collision course.

### LOST FOR WORDS (October)

Channel 4 presents a season of films addressing the unacceptable illiteracy rates among children in the UK. At the heart of the season is a series following one dynamic headmistress on a mission to wipe out illiteracy in her primary school. A special edition of **Dispatches** (*Why Our Children Can't Read*) will focus on the effectiveness of the various methods currently employed to teach children to read, as well as exploring the wider societal impact of poor literacy rates. Daytime hosts Richard and Judy will aim to get children reading with an hour-long peak time special, **Richard & Judy's Best Kids' Books Ever**.

### BRITAIN'S DEADLIEST ADDICTIONS (October)

Britain's Deadliest Addictions follows three addicts round the clock as they try to kick their habits at a leading detox clinic. Presented by Krishnan Guru-Murphy and addiction psychologist, Dr John Marsden, the series will highlight the realities of addiction to a variety of drugs, as well as alcohol, with treatment under the supervision of addiction experts.

### COMEDY SHOWCASE (October)

Channel 4 is celebrating 25 years of original British comedy with six brand new 30-minute specials starring some of the UK's best established and up and coming comedic talent.

### SHARIA STREET (November)

Under the watchful eye of a team of Muslim mentors, one lapsed Muslim and six non-Muslims attempt to live their lives for three weeks following the laws of Islam. The series is filmed in the upmarket Yorkshire town of Harrogate, which, despite its proximity to the large Asian communities of Bradford and Leeds, is 97% white and almost Muslim free.

### THE NOT DEAD (w/t) (November)

**In The Not Dead** (w/t) the multi award-winning combination of director Brian Hill and poet Simon Armitage combine to explore the profound cost of fighting and killing. They tell the stories of three men across 60 years. Intimate interviews and archive material show how some soldiers have their minds altered forever by the experience of war.

### GUNTHER'S ER (November)

First, he dissected human bodies to show how they work; then he did it to show how humans die. Now, Dr Gunther von Hagens, together with the British Red Cross, demonstrates how to save lives. In this new three-part series von Hagens explores the impact that accidents and assaults have on the body, while also demonstrating what first-aiders, paramedics and physicians can do to try to preserve life.

### THE MUMMY DIARIES (w/t) (November)

The bond between a mother and child is an extraordinary one. But what happens when that bond is broken due to the premature death of the mother? **The Mummy Diaries** (working title) follows five ordinary families who face the unthinkable – a life without Mum. Guiding them through the process is Julie Stokes O.B.E., a clinical psychologist and founder of child bereavement charity Winston's Wish.



### THIS IS CIVILISATION (November)

Inspired by Lord Clark's landmark TV series, *Civilisation*, this new four-part series follows artist and critic Matthew Collings as he makes a personal selection of the greatest artistic moments and monuments of history – from the ancient Greeks to modern times – to examine how they have shaped our world.

### EXODUS (November)

Set 20 years in the future in the Kent seaside town of Margate, this epic one-off drama is inspired by the biblical story of **Exodus**. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Penny Woolcock, Exodus explores the timeless themes of identity, belonging and the migration of great movements of people across the globe to a promised land.

### 25 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** made 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.

### 20 years ago, Autumn 1987 highlights

**Saturday Live** continued making stars of Ben Elton, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Harry Enfield, Julian Clary and 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 examined 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 McCririck 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**.



## 15 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 nine 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. **Desmond's** continued and a new series of **Black Bag** started with an investigation into policing in Brixton. **Without Walls** asked "Was Michelangelo gay?" and Jimmy Savile 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 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 on Friday nights, hosted by Terry Christian and Dani Behr.

## 10 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**. A drama based on Anthony Powell's novels, **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 reggae producer Lee "Scratch" Perry and racism in Brazil. 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...

## 5 years ago, Autumn 2002 highlights

**The Osbournes** took up residence at Channel 4, **Celebrity Big Brother** returned and Jamie Oliver attempted to transform a group of unemployed youths in **Jamie's Kitchen**. Molly Dineen documented the historic departure of the hereditary peers from the House of Lords in **The Lord's Tale**, while acclaimed director Mike Figgis followed the artist Jeremy Deller as he staged an ambitious re-enactment of **The Battle of Orgreave**. **Feltham Sings** provided a completely new perspective on Europe's largest young offender's institution, with young criminals expressing their lives and thoughts through musical collaboration. **Marrying a Stranger** followed young Muslims trying to reconcile their parents' traditional views with their own modern desires, and Hermione Morris and Mark Strong starred in **Falling Apart**, which used real-life testimonies as the basis for a disturbing drama about domestic violence. Writers Aminatta Forma and Peter Godwin attempted to find out **What's Wrong With Africa?**, while David Starkey brought us the story of two of England's Tudor monarchs in **Edward and Mary**.

# CHANNEL 4 GROUNDBREAKERS

## CHANNEL 4 NEWS (ITN) 1982 –

Perceived by many 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 25 years **Channel 4 News** has proved itself 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 seven days a week in January 2001 and launched a daily half-hour lunchtime edition in 2003, and has since enjoyed some of its highest-ever ratings, particularly among younger viewers, with 16-34s making up a higher proportion of the Channel 4 News programme than for any other mainstream news bulletin. It also secured two international Emmys in successive years.

Channel 4 also has an enviable track record in current affairs journalism, with investigative current affairs strands, such as **Twenty Twenty Vision** and **Diverse Reports** 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 the now defunct *World in Action*. By 2007 *Dispatches* had expanded its run to 40 episodes a year – it remains the only hour-long current affairs programme playing in peak on terrestrial TV. Flanked by polemical strand, **The Insider**, *Dispatches* continues to spearhead the channel's unrivalled commitment to current affairs.

## BROOKSIDE (Mersey TV) 1982 – 2003

**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, 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 launched the only daily teen soap **Hollyoaks** in 1995 and more recently has enjoyed success with contemporary returning drama series such as **Queer as Folk**, **Teachers**, **Shameless** and **Skins**. Recent years have also seen record levels of investment in single dramas, producing a string of award-winning and acclaimed TV films including **Omagh**, **The Government Inspector**, **The Hamburg Cell**, **Not Only But Always**, **The Deal**, **The Queen's Sister**, **Sex Traffic**, **Low Winter Sun**, **Longford**, **Mark of Cain**, **It's a Free World...** and **Secret Life**.



### 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 & 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.

Recapturing the creative spirit behind its most successful filmmaking, the new-look Film4 has released a raft of distinctive and critically acclaimed films including Julien Temple's **Joe Strummer: The Future Is Unwritten**, David Mackenzie's **Hallam Foe**, winner of a Silver Bear in Berlin, Anand Tucker's cinematic version of Blake Morrison's book **And When Did You Last See Your Father?** and Kevin Macdonald's **The Last King of Scotland**, which opened the London Film Festival in November 2006 and has since garnered numerous awards, including the Best Actor Oscar for Forest Whitaker and Best Director for Kevin Macdonald at the British Independent Film Awards Films. Film4 productions soon to arrive on British screens include Sarah Gavron's **Brick Lane**, Bob Weide's **How to Lose Friends and Alienate People** and Mike Leigh's latest untitled project.

### 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 had previously 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 **Father Ted**, **Da Ali G Show**, **Trigger Happy TV**, **Smack the Pony**, **Black Books**, **Spaced**, **Phoenix Nights**, **Peep Show** and **Green Wing** among its recent high-profile successes.

### NETWORK 7 (London Weekend Television) 1987 – 1988

Groundbreaking yoof-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 politics. On one occasion the programme 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. This spirit continued into **T4**, Channel 4's youth and entertainment zone, which has catapulted a number of presenters into the limelight, including June Sarpong, Dermot O'Leary, Vernon Kay and Popworld duo Miquita Oliver and Simon Amstell.



### 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**, **The Celluloid Closet**, **Will & Grace** and **Hollyoaks** and Channel 4 films like **My Beautiful Launderette**, **Caravaggio**, **Bent**, **Maurice**, **Beautiful Thing** and **Prick Up Your Ears**.

Channel 4 recently marked the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality with a season of dedicated programming, the centrepiece of which was *Clapham Junction*, a powerful single drama by Kevin Elyot that followed the mixed experiences of several gay men over 36 hours in London.

### 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 throughout its schedule and across all programming genres. Channel 4 also commissions programmes that aim to engage the widest possible audience in issues of race, which play in the heart of peaktime. Successes include feature films from **My Beautiful Launderette** to **East Is East**, dramas as varied as **White Teeth**, **Second Generation**, **Bradford Riots**, **Yasmin** and **The Road to Guantanamo**, challenging factual series like Darcus Howe's **White Tribe**, documentaries such as **My New Home** and **Young Black Farmers**, history shows including **The Great British Black Invasion** and **Empire's Children** and popular arts programmes such as **Ballet Hoo!**

### CUTTING EDGE (Various) 1992 –

**Cutting Edge** quickly established itself as a high quality and innovative strand bringing observational documentaries to a wide audience. Classic episodes 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 cub 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, **Cutting Edge** substantiated Channel 4's claim to be the home of contemporary, original documentary, a reputation that has been reinforced in recent times by unique one-offs such as **The Boy Whose Skin Fell Off**, **Young @ Heart** and **The Lie of the Land**.

### FRIENDS (Warner Bros) 1995 – 2004

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 programmes such as **Sex and the City**, **The Sopranos**, **The West Wing** and **Six Feet Under** built on the tradition. Recent hits **Ugly Betty** and **Desperate Housewives** continue to show Channel 4 as having the sharpest eye for hot American shows.



### 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!

### GRAND DESIGNS (Talkback Television) 1999 -

Perhaps the most iconic of Channel 4's lifestyle programming, Kevin McCloud's hugely popular series gives viewers an aspirational insight into the practical mechanics of breath-taking domestic projects, with the presenter providing an impassioned and accessible guide to architectural design. This informal educational approach has successfully infused many of Channel 4's lifestyle and leisure programmes, whether it's Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's mission for authentic food in **River Cottage**, Jo Frost's determination to restore child discipline in **Supernanny**, or recent programmes like **Embarrassing Illnesses**, which aimed to de-stigmatise common but potentially harmful conditions.

### BENEATH THE VEIL 2001

Channel 4 has always engaged with international affairs through a rich mix of programmes that have served to illuminate and educate viewers. From acclaimed documentaries like **The Dying Rooms**, **Shanghai Vice**, **The Last Peasants** and **Sisters in Law**, through to award-winning dramas such as **Sex Traffic** and **Ghosts**, Channel 4 has consistently brought issues from the wider world into the audience's living rooms. The multi award-winning **Beneath the Veil** exemplified this approach as reporter Saira Shah risked her life by going undercover in Afghanistan, obtaining images that showed the medieval barbarity of the Taliban's fundamentalist regime. With Afghanistan in the international spotlight yet shrouded in secrecy, this timely investigation found a country where the government killed its own people, civilians were subject to military brutality and women stripped of all human rights. With recent seasons of programmes devoted to Russia and Iraq, and flagship strand **Unreported World** the only foreign affairs series playing in peaktime terrestrial television, Channel 4 continues to reflect the complex and changing global picture.

### 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 were streamed on E4. **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, with series eight still reaching over half the population. The Celebrity version of *Big Brother* came under the spotlight in January 2007, when a racism row involving Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty made world wide headlines. In August 2007, Channel 4 announced plans to clear almost all returning series from the heart of its peak-time schedule in a process of creative renewal, which included the decision to rest *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2008.





### **OPERATUNITY (Diverse Productions) - 2002**

The arts have always been at the heart of the Channel 4 remit. Channel 4 has consistently found new and innovative ways of bringing the world of opera, ballet, classical music and fine arts to audiences at home, creating events and artistic works in an engaging and entertaining fashion – and **Operatunity** perfectly illustrated this ambition. In conjunction with the English National Opera, Channel 4 undertook a nation-wide search to uncover someone with no operatic experience, whom they could prepare to sing in the opera *Rigoletto* on the stage of the London Coliseum – side by side with world-class performers. 2,500 video applications were received from members of the public, and the programme culminated in mother of four and former Tesco's till girl Jane Gilchrist and mother of three Denise Leigh, who has been blind since birth, jointly taking the stage to wow a packed audience.

*Operatunity* led the way for programmes that actively involved and encouraged members of the public such as **Ballet Hool**, **My Shakespeare**, **The Play's the Thing** and **Musicality**. Channel 4 has constantly aimed for breadth and innovation in its arts programming – films and documentaries that have left their mark in the landscape of arts television, both in their scale and ambition, but have also pushed the boundaries of the arts on screen. These have included Penny Woolcock's controversial opera **The Death of Klinghoffer**, Peter Brook's Indian theatre epic **The Mahabharata**, live coverage of the prestigious **Turner Prize**, series from acclaimed critics Matthew Collings and Waldemar Januszczak as well as collaborations with a diverse and celebrated cast of talent including Harold Pinter, Grayson Perry, The Chapman Brothers, Howard Goodall, Jonathan Dove and Antony Gormley amongst many more.

### **WIFE SWAP (RDF Television) 2003 -**

The two-times BAFTA-winning series did not begin the trend of formatted observational documentary but it certainly took the genre to new heights. With its replicable narrative arc, **Wife Swap** found a new and daring way of telling stories about the minutiae of British family life that engaged large audiences. With an often redemptive and transformational climax, *Wife Swap* allowed viewers to empathise, sympathise and sometimes object to how others lived, while forcing them to make assessments about their own lives. Other Channel 4 formatted documentaries that gave fresh perspectives on a range of subjects include **Faking It**, **Brat Camp** and **That'll Teach 'Em**. With endless permutations of the 'life-change' formatted documentary now established throughout British television, *Wife Swap* will always be remembered as the most influential of its kind.

### **JAMIE'S SCHOOL DINNERS 2005**

In this seminal series Jamie Oliver tackled the shameful state of school dinners, arguing that a diet of processed junk was leading to a health time-bomb, with soaring rates of obesity and hugely increased risks to the wellbeing of Britain's children. So Jamie took over meals in a Greenwich comprehensive and, with determined dinner lady Nora Sands in his corner, showed that kids can eventually be persuaded to eat fresh, nutritious meals. After a huge campaign, newspaper headlines and a 300,000-signature petition, then Prime Minister Tony Blair agreed to set new standards for school meals, committing £280 million for proper ingredients, equipment and training. Reaching an audience of over five million people, **Jamie's School Dinners** stands alone in so successfully combining compelling, popular entertainment with serious political purpose.

## OTHER CHANNEL 4 PROGRAMMES THAT BROKE THE MOULD...

**4Later** – the experimental, the arcane, and the downright weird

**The 1900s 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

**The Autopsy** – Channel 4's ground-breaking broadcast of a public autopsy

**Black Books** – hit comedy developed from Channel 4's sitcom festival

**Born with Two Mothers** – provocative IVF mix-up drama featuring real professionals

**The Comic Strip** – now-mainstream comics experimenting with the form

**Countdown** – the invulnerable parlour game for grannies, doleys and students

**Creature Comforts** – Oscar-winning animation from Aardman Animations

**The Death Of Klinghoffer** – Penny Woolcock's adaptation of American composer John Adams' critically-acclaimed and controversial opera

**Derren Brown** – truly original psychological illusionist

**Don't Forget Your Toothbrush** – Chris Evans' innovative game show

**Dispatches** – among 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

**Going Cold Turkey** – live programmes showing the challenges of beating heroin addiction

**The Kumbh Mela** – the largest gathering of people in human history

**The Last Resort** – Jonathan Ross reinvents the British chat show

**The Mark of Cain** – provocative drama portraying British soldiers in Iraq

**Max Headroom** – cool music show presented by a robot

**Peep Show** – inventive comedy which reveals character's inner thoughts

**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

**Shameless** – drama about Manchester's lawless and loveable Gallaghers

**The Slot/Three Minute Wonder** – 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.

**Torture Season** – special season of programmes examining the use of, and justification for, torture in the war against terror

**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 improv boom, launched the careers of Merton, Proops, Slattery, Lawrence, Anderson et al.

**Wise Up** – three times Emmy award-winning children's programme where the kids got 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 25 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 (September)

Introduction of white triangle with red border for late-night feature films “for which special discretion may be required.”

1991

**Dispatches: The Committee** Investigation of alleged collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland goes to the High Court. Channel 4 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**.

1993

**Brookside.** ITC issued a warning for dangerous imitable behaviour, over depiction of a knife as a murder weapon by Beth Jordache. This scene was shown at 5.05pm.

1994

**The Word.** Episode featuring a man having a colostomy bag emptied over his head “caused serious concern” for the ITC.

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

**The Original Autopsy.** Gunther Von Hagens performed the first public autopsy for 170 years, which received 130 complaints.

2003

**Derren Brown's Russian Roulette.** Police claimed it could inspire copycat incidents, though it was later reported that the bullets used had been blanks. Complaints that the show had promoted gun culture were rejected by the Broadcasting Standards Commission.

2004

**The Hamburg Cell.** Channel 4 faced hostility from the US media when it made this documentary drama about the 9/11 terrorists.

2006

**Death of a President.** Made front page headlines and caused uproar in the US.

2006

**Alternative Christmas Message.** A Muslim woman wearing a niqab delivered the alternative Christmas message.

2007

**Celebrity Big Brother** Ofcom rules that Channel 4 must broadcast their adjudication on the race row, at the beginning of two shows.

2007

**Diana: The Witnesses in the Tunnel.** Clarence House object to broadcast of the documentary and photographs that appeared in it.

# CHANNEL 4 OPENING NIGHT – TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 1982

## 4.45pm, COUNTDOWN 3.7m

Richard Whiteley hosts this fast-moving crossword quiz game, with this week's resident wordsmith, Ted Mould.

## 5.15pm, PREVIEW 2.7m

Looking ahead to the new channel's programmes with all four C4 announcers: Paul Coia, Keith Harrison, Olga Hubicka and David Stranks.

## 5.30pm, THE BODY SHOW 2.1m

Yvonne Ocampo introduces the first of a series showing how everyone can enjoy keeping fit to music with the exercises that dancers use.

## 6pm, PEOPLE'S COURT 1.5m

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.

## 6.30pm, BOOK FOUR 1m

The channel's new book programme considers writing about war featuring Len Deighton (in a rare TV interview), William Boyd and Fay Weldon.

## 7pm, CHANNEL 4 NEWS 1.2m

Britain's first hour-long nightly news programme is launched by ITN with Peter Sissons, Sarah Hogg, Godfrey Hodgson and Trevor McDonald.

## 8pm, BROOKSIDE 2.8m

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...

## 8.30pm, THE PAUL HOGAN SHOW 3.5m

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'.

## 9pm, FILM ON FOUR: WALTER 3.7m

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.

## 10.15pm, THE COMIC STRIP PRESENTS...FIVE GO MAD IN DORSET 3.4m

Those famous brats have a ripping time on their summer hols in this hilarious spoof from the Comic Strip team.

## 10.45pm, THE RAVING BEAUTIES' IN THE PINK 1m

Anna Carteret, Sue Jones-Davies and Fanny Viner (The Raving Beauties) in a witty, provocative revue celebrating women's lives.

## 11.45pm, CLOSE

# 25 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 nine-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 Christmas 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.



### 1994 cont

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 nine million at climax of body-under-the-patio storyline... launch of new teen soap **Hollyoaks**... Michael Grade labelled 'Pornographer in Chief' by *The 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 UpFilms - 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: **The 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, 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... 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, 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, Kumbh Mela, Teachers, The West Wing**

FILMS: **Sexy Beast**

## 2002

Mark Thompson joins channel as fourth Chief Executive in March 2002 ... E4 becomes UK's most-watched multi-channel service for 10 weeks of Big Brother III... Management tables a proposal to fold film-making arm, FilmFour Ltd, back into Channel 4 and reduce the channel's film investment...

PROGRAMMES: **The Book Group, Death, Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights, Shackleton, Six Feet Under, The Trust, V Graham Norton, White Teeth**

## 2003

Communications Act and creation of OFCOM... Kevin Lygo joins as Director of Television, replacing Tim Gardam... Tony Blair decides to take the country to war in Iraq – Channel 4 News' coverage of Iraq honoured in the RTS journalism awards and the international Emmy awards... Vanni Treves departs as Chairman to be replaced by Luke Johnson.

PROGRAMMES: **Bo' Selecta!, The Deal, Death of a Klinghoffer, How Clean Is Your House, Operatunity, Second Generation, That'll Teach Them, Wife Swap**

## 2004

Andy Duncan joins as Channel 4's fifth Chief Executive... Channel 4 calls a halt to merger negotiations with Five.

PROGRAMMES: **The Boy Whose Skin Fell Off, Brat Camp, Death in Gaza, Green Wing, Hamburg Cell, Musicality, Omagh, Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares, Sex Traffic, Shameless, Touching The Void**

FILMS: **The Motorcycle Diaries**

## 2005

More4 launches... E4 goes free to air... Channel 4's share of audience hits an all-time high of just over 23%, on the last day of the summer's fifth and final test against Australia... Channel 4 wins as many Baftas as all of the broadcasters put together



## 2005 cont

PROGRAMMES: **A Very Social Secretary, The Ashes, Born to Be Different, Cocaine, Gordon Ramsay's F Word, The Government Inspector, Jamie's School Dinners, Peep Show, The Queen's Sister, Torture Season, The Unteachables, Yasmin**

## 2006

FilmFour goes free to air... Channel 4 Radio launches via channel4radio.com... Channel 4 wins Channel of The Year at Edinburgh TV Festival and Broadcast awards... Channel 4 launches 4oD making it the first UK broadcaster to make all its home-grown programming available on-demand...

PROGRAMMES: **Ballet Changed My Life: Ballet Hoo!, Bradford Riots, Charlotte Church Show, Death of a President, Dispatches: Undercover Copper, Friday Night Project, How Music Works, Longford, The Road to Guantanamo, Star Stories**

FILMS: **The Last King of Scotland, This Is England**

## 2007

4 Digital Group awarded the licence to operate the UK's second national commercial DAB multiplex by OFCOM... The Celebrity Big Brother racism row hit the headlines around the world... C4+1 and Channel 4 HD launch...The Last King of Scotland wins an Oscar.

PROGRAMMES: **Animal Farm, Clapham Junction, Diana: The Witnesses in the Tunnel, Dispatches: Undercover Mosque, Dumped, Empire's Children, The Human Footprint, The Iraq Commission, It's a Free World..., Lie of the Land, The Rise and Fall of Tony Blair, Secret Life, Seven Sins of England, Skins, Ugly Betty, Wedding Belles**

FILMS: **And When Did You Last See Your Father?, Brick Lane**

# TALENTSPOTTING

## 25 YEARS OF TALENT ON CHANNEL 4 (A-Z)

### A

Samira Ahmed (**More4 News, Channel 4 News**); Fiona Allen (**Smack the Pony**); Keith Allen (**Comic Strip, Whatever You Want**); Kirstie Allsopp (**Location, Location, Location**) Simon Amstell (**Popworld**) Clive Anderson (**Whose Line Is It Anyway?**)

### B

Zeinab Badawi (**Channel 4 News**); Bill Bailey (**Black Books**); Zoe Ball (**The Priory**); Sasha Baron-Cohen (**Da Ali G Show/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**); Russell Brand (**Big Brother's Big Mouth, Russell Brand's Got Issues**) Ewan Bremner (**Trainspotting, The Secret Life of Michael Fry**); Rory Bremner (**Rory Bremner Who Else?**); Derren Brown (**Mind Control, Trick of The Mind**) Adam Buxton (**Takeover TV/The Adam and Joe Show**)

### C

James McAvoy (**Shameless, The Last King of Scotland**) Antoine de Caunes (**Eurotrash**); Kevin McCloud (**Grand Designs, RIBA Stirling Prize**); John McCririck (**Channel 4 Racing**) Julian Clary (**Saturday Live**); Terry Christian (**The Word**); Lucy Cohu (**The Queen's Sister, Forgiven**); Steve Coogan (**Saturday Zoo**); Robbie Coltrane (**The Comic Strip Presents...**); Joe Cornish (**Takeover TV/Adam and Joe Show**); Jimmy Carr (**8 out of 10 Cats**); Alan Carr (**The Friday Night Project**); Justin Lee-Collins (**The Friday Night Project**)

### D

Daniel Day-Lewis (**My Beautiful Launderette**); Jack Dee (**The Jack Dee Show**); Anne-Marie Duff (**Shameless**) Lindsay Duncan (**GBH**)

### E

Adrian Edmondson (**Comic Strip Presents...**); Harry Enfield (**Saturday Live**); Chris Evans (**The 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**); Jo Frost (**Supernanny**); Nick Frost (**Spaced**) Stephen Fry (**Saturday Live**)

### G

Jean-Paul Gaultier (**Eurotrash**); Michelle Gomez (**The Book Group, Wedding Belles**); Howard Goodall (**How Music Works**); Hugh Grant (**Four Weddings and a Funeral**); Muriel Gray (**The Tube, The Media Show**); Tamsin Greig (**Green Wing, Black Books**); Krishnan Guru-Murthy (**Channel 4 News**); Ricky Gervais (**The 11 O'Clock Show**)

### H

Tom Harvey (**Cape Wrath**); Nigel Hawthorne (**The Madness of King George**); Douglas Henshall (**Kid in the Corner, Psychos**); Harry Hill (**The Harry Hill Show**); Ian Hislop (**The Canterbury Tales**); Jools Holland (**The Tube**); Nicholas Hoult (**Skins**); Darcus Howe (**Devil's Advocate, White Tribe**); Sean Hughes (**Sean's Show**); Simon Hughes (**Test Match Cricket**); Bettany Hughes (**Athens**)

### 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**).

## K

Peter Kay (**Phoenix Nights**); Vernon Kay (**T4**); Gerard Kearns (**Shameless, Mark of Cain**)

## L

Mark Lamarr (**The Word, Big Breakfast**); Hugh Laurie (**Saturday Live**); Josie Lawrence (**Whose Line Is It Anyway**); Nigella Lawson (**Nigella Bites**); Robert Lindsay (**GBH, Jake's Progress, The Trial of Tony Blair**); Cheri Lunghi (**The Manageress**)

## M

Trevor MacDonald (**Channel 4 News**); Doon Mackichan (**Smack the Pony, Brass Eye**); Richard Madeley (**Richard & Judy**); Stephen Mangan (**Green Wing**); Rik Mayall (**Comic Strip**); Ray McAnally (**A Very British Coup**); Davina McCall (**Streetmate, Big Brother**); Kevin McCloud (**Grand Designs**); Sheena McDonald (**Channel 4 News, Right to Reply**); Rory McGrath (**Who Dares Wins**); Ewan McGregor (**Lipstick on Your Collar, Trainspotting, Shallow Grave**); Mike McShane (**Whose Line Is It Anyway, S&M**); Paul Merton (**Whose Line Is It Anyway**); David Mitchell (**Peep Show**); 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**); Jamie Oliver (**Jamie's School Dinners, Jamie's Chefs, Jamie at Home**); Miquita Oliver (**Popworld**)

## P

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

## R

Mark Radcliffe (**The White Room**); Gordon Ramsay (**Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares, Gordon Ramsay's F Word**); Andrew Rawnsley (**A Week in Politics**); Dermot Reeve (**Test Cricket**); Vic Reeves (**Vic Reeves' Big Night Out**); Julian Rhind-Tutt (**Green Wing**); Anneka Rice (**Treasure Hunt**); Ian Richardson (**Porterhouse Blue**); James Richardson (**Football Italia**); Tony Robinson (**Time Team, Me and My Mum, Codex**); 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**); June Sarpong (**T4**); Lily Savage (**Big Breakfast**); Alexei Sayle (**Comic Strip**); John Sessions (**Whose Line Is It Anyway, Porterhouse Blue**); Peter Sissons (**Channel 4 News**); Tony Slattery (**Whose Line Is It Anyway, S&M**); Jon Snow (**Channel 4 News**); Phil Spencer (**Location, Location, Location**); 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); Gok Wan (How to Look Good Naked); Ruby Wax (Don't Miss Wax); Robert Webb (Peep Show) Jo Whiley (Jo Whiley); Richard Whiteley (Countdown); Paul Whitehouse (Saturday Live)

**Y**

Paula Yates (The Tube, Big Breakfast)

**Z**

Alex Zane (Popworld)

# TOP 50 PROGRAMMES ON CHANNEL 4 1982 – 2007

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. **Friends, 2004** 28/05/2004, 9.6 million, Warner Bros
6. **Big Brother Final 2000** 15/09/2000, 9.45 million, Endemol UK
7. **Nuns on the Run** 18/04/1993, 9.2 million, Paragon International
8. **Big Brother 2004** 06/08/2004, 8.9 million, Endemol UK
9. **The Price** 14/2/85 & 17/2/85, 8.9 million, Astramead
10. **Celebrity Big Brother** 19/01/2007, 8.8 million, Endemol UK
11. **Cutting Edge: P. Company** 23/03/1992 & 27/03/1992, 8.65 million, MBC
12. **Relative Strangers** 14/01/1985, 8.65 million, Phillipa Walker Productions
13. **The Miracle of Kathy Miller** 21/04/1987, 8.3 million, MCA TV
14. **Brookside** 3/11/93 & 10/11/93, 8.3 million, Mersey TV
15. **International Snooker** 16/12/1984, 8.25 million, ITV
16. **Hold the Dream** 05/05/1987, 8.1 million, Portman Productions
17. **Big Brother Final 2001** 27/07/2001, 8 million, Endemol UK
18. **Coast of Dreams** 17/2/92 & 21/2/92, 7.9 million, Touch Productions
19. **Treasure Hunt** 17/03/1988, 7.85 million, Chatsworth Television
20. **Inspector Morse** 21/10/1991, 7.8 million, Central Productions
21. **Cutting Edge: Shops and Robbers** 14/02/1994, 7.8 million, Insight TV
22. **The Camomile Lawn** 05/03/1992, 7.6 million, Zed TV
23. **Peter Kay Live** 04/08/2004, 7.2 million, Ovation Entertainment Ltd
24. **Cutting Edge: A Is for Accident** 13/02/1995, 7.2 million, Uden Associates
25. **Female Parts** 11/05/1992, 7.1 million, Glass Pictures
26. **Wife Swap** 21/10/2003, 6.9 million, RDF Media Ltd
27. **Cutting Edge: Navy Blues** 12/12/1993, 6.9 million, Twenty Twenty
28. **Lost** 10/08/2005, 6.75 million, ABC
29. **Wish You Were Here** 15/02/1990, 6.7 million, Zenith
30. **Castaway** 26/11/1990, 6.6 million, Cannon Screen Entertainment
31. **Cutting Edge: Casualties** 25/11/1991, 6.6 million, Double Exposure
32. **Secret History: The Roswell Incident** 28/08/1995, 6.6m, Union Pictures
33. **Bridget Jones' Diary** 13/11/2004, 6.5 million, Universal Pictures Ltd
34. **Friends** 11/12/1998, 6.5 million, Warner Bros
35. **Celebrity Wife Swap** 11/11/2003, 6.4 million
36. **Auf Wiedersehen, Pet** 11/03/1995, 6.4 million, Carlton Television
37. **Supernanny** 14/7/2004, 6 million, Ricochet
38. **GBH** 06/06/1991, 6 million, GBH Films
39. **The Cosby Show** 24/11/1991, 5.9 million, Viacom International
40. **Grand Designs** 03/03/2004, 5.9 million, Talkback Productions Ltd
41. **Crystal Maze – Kids Special** 27/12/1992, 5.9 million, Chatsworth Television
42. **Rita, Sue and Bob Too** 10/05/1990, 5.8m, Oscar Lewenstein Productions
43. **Gulliver's Travels** 07/04/1996, 5.8 million, Jim Henson Productions
44. **Falklands War** 03/02/1992, 5.7 million, Fine Art Productions
45. **Real Holiday Show** 22/03/1995, 5.7 million, Chapter One
46. **Notting Hill** 01/09/2002, 5.7 million, Polygram Filmed Entertainment
47. **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares** 11/05/2004, 5.6 million, Optomen Television Ltd
48. **Rising Damp** 13/06/1991, 5.6 million, Polygram Filmed Entertainment
49. **Lipstick on Your Collar** 21/02/1993, 5.6m, Whistling Gypsy Productions
50. **Riverdance** 31/12/1995, 5.6 million, RTE

## CHANNEL 4 HISTORICAL DATA 1983 –2001

Year	Channel 4 Audience Share %	Portfolio Share %	Programming Spend £m	Turnover £m	Staff Numbers
1983	4.4	N/A	65	84	N/A
1984	5.8	N/A	92	106	N/A
1985	7.4	N/A	98	113	N/A
1986	7.9	N/A	100	132	N/A
1987	8.5	N/A	113	141	291
1988	8.9	N/A	138	171	323
1989	8.8	N/A	162	192	353
1990*	9.0	N/A	184	227.5	402
1990	-	N/A	149	188	428
1991	9.6	N/A	184	268	458
1992	10.1	N/A	184	267	516
1993	11.0	N/A	184	344	522
1994	10.7	N/A	210	408	535
1995	10.9	N/A	250	464	531
1996	10.7	N/A	293.5	519	560
1997	10.6	N/A	336	553	606
1998	10.3	N/A	362	590.5	723
1999	10.3	N/A	396	642	769
2000	10.5	N/A	410	716	934
2001	10.0	10.3	425	731	1,081
2002	10.0	10.8	435	763	997
2003	9.6	10.4	457.5	769.6	868
2004	9.8	10.5	485.5	841.4	884
2005	9.7	11.0	499.3	894.3	889
2006	9.8	12.1	515.7	936.9	917

•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 31 December.

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

# CHANNEL 4 IN 2007

**CHANNEL 4 TELEVISION CORPORATION** is a statutory corporation, without shareholders, established by the Broadcasting Act 1990. Its remit requires the provision of a broad range of high quality and diverse programmes which:

- Demonstrate innovation, experiment, creativity in form and content
- Appeal to the tastes and interests of a culturally diverse society.
- Include programmes of an educational nature.
- Exhibit a distinctive character.

The corporation is controlled through its board of members, whose chairman is appointed by Ofcom. The board's duty is to ensure that Channel 4's responsibilities are discharged in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Channel 4 is a public service broadcaster funded solely from commercial revenues. It receives free spectrum in return for fulfilling its public service obligations as set out in the 1990 and 1996 Broadcasting Acts and its licence, issued by Ofcom, which was last updated in December 2004.

**Channel 4** is the core public service channel available on the UK's main digital broadcast platforms. The channel's licence obligations include annual quotas on original, independent and regional production and weekly quotas governing news and current affairs and schools programmes. Year-to-date in 2007, Channel 4 has a 9% share of the total TV audience.

In addition, the group pursues various commercial activities which are incidental and conducive to the operation of Channel 4. These include:

**E4** A digital entertainment channel that is consistently the UK's most popular multi-channel service with younger viewers.

**MORE4** A digital channel specialising in factual programming and drama.

**FILM4** A digital film channel that has established itself as the UK's most popular film channel since relaunching as a free-to-air service in 2006.

All Channel 4's digital channels are distributed on the UK's main digital TV platforms. Channel 4 offers time-shifted +1 services of all its TV channels and is due to launch a HD simulcast of its core schedule in 2007.

**4OD** Channel 4 offers a free catch-up service for its commissioned output and some acquired programmes via on-demand service, 4oD, which is accessible to broadband users via channel4.com and to Virgin Media subscribers.

**CHANNEL 4 RADIO** Led a successful bid to run the UK's second national commercial DAB multiplex and will launch three new national radio stations – E4 Radio, Channel 4 Radio, Pure4 – from July 2008 onwards.

**Channel 4** also operates a number of ancillary businesses including: programme distribution; DVD sales; internet advertising; post-production and creative design.



# 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 – The JAM
- The Lion Sleeps Tonight – TIGHT FIT
- Seven Tears – GOOMBAY DANCE BAND
- Ebony and 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 – The 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.