

THE STORY OF GOD

Professor Robert Winston presents a definitive documentary series on the history of mankind's quest to understand the nature of God.

The Story Of God is a marathon journey across continents, cultures and eras exploring religious beliefs from their earliest incarnations, through to the development of today's major world religions and the status of religious faith in a scientific age.

As a man of science and of faith, and as a rationalist and believer, Lord Winston leads viewers on a personal journey as he seeks out the story of God. Travelling extensively across the globe from Iran to Rome, Egypt to Jerusalem and from Saudi Arabia to America, he visits some breathtaking places in his bid to uncover the building blocks of faith.

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DID YOU KNOW..?

Seven people in every thousand in England and Wales gave their religion as "Jedi" in the 2001 Census. A campaign on the internet claimed – wrongly – that Jedi, the belief system at the heart of the *Star Wars* films, would receive official government recognition as a religion if enough people quoted it on their Census forms.

According to a survey conducted by BBC One's *Heaven And Earth Show* in 2001, almost half (46 per cent) of the population believe that the Bible has the most positive influence on people of any publication and three in ten people (29 per cent) think this of the Highway Code.

In 2004, another survey for the BBC programme *What The World Thinks Of God* found that more than a quarter of Britons thought the world would be more peaceful with nobody believing in God, but very few people in other countries agreed.

The Census also showed that more than seven out of 10 people said that their religion was Christianity. After Christianity, Islam was the most common faith with nearly three per cent describing their religion as Muslim (1.6 million). Overall, 15 per cent of the British population reported having no religion.

In 2000, the BBC commissioned the largest-ever survey on beliefs and attitudes for the *Soul Of Britain* series and found that only 26 per cent of us now believe in a personal God. On the other hand, 69 per cent think we have a soul, and 25 per cent believe in reincarnation.

MESSIAH

Red Metcalf and his team are up against time when a suspected serial killer embarks on a gruesome murder spree in this gripping series of *Messiah*.

As the body count continues to rise, Red becomes increasingly agitated as the killer tantalisingly remains one step ahead. His desperate quest to unravel the clues left at each scene leave him frustrated and despairing as each murder becomes ever more horrific.

Ken Stott is Red Metcalf and Neil Dudgeon, Maxine Peake, Helen McCrory and Hugo Speer co-star.

UM



SPOOKS

A high-octane two-part feature-length special launches the return of critically acclaimed Bafta, RTS and TRIC award-winning *Spooks* for a new season this autumn on BBC One.

MI5's crack team of spies was left reeling after the shocking death of Danny at the hands of hostage-takers as the last series concluded. Now Adam (Rupert Penry-Jones), Harry (Peter Firth), Ruth (Nicola Walker), Fiona (Olga Sosnovska) and rising star Zafar (Raza Jaffrey) set out to become even stronger in their battle to safeguard the nation.

The fourth series opens with an action-packed special which leaves MI5 with only 48 hours to prevent a catastrophe. Adam faces one of the most difficult choices of his career: in order to save a hospital from devastation, will he be forced to let a brave and innocent young woman die?

The special, directed by Antonia Bird, introduces Anna Chancellor as Juliet Shaw, National Security Co-ordinator and Harry's nemesis – and also a figure from his past; and also guest stars Martine McCutcheon in her first UK TV role since leaving *EastEnders*. Guest artists starring in the series include Rupert Graves, Jimi Mistry, George Baker and David Threlfall, and there are return appearances from Hugh Simon and Rory Macgregor.

JP





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AT 12.59AM ON BOXING DAY 2004, A MASSIVE DEEP-SEAQUAKE STRUCK JUST OFF THE COAST OF INDONESIA, SPARKING A TIDAL WAVE OF MONSTROUS PROPORTIONS. WITHIN SEVEN HOURS, THE TSUNAMI HAD BATTERED INDONESIA, THAILAND, SRI LANKA, INDIA AND THE MALDIVES, BEFORE FINALLY WORKING OUT ITS MOMENTUM IN EAST AFRICA. OVER 220,000 PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES AND THE WORLD WAS CHANGED FOR EVER.

7 HOURS ON BOXING DAY

7 Hours On Boxing Day marks the first anniversary of the tsunami and tells the most compelling human stories in the countries worst affected. These inspiring and heartbreaking accounts are combined with footage of the wave itself, a disturbing testimony to the ferocious and awesome power of nature.

JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF THE TSUNAMI

In an attempt to understand the devastating wave that shocked the world on Boxing Day 2004, *Journey To The Heart Of The Tsunami* accompanies an expedition of top scientists as they explore the seabed site of the catastrophe.

Sending cameras deep into the abyss to witness first hand the collision between the Earth's crustal plates, the film not only provides dramatic footage of the epicentre that triggered the tsunami, but also reports on the scientific research gathered at the site. These findings will be hugely beneficial to the understanding of such phenomena and could even help provide accurate warnings of when and where the next tsunami may hit.

KC

LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH

Just when you thought there was no more of the natural world left to film, Sir David Attenborough returns to TV screens in a landmark new series revealing that he has yet to film most of the animals in the world.

Although they are all around, these creatures' lives often go virtually unnoticed. Now, using the latest technology, BBC One takes viewers into their world to discover the amazing stories of the most successful creatures on Earth: the invertebrates. Cameras capture not just bugs, beetles, spiders and scorpions, but also the most amazing butterflies, dragonflies and a host of incredible creatures never before seen on television.

The invertebrate world is one of magnificent spectacles. David takes viewers to Taiwan to see swarming purple Crow

butterflies, to Africa to witness an army of Matabele ants raid a termite colony, and to North America in time for the great emergence of 17 year cicadas. It's a series of incredible colour and beauty such as iridescent butterflies and rainbow spider webs.

Just over 400 million years ago, creatures left the seas to move on to what was then a barren and lifeless land. Since that first foothold, the invertebrates have dominated every part of the Earth and the air with their numbers and diversity. For every human, there are 200 million of them. Night vision cameras, thermal cameras and tiny lenses allow Attenborough to investigate behaviour that is normally invisible to the human eye and reveal breathtaking stories, many of which are new to science.

Life In The Undergrowth has been a passionate project for Sir David Attenborough and a series that he has wanted to make for a long time: "The tiny creatures of the undergrowth were the first creatures of any kind to colonise the land.

They established the foundations of the land's ecosystems and were able to transcend the limitations of their small size by banding together in huge communities of millions. If we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well. But if the invertebrates were to disappear, the land's ecosystems would collapse.

Wherever we go on land, these small creatures are within a few inches of our feet – often disregarded. We would do very well to remember them."

Invertebrates have always dominated "our" world. Now, for the first time, we can enter theirs.

DC

BBC ONE IS CRAWLING WITH INSIGHTS INTO INSECTS THIS AUTUMN – HERE ARE SOME BIG FACTS ABOUT TINY CREATURES....

ABOUT 35,000 SPECIES OF SPIDERS ARE KNOWN AND MORE ARE BEING DISCOVERED EVERY DAY

THE SMALLEST FLYING INSECT IS THE FAIRY WASP WITH A LENGTH OF ONLY 0.2MM. IT FLIES UNDERWATER, AS THE SERIES WILL SHOW

DRAGONFLIES ARE THE FASTEST FLYING INSECT IN THE WORLD, ATTAINING SPEEDS OF UP TO 36MPH – NO WONDER THEY WERE SO DIFFICULT TO FILM!

IN AN OLD FIELD IN SOUTH WALES, RESEARCHERS RECENTLY FOUND APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION SPIDERS PER ACRE (2.5 MILLION PER HECTARE)

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SPIDER IS THE GOLIATH BIRD-EATING SPIDER WITH A BODY LENGTH OF 3.5 INCHES, A LEG SPAN OF 11 INCHES, FANGS MEASURING ONE INCH LONG AND A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 4.3OZ

THE LARGEST BEETLE IS NOW KNOWN TO BE THE TITAN BEETLE FROM THE AMAZON BASIN. IT IS UP TO 7 INCHES (18 CM) LONG AND WILL APPEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME ON TELEVISION IN THIS SERIES

FOR EVERY POUND OF PEOPLE ON EARTH THERE ARE 300 POUNDS OF INSECTS

TERMITES INVENTED AIR CONDITIONING FOR THEIR MOUNDS MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO. *LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH* GOES INSIDE A MOUND TO SEE HOW IT WORKS



STRICTLY COME DANCING

The glitz and glamour of the ballroom is back this autumn as *Strictly Come Dancing* returns to Saturday nights on BBC One.

With two more couples than the second series, 12 new celebrity dancers will compete against each other over the weeks in a range of ballroom styles – from the waltz to the foxtrot, and the jive to the rumba.

Each celebrity is paired with a professional dance partner who puts them through their paces during daily rehearsals and prepares them for a live Saturday-night performance. Each week, the couples face both a vote by the panel of expert judges and by the general public, with the lowest-scoring couple knocked out of the competition.

Strictly Come Dancing has won a number of awards including *Broadcast* award for Best New Programme; TRIC award for TV Entertainment Programme; RTS award for Entertainment programme; Broadcasting Press Guild Awards for Best Entertainment programme and Best Performer for Bruce Forsyth; and a Festival Rose d'Or award for Variety programme.

Following its success on BBC One, the format for *Strictly Come Dancing* has been a hit across the world, from Austria to Australia, and from Russia to the USA – 11 countries in total.

In the United States, the ABC version of the show – *Dancing With The Stars* – has topped the Wednesday-night ratings with over 13 million viewers tuning into the first show. The Australian version for Channel 7 was one of the most successful shows for the channel in its history.

JM

CHILDREN IN NEED

Broadcasting live from Television Centre, the BBC Children In Need appeal once again entertains the nation. After a hugely successful 25th birthday in 2004, raising a total, to date, of over £35m, it's time to look to the future.

Some new faces are set to join in the evening when stars of stage and screen gather to perform their most spectacular musical hits, or perhaps reveal their hidden talents. BBC Local Radio and Television also join in the fun on the night with star-studded events in the regions.

Every single penny donated to the charity goes directly to an organisation that helps children in the UK – none is ever used for other costs.

GM

CARRIE & BARRY

Neil Morrissey, Claire Rushbrook, Mark Williams and Michelle Gomez star in Simon Nye's comedy *Carrie & Barry*, which returns for a brand-new series this autumn.

It's a time of great change: Barry has lost his taxi licence, which throws the cat among the pigeons as he sets out to find another source of income and generally reinvent himself while keeping his spirits up. Meanwhile, Carrie discovers that she is adopted and decides to track down her real mother. Barry's daughter, Sinead, becomes a traffic warden and has a whirlwind romance with a man Barry hates. Adrian, now Sinead's fiancé, is Barry's new tenant...

AN

BLEAK HOUSE

Gillian Anderson, Denis Lawson, Charles Dance, Alistair McGowan, Pauline Collins and Johnny Vegas lead a star cast in a groundbreaking adaptation of Dickens's *Bleak House* written by Andrew Davies.

The skilfully crafted thriller and passionate indictment of the legal system is one of Dickens's most celebrated achievements. Dickens wrote *Bleak House* as a monthly serial for popular consumption, complete with cliff-hanger endings that left his audience fervent for the next instalment.

Davies's adaptation is told in a series of half-hour episodes to be shown twice weekly using the pace, multiple storylines and cliff-hanger endings more usually associated with popular drama. This never-been-done-before adaptation of a timeless tale gives a fuller rendering of the book that is not normally achievable in a classic adaptation.

The story revolves around orphan Esther Summerson (Anna Maxwell Martin), companion to Ada and Richard, the Jarndyce wards of court, whose connection to the aloof yet beautiful Lady Dedlock (Gillian Anderson) may bring ruin to both her and Jarndyce (Denis Lawson).

Charles Dance is the merciless lawyer Tulkinghorn, who seeks to uncover Lady Dedlock's, dark secret. Johnny Vegas plays Krook, the drunken, sly shop owner/landlord; Alistair McGowan plays Jarndyce's lawyer, Kenge; and Timothy West is Sir Leicester Dedlock. Alun Armstrong, Hugo Speers, Liza Tarbuck, Charlie Brooks, Matthew Kelly, Richard Harrington, Nathaniel Parker, Warren Clarke, Anne Reid, Richard Griffiths, Phil Davis and rising stars Carey Mulligan and Patrick Kennedy also star.

CP/MO

