



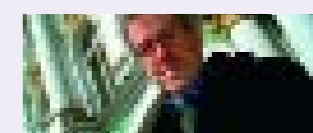
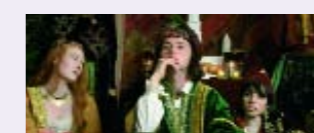
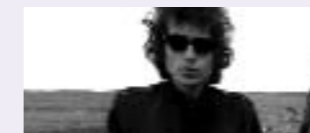
BBC
TWO

AUTUMN 2005 HIGHLIGHTS





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ARENA - NO DIRECTION HOME: BOB DYLAN

Bob Dylan, the incomparable singer/songwriter of modern times, and Martin Scorsese, arguably the greatest filmmaker of his generation, unite for these extraordinary films exploring Dylan's formative years when he created the albums that, many agree, changed the world.

Scorsese, a "great fan" of Dylan, directs this documentary featuring major, brand-new interviews with the famously private Dylan alongside contributions from key figures and previously unreleased material.

These unique films are the product of a marriage between two multi-award-winning arts strands – the BBC's *Arena* and PBS' *American Masters* in the US – and are accompanied by a Dylan season on BBC Four.

ROME

ROME IS A SPECTACULAR EPIC DRAMA SERIES FOR BBC TWO WHICH CHRONICLES THE RISE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO FOOT SOLDIERS.

Co-produced with HBO, it's the powerful saga of two ordinary Roman soldiers, Lucius Vorenus and Titus Pullo, who unwittingly become entwined in the historical events of ancient Rome. An intimate drama of love and betrayal, masters and slaves, husbands and wives, it portrays a fascinating and influential period of history: the death of a republic and the birth of an empire. The series begins in 52BC, as Gaius Julius Caesar completes his conquest of Gaul after eight years of war and prepares to return to Rome.

Ciaran Hinds stars as Gaius Julius Caesar; Kevin McKidd as Lucius Vorenus; Ray Stevenson as Titus Pullo; James Purefoy as Mark Antony; Kenneth Cranham as Pompey Magnus; Lindsay Duncan as Servilia; Polly Walker as Atia; Indira Varma as Niobe; Tobias Menzies as Brutus; Kerry Condon as Octavia; and Max Pirkis as Gaius Octavian, who later becomes the first Emperor of Rome.

FP





NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE TEENAGERS

**CAN 12 TEENAGERS AGED BETWEEN
15 AND 17 LIVE WITHOUT SEX FOR
FIVE MONTHS?**

Rachel Gardner and Dan Burke – two Christian youth workers from Harrow in London – believe they can. They have both practised celibacy and think that teenagers would be much happier if they were involved in long-term, serious relationships.

With teenage pregnancy and STD rates in Britain the highest in Europe, this observational documentary gives Rachel and Dan a chance to test their beliefs. The parents agree for their teenagers to be taken from Harrow and challenge them to be abstinent for five months, swapping casual sex for old-fashioned courting rituals.

In regular meetings with Rachel and Dan, the teenagers discuss the effect peer pressure has on them and whether they have sex; whether their abstinence affects other decisions in their lives; and whether the abstinence is worthwhile.

The teenagers also visit their American peers in Florida, who have taken the Silver Ring Pledge, vowing to abstain from sex before marriage.

SB



CHILDREN OF BESLAN

In September 2004, terrorists seized a school in the remote North Ossetian town of Beslan. Fifty-three hours later, the siege ended in gunfire and slaughter. Over 330 people had died, many of them children. Pictures of the children who survived horrified the world.

Now BBC Two, in association with HBO Documentaries, presents the remarkable story of those children who survived and who wish to give their account of the siege. They also recount the desperate weeks that followed, and their thoughts about the politics, religions and the war on terror that have shaped their lives.

Shot on location in the childrens' homes and on the derelict grounds of School Number One, the film is a sensitive exploration of how the children of Beslan have survived.

THE SLAVERY BUSINESS

THE UNTOLD STORY OF BRITISH SLAVERY IS BROUGHT OUT FROM UNDER THE CARPET IN THE SLAVERY BUSINESS, A SEASON REVEALING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE SLAVE TRADE.



SUGAR DYNASTY

On the back of slavery, the Beckfords transformed themselves from an ordinary middle-class family into one of the richest and most flamboyant dynasties in Europe.

This drama-documentary follows their rise through the domination of the Jamaican sugar plantations. It shows how, eventually, in the 18th century, two cousins – William of Fonthill and William of Somerly – inherited the family fortune and then lost it.

Somerly headed for Jamaica to manage plantations, and became famous for writing an incredible guidebook on how to treat slaves – *Remarks About The Island Of Jamaica*. His playboy cousin wrote the first Gothic novel and became embroiled in the era's biggest sex scandal, before bankrupting himself through financial mismanagement and by building Fonthill Abbey – an enormous Gothic recreation to match his excessive personality.

BR/LS

HOW TO MAKE A MILLION FROM SLAVERY

Henry Lascelles was one of the most successful slave traders and sugar merchants of the 18th century, yet his life ended in tragedy. Starring Robert Pugh as Lascelles and Jack Shepherd as government inspector Robert Dinwiddie, this drama exposes an era when human beings were traded like livestock.

In 1744, Lascelles's ambitions were challenged when government inspector Dinwiddie started investigating his financial affairs. The titanic struggle between these hugely ambitious men moved from Barbados to the coffee houses and taverns of London, culminating in a court case.

BR/LS



BREAKING THE CHAINS

Abolitionist William Wilberforce became a national hero for his work in bringing the plight of African slaves to the attention of a shocked British public, yet his role in supporting the continued enslavement of thousands is an untold story.

This drama-documentary tells the story of the 800,000 slaves across the British Empire who were not freed by the Abolition Bill, and of Wilberforce's vociferous argument that they should remain enslaved.

In a tale of greed and morality, Wilberforce eventually changed his mind about the Empire's slaves and became their champion.

BR/LS

SUPERNOVA

AN INVENTIVE NEW COMEDY STARRING ROB BRYDON

As he lands with a jolt on the scorching red earth of the Australian outback, a glorious new life lies ahead for pale and hapless British astronomer Dr Paul Hamilton (Rob Brydon). The shining white dome of the Royal Australian Observatory signifies a brave new world where he'll shed his inhibitions and leave behind his boring, Aztec jewellery-wearing girlfriend.

Braving the heat, noxious toads and the crazy locals, Dr Paul joins a motley crew of highly intelligent Australian scientists at one of the world's most advanced facilities. However, it seems that black holes, cosmic stardust and primal gases are far simpler to deal with than the age-old mysteries of love, life and the universe.

HT

