



THE ROBINSONS

From the creators of *The Worst Week Of My Life* comes a brand-new comedy series starring Martin Freeman and Hugh Bonneville.

The Robinsons aren't related to any of the famous Robinsons: Sugar Ray, Edward G. Smokey or even Anne. No, they're a bog standard, run-of-the-mill family from Wimbledon, South London who have "done quite well".

All of them, that is, except the youngest, Ed (the black sheep of the family), who is 32, recently divorced after a disastrous marriage that lasted five-and-a-half months, doing a job that he hates and living in his aunt's housing association flat in Bermondsey. What's gone wrong in his life? I mean, how difficult is it to find a girlfriend, a decent job, a good dry cleaners and the Meaning of Life?

Ed finds himself constantly imagining Robinsons from previous generations to whom he does not always measure up.

Anna Massey, Abigail Cruttenden and Amanda Root also star.

KC2

KATH & KIM

The hit Australian comedy series *Kath & Kim* comes to BBC Two.

Kath Day is a forty-something single woman who likes to keep herself trim, and cleanses and tones of an evening. She's proud of her townhouse and considers herself high maintenance.

Her daughter Kim is a pouting princess whose glass of Bailey's Irish Cream is always half empty rather than half full, and who believes she's a hornbag* in anyone's language. She's separated from her husband of two months and is consoling herself by stuffing her face.

With Kath's new fiancé, Kel, Kim's second-best friend, Sharon, and her estranged husband Brett, they love to make mountains out of molehills.

[*In our language, that's a foxy chick! – Ed]

KH



IN SEARCH OF MYTHS AND HEROES

Michael Wood goes in search of four of the most famous myths in the world: the legend of Shangri-la, Jason and the Golden Fleece, the Queen of Sheba and King Arthur and the Holy Grail.

These four romantic journeys take him to some of the remotest and most exciting places on earth including Western Tibet, the plains of Southern Iraq, and the Horn of Africa. Here he seeks out not only the historic past and literal truth, but also the mythic spirit of these legends which still captivate us today.

JA/RI

CATHEDRAL

Britain's cathedrals rank amongst the world's finest buildings. More than just architectural masterpieces, they have provided the backdrop and focus to the nation's belief. Cathedral tells their story, revealing the faith behind the foundations.

Beneath the breathtaking beauty and engineering ingenuity of these buildings lie some dramatic stories of riot, fire, war – and even cold-blooded murder. This five-part series recreates these key moments in the buildings' extraordinary history.

With dramatic reconstruction and CGI, the programme focuses on some of Britain's best-loved cathedrals – Canterbury, York, Lincoln, Edinburgh and Winchester – and shows how the buildings, the locations and the nation itself were shaped by faith. It also explains how the buildings were built and rebuilt, and unravels the mysteries of how political, design and engineering obstacles were overcome.

DC



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 TREASURES

From the Taj Mahal to the Kremlin, through to the Parthenon and the Great Wall of China, historian and TV presenter Dan Cruickshank has been set a monumental challenge – to journey non-stop across the globe in search of the most significant man-made treasures on the planet.

In this major new series, Cruickshank charts the rise and fall of many of the world's greatest civilisations to create a unique picture of humankind through history. Travelling in an epic round-the-world trip to 44 countries in just five months, he risks life and limb to reach and re-evaluate some of our most remote and revered treasures. Around The World In 80 Treasures celebrates the world as a diverse treasure house of art and ancient artefacts.

KA





JERRY SPRINGER – THE OPERA

From TV to the theatre and back to TV again, the talk show phenomenon that was turned into a hit stage show comes to BBC Two. Written by Stewart Lee and Richard Thomas, the outrageous musical-comedy-opera hybrid that is *Jerry Springer - The Opera* made theatre history by winning all possible theatre awards for Best Musical including *The Olivier Awards* and *The Critics' Circle Theatre Awards*.

Filmed in the West End's Cambridge Theatre it stars David Soul (*Starsky & Hutch*) as Jerry Springer, America's favourite talk show host who suffers the worst day in his career when faced with trailer trash, transsexuals, nappy wearers and a tap-dancing troupe of Ku Klux Klansmen.

KA

ARENA – FRANCIS BACON

Francis Bacon's notorious penchant for alcohol, his addiction to roulette and chaotic private life made him a scandalously decadent figure. But in his lifetime he created some of the greatest paintings in the history of Western art. His complex and disturbing canvases are instantly recognisable, and enormously valuable. Yet Bacon, born in Ireland, only began painting in his late thirties after a career as a furniture designer.

BBC Arena is the only broadcaster, since Bacon's death in 1992, to be granted exclusive permission to make a film about his life. With unlimited access to Bacon's work and previously unseen archive footage, this is a definitive account of a true genius.

IC

THE CULTURE SHOW

Covering everything and anything – from architecture to art house cinema, computer games to choreography, and shock resignations to startlingly original works of art – *The Culture Show* returns for a second season of arts and culture news.

Lively, fast-moving and authoritative, *The Culture Show* features some of the UK's most passionate and outspoken voices and offers a range of views, interviews and breaking news from the worlds of high art, popular culture and everything else in between. Brought to viewers from a different city or venue every week, *The Culture Show* explores the range and diversity of arts across the country.

IC



HORIZON – EINSTEIN

Continuing its 40th anniversary season, *Horizon* celebrates the centenary of Einstein's Theory of Relativity with a two-part documentary which looks at the life and work of the legendary genius.

Albert Einstein cemented his reputation as one of the greatest thinkers of all time in 1905, the year he published his work on relativity. Other work completed during 1905 would ultimately develop into quantum mechanics and the natural law (the $e=mc^2$ formula) which would make the atomic bomb possible.

Using dramatic reconstruction *Horizon* examines both Einstein's triumphs and how he subsequently became alienated by the scientific community in his futile pursuit of a Theory of Everything.

Other topics covered in the season include the truth about MMR and Neanderthal man.

KC

TORTURE – THE CRUEL SCIENCE

Torture – The Cruel Science charts the rise of modern torture, examining the people, science and even artistry behind the cruelty. It examines governments' changing attitude to the use of torture and looks at the shifts in public attitudes towards such state-sanctioned activity.

The art of the interrogator has never been more in demand. In today's age of terrorism, extracting information from the enemy can be more important than flexing military might. The attacks of 9/11 triggered the subsequent capture, confinement and interrogation of thousands of terrorist suspects in Afghanistan, Guantanamo and Iraq. Torture – The Cruel Science examines how the lessons of the last 50 years have been put to use in the hunt for Al-Qaeda, and how Western democracies such as America have redefined their approach to interrogation and torture.

KR

COCKERELL ON HOWARD

Tory Leader Michael Howard is the subject of Michael Cockerell's latest TV portrait.

Cockerell has gained behind-the-scenes access to Howard, who has, previously, been notably camera-shy. Both Howard and his wife, the former fashion model Sandra Paul, are filmed at work and play and they talk candidly about their lives.

Michael Howard's is a remarkable political and personal journey. The son of Jewish political refugees from Hitler's Europe, he was born in Wales and from grammar school in the Valleys rose to join the "Cambridge Mafia" of future Tory Cabinet Ministers. Despite the memorable "something of the night" tag, Howard was chosen Tory leader by acclamation last year. However, opinion polls suggest that he faces an extremely tough challenge in ousting Tony Blair.

PR



SWEENEY INVESTIGATES

John Sweeney digs deep to find the truth behind people and issues in the news in this new investigative series.

He delves into the secrets of the Kaballah celebrity cult made famous by devotees including Madonna and Demi Moore, and finds disturbing evidence of damaged lives and battered bank balances.

Red Caps Down examines the deaths of six British Military Police in Al Majar last year. Sweeney raises new questions about the competence of the investigation and the state of the British Army.

Sweeney also investigates the secretive world of Roman Abramovich, owner of Chelsea Football Club. In 1995 he was a 29-year-old oil trader in Moscow. Nine years later he is the richest man in Britain, the richest man in Russia and the 22nd richest man in the world.

KR

