

PLANET EARTH



Four years in the making and narrated by Sir David Attenborough, the smash-hit series that pulled in more than nine million viewers earlier this year returns to continue the ultimate portrait of our planet.

Using high-definition cameras and the latest aerial filming techniques, the team explores Earth's furthest-flung places, capturing unique animal behaviours and providing an unparalleled view of awe-inspiring landscapes.

From Antarctica to the Great Plains, from forests to jungles and from shallow seas to the deepest ocean, the world's premier cameramen explore the diversity of the planet.

In the frozen wastes, hungry polar bears are forced to tackle more unusual prey; in the great plains, a revolutionary new aerial photography system tracks spectacular migrations and dramatic hunts; elusive creatures including the snub-nosed monkey and the Amur leopard are filmed in forests; and, in the oceans, great white sharks chase fur seals and stunning footage lets viewers into the world of a humpback whale and her newborn calf.

For those who can't get enough, the website – which clocked up over six million page impressions during the first run of the series – features even more clips in the *Planet Earth Explorer*.

BR/LS

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

The series that stirred the nation's passion for genealogy returns for a third run – and this time it's putting down its roots on BBC One.

Lining up to delve into their deepest family pasts are stars from stage and screen: Jeremy Irons, Nigella Lawson, Robert Lindsay, Barbara Windsor, David Tennant, Julia Sawalha and David Dickinson.

The Posh and Becks of the Thirties, 1840s Chartists and the Bedouins of the Jordanian desert are among the characters the series meets along the way.

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A CHILD AGAINST ALL ODDS

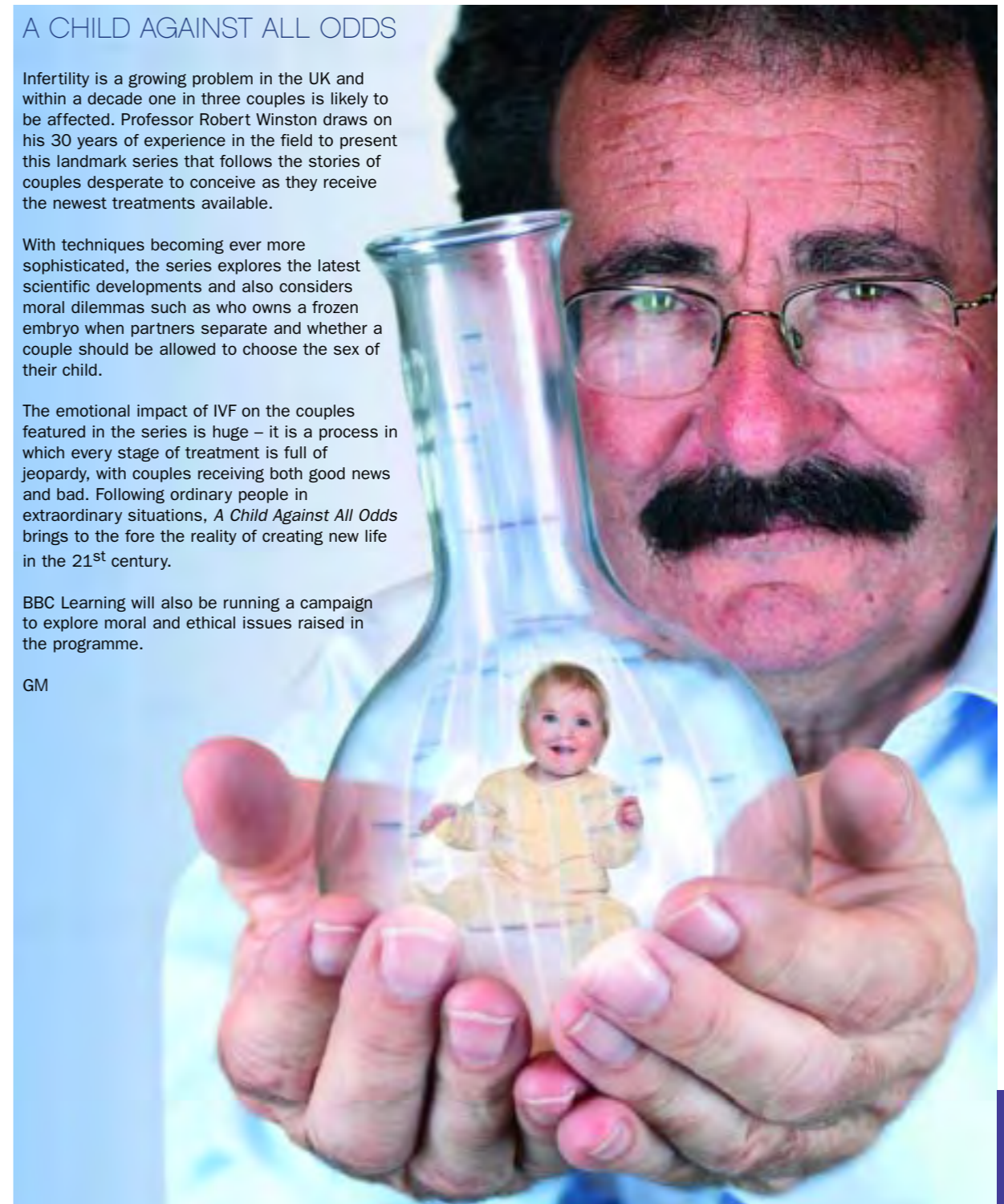
Infertility is a growing problem in the UK and within a decade one in three couples is likely to be affected. Professor Robert Winston draws on his 30 years of experience in the field to present this landmark series that follows the stories of couples desperate to conceive as they receive the newest treatments available.

With techniques becoming ever more sophisticated, the series explores the latest scientific developments and also considers moral dilemmas such as who owns a frozen embryo when partners separate and whether a couple should be allowed to choose the sex of their child.

The emotional impact of IVF on the couples featured in the series is huge – it is a process in which every stage of treatment is full of jeopardy, with couples receiving both good news and bad. Following ordinary people in extraordinary situations, *A Child Against All Odds* brings to the fore the reality of creating new life in the 21st century.

BBC Learning will also be running a campaign to explore moral and ethical issues raised in the programme.

GM



BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

Broadcasting live from BBC Television Centre in London, the BBC Children In Need Appeal will once again entertain the nation. Last year saw the most successful appeal to date, with appearances from stars including Madonna, Catherine Tate and a singing Jordan and Peter Andre, who all helped to raise over £17m on the night.

This November's appeal will see stars of stage and screen gather to perform their most spectacular musical hits, or perhaps reveal their more hidden talents.

Local BBC Radio and Television will also be joining in the fun on the night with news of star-studded events in viewers' own regions.

Every single penny donated to the charity goes directly to help disadvantaged children in the UK.

GM

CELEBRITY MASTERCHEF

John Torode and Gregg Wallace are back and this time they're not looking for the next star restaurant chef – they're finding out which celebrities can really cook.

The 24 competitors are athletes, singers, actors, models and presenters but they believe they also have the skill, knowledge and tenacity to get through the *MasterChef* challenges.

Only four celebrities will survive the heats and go on to face a gruelling final week that will see them cater for one of Britain's most outstanding cooking dynasties, face the toughest food critics and attempt to convince the judges that their food is good enough to make them worthy of the title of Celebrity MasterChef 2006.

GM

THE GREAT BRITISH SUMMER

Alan Titchmarsh narrates this new series exploring British people's relationship with the sunniest season.

A celebration of the countryside, culture and events that define the summer, it features characters including a struggling Blackpool hotelier, a butterfly expert, a surf instructor and a group of buskers travelling around the country – all of whom talk about their experience of the summer months.

During the series, events taking place across the British Isles – from baking-hot days on the beach to the stoic acceptance of a washed-out Wimbledon – reveal just why summer is held with such great affection in the British psyche.

GM



HEAD DOCTORS

In this major observational documentary series, a year is spent with the patients and doctors at one of the world's leading brain hospitals – The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery – bringing viewers a dramatic insight into the cutting-edge work of a 200-year-old institution.

Over 100 consultants treat everything from head injuries and Parkinson's disease to paralysis and epilepsy. Some of the doctors are the only specialist of their kind in the country. Many of the patients suffer from conditions so rare they affect just one in a million.

For some patients the National is the last chance: their future depends on the skill of the doctors who push the boundaries of medical science to treat the brain – the most complex organ in the universe.

With hospital life as a back-drop, the story is told through a cast of strong characters and powerful human stories.

The neurosurgeons face terrible odds; a slip of their scalpel could change their patient's life – even their personality. Away from the drama of the operating theatre the series explores the tensions of working within a close-knit community and reveals how the doctors cope with the intense pressure of making life-and-death decisions every day.

CD



WHAT NOT TO WEAR

There's only one series that features a 360-degree mirror and a strong dose of style advice. *What Not To Wear* is back – and this time with two new faces.

Supermodel Lisa Butcher and soul singer Mica Paris are close friends. They've had lots of experience handling their own public images and combining their careers with being mums. The new presenters believe that anyone can feel as good on the inside as they look on the outside once they've been on the *What Not To Wear* journey.

ED

BBC SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

In a year that has featured the Winter Olympics, the Commonwealth Games and, of course, the World Cup, there will be some remarkable sporting moments to look back on in *BBC Sports Personality Of The Year*.

The evening will climax with the presentation of the most prestigious award in British sport when the Sports Personality of the Year is crowned – an award chosen by viewers on the night – and the Lifetime Achievement honours one of the very greatest all-time legends of the sporting world.

Further awards made on the night include: Team of the Year; Coach of the Year; Young Sports Personality of the Year; Unsung Hero; and the Helen Rollason Award for courage and achievement in the face of adversity.

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THE TRAGEDY OF RUDYARD KIPLING

Griff Rhys Jones presents this fascinating profile of Rudyard Kipling, one of Britain's greatest chroniclers of the British Empire. Through works such as *The Jungle Book* and the *Just So Stories*, Kipling brought India to life for Edwardian Britain. But in a cruel twist of fate, the Empire for which he had been such a staunch advocate would also prove the source of great personal loss. Kipling's son was killed in the First World War – a war he had publicly favoured to protect Britain's colonies.

Griff travels to Kipling's childhood homes in India and Pakistan, and to the homes in Britain where he spent his later years, particularly Bateman's in Sussex. On his journey, Griff explores Kipling's life and his work, his success as a writer and his personal tragedy.

KG

ANCIENT ROME – THE RISE AND FALL OF AN EMPIRE

Based on rigorous and extensive historical research, this epic drama-documentary series features an all-star cast including Sean Pertwee, Catherine McCormack, Michael Sheen and David Threlfall.

The rise and fall of the Roman Empire was shaped by dramatic stories of sex, violence and intrigue. *Ancient Rome – The Rise And Fall Of An Empire* charts a period of 600 years - from the rise of the emperors to the sacking of Rome - and allows viewers to witness great battles, rivalries, rebellions and momentous achievements as they happened many centuries ago.

With stunning locations and state-of-the-art visual effects, Rome is revealed as it really was: gritty, magnificent and sometimes sordid.

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