

SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2008

SAT 19:00 Meetings with Remarkable Trees (b00782ts)
Series 2

The Duke's Wellingtonia

The Duke of Wellington introduces the American redwood from his estate at Stratfield Saye in Hampshire. This particular specimen was named after the Duke's great-great-grandfather after it had crossed the Atlantic - but the Americans were not amused, resenting the fact that one of their natural wonders had been kidnapped and renamed by the British.

SAT 19:10 In Search of Medieval Britain (b00b0cc0)
London and South East

Medieval art historian Dr Alixe Bovey uses the oldest surviving route map of Britain to make a series of journeys through Britain in the Middle Ages. She follows the ancient pilgrim trail from the east coast to London and tracks the flow of commodities and ideas from the rest of Europe, a trade that ultimately cost the lives of half the population of London.

SAT 19:40 The Book Quiz (b00b09r8)
Series 2

Episode 5

Kirsty Wark presents the literary panel game, as Wendy Holden and Giles Coren do battle against Baroness Margaret Jay and David Nicholls for a place in the final.

SAT 20:10 A Perfect Spy (b008bjg1)
Episode 1

The story of Magnus Pym's rise and fall in the intelligence world begins in his youth, as he leaves his troubled family behind to face the trials of boarding school.

SAT 21:05 A Perfect Spy (b008d2vn)
Episode 2

1980s adaption of the John le Carre novel. Magnus, sent on an errand to Switzerland, meets two men who will be important in his life as a spy.

SAT 22:00 The Best of Youth (b00b3ypm)
Episode 3

Drama series telling the story of an Italian family from the 1960s till the present day, set against major events in Italian history. Giulia's life underground as a member of the Red Brigades continues. She discovers that Carlo - now a prominent banker and university teacher - has ended up on the terrorist's hit list. Loner cop Matteo is transferred back to Rome where he starts an affair with a young Sicilian woman.

SAT 23:35 Les Visiteurs (b00b257s)

French time-warp comedy about a 12th-century dignitary who accidentally kills his future father-in-law and tries to make amends by travelling through time. Seeking help from a witch, he realises that he could prevent the death from occurring if he went back in time. Unfortunately, the witch's spell sends them into the 20th century, where cultural and technological differences add to the confusion.

SAT 01:15 Selling Power: Admen and No 10 (b009hf6j)

Documentary which looks at how Britain's biggest advertising companies promoted the most unattractive product on earth - politicians. From the groundbreaking and controversial 'Yesterday's Men' through to the infamous Tony Blair 'Demon Eyes' campaign, it explores how best to sell power to a cynical public and is told by those who devised the memorable slogans, promotional films and negative adverts that won elections, changed the course of democracy and made their agencies fortunes.

SAT 02:15 In Search of Medieval Britain (b00b0cc0)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:10 today]

SAT 02:45 The Book Quiz (b00b09r8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:40 today]

SAT 03:15 Selling Power: Admen and No 10 (b009hf6j)
[Repeat of broadcast at 01:15 today]

SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2008

SUN 19:00 Inside the Medieval Mind (b009wz3)
Sex

Leading authority on the Middle Ages, Professor Robert Bartlett presents a series which examines the way we thought during medieval times. He unearths remarkable evidence of the complex passions of medieval men and women. The Church preached hatred of the flesh, promoted the cult of virginity and condemned woman as the sinful heir to Eve. Yet this was the era that gave birth to the idea of romantic love.

SUN 20:00 How to Build a Cathedral (b00b09rb)

The great cathedrals were the wonders of the medieval world - the tallest buildings since the pyramids and the showpieces of medieval Christianity. Yet they were built at a time when most of us lived in hovels. Architectural historian Jon Cannon explores who the people were that built them and how they were able to achieve such a bold vision.

SUN 21:00 Dear Television (b008yvmq)
Episode 2

Letters cataloguing the preoccupations and passions of television viewers over the last five decades.

SUN 21:10 Washes Whiter (b00b3zd1)
Sixpence Worth of Heaven

Series on the history of British television advertising explores the use of fantasy and aspiration to sell products such as Babycham, Camay, Flake, Palmolive, Sunsilk, Renault, Charlie and Chanel to women.

SUN 22:00 Mad Men (b00b3zd3)
Series 1

Shoot

Drama series set in the world of advertising in 1960s New York. Betty is used by a rival ad agency to try to hire Don. Peggy is putting on weight. The agency tries to spruce up their Nixon presidential campaign to counteract a successful Kennedy ad by Jackie Kennedy.

SUN 22:50 BBC Four Sessions (b00b0e1)
Van Morrison

Series of unique and intimate concerts at St Luke's in London, featuring musicians from around the world. Van Morrison showcases tracks from albums including Keep It Simple, Magic Time and Vanlose Stairway, backed by a full band and joined by guests including guitarist Mick Green and organ maestro Georgie Fame.

SUN 23:50 Van Morrison at the BBC (b00b659v)
Compilation of singer-songwriter Van Morrison's most memorable BBC performances.

SUN 00:50 Soul Britannia (b0074bt)
I Feel Good

Series that examines the dynamic impact of black American and Caribbean sounds on British music and society. A generation of young white music fans fell in love with black music in the 60s and sold it back to America while a generation of immigrants from the Caribbean helped introduce soul and ska to Britain and helped launch a new youth culture. Featuring rare archive performances and interviews with Van Morrison, Tom Jones, Solomon Burke, Elton John, Sam Moore, Georgie Fame and many others.

SUN 01:50 How to Build a Cathedral (b00b09rb)
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

SUN 02:50 Inside the Medieval Mind (b009wz3)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

MONDAY 28 APRIL 2008

MON 19:00 World News Today (b00b3zk6)
The latest news from around the world.

MON 19:30 Art of Eternity (b00749w)
The Glory of Byzantium

How should art depict the relationship between man and God? How can art best express eternal values? Can you, and should you, portray the face of Christ? For over a thousand years these were some of the questions which taxed the minds of the greatest artists of the early West. In this three-part series, art historian Andrew Graham-Dixon sets out to unravel the mysteries of the art of the pre-perspective era. Why has this world been so frequently misunderstood and underrated? His journey takes him from the mysterious catacombs of ancient Rome to Coptic Egypt, to the Orthodox Christian world of Istanbul and then onwards to medieval Italy and France.

In the second of this three-part series, Andrew Graham-Dixon travels to Istanbul to immerse himself in the tumultuous world of the Byzantine Empire. He reveals the art that emerged, decodes the iconography and explains its continuing relevance to everyday people.

MON 20:30 The Book Quiz (b00b3zk8)
Series 2

Episode 6

Kirsty Wark presents the second semi-final of the literary panel game as Daisy Goodwin and David Aaronovitch fight it out against India Knight and James Delingpole for a place in the final.

MON 21:00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama (b0074kzy)
Series 1

Nations

The British history series continues with the story of Edward I - known by many as the villainous king in the Hollywood film Braveheart - who tried to force English rule on Scotland and Wales, but found the resultant slaughter only served to inspire bold declarations of independence. When the king was eventually forced to listen to the parliament of his own people, England would also learn what it meant to be a nation.

MON 22:00 Heist (b00b0bdh)

Drama based on the true story of an outrageous medieval heist, told in the style of Ocean's 11.

When Dick Puddlecot is released from a Flanders jail in 1302 to discover his friends, his livelihood and his woman are all in hock to the king, he decides to exact a very modern form of revenge - break into the vault at Westminster Abbey and steal the king's gold. There's just one catch - failure would earn him and his gang ruthless torture, swift punishment and potentially an eternity in hell.

A true story sourced from original trial records, this bold comedy-drama combines the energy of a British heist comedy with the veracity of factual dramas and the bawdiness of Chaucer, breathing life into a strange and foreign world full of priests and prostitutes.

MON 23:10 The Hour of the Pig (b00b5vk1)

A star-studded bawdy mystery story set in medieval France, inspired by contemporary records of animals tried and hanged for capital offences. An idealistic Parisian lawyer, Richard Courtois, becomes embroiled in religious, political and sexual intrigue when he takes up his new practise among the superstitious community of Abbeville, and finds himself defending a pig charged with murder.

MON 01:00 The Book Quiz (b00b3zk8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 today]

MON 01:30 Heist (b00b0bdh)
[Repeat of broadcast at 22:00 today]

MON 02:40 The Book Quiz (b00b3zk8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 today]

MON 03:10 Art of Eternity (b00749w)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2008

TUE 19:00 World News Today (b00b40ph)
The latest news from around the world.

TUE 19:30 Pop Go the Sixties (b0088nyx)
Series 1

The Kinks

Another mind-bendingly colourful nugget of pop mined from the BBC's archive.

TUE 19:35 Batman (b00b5q4n)
Series 2

Green Ice

Fantasy adventure series. Another crimebusting caper for the cloaked avenger and his able accomplice Robin. Mr Freeze kidnaps Miss Iceland, freezes Commissioner Gordon and Chief O'Hara and discredits Batman and Robin by routing wimpy doubles of the Dynamic Duo. The genuine crimefighters find Mr Freeze in a seemingly abandoned Cold Storage Plant but are jumped and then placed in giant frozen popsicle containers, soon to be turned into Famous Frosty Freezies.

TUE 20:00 Life in Cold Blood (b0091tvh)
Sophisticated Serpents

David Attenborough reveals the fascinating lives of snakes, the most misunderstood group of reptiles. A CCTV stakeout of wild rattlesnakes hunting shows, for the first time, what sophisticated predators they truly are. Attenborough is also on the receiving end of a spitting cobra's chemical weapons system, while the surprisingly beautiful and tender side of snakes is displayed in the sinuous courtship of kingsnakes, and the water birth of 15 beautiful yellow anaconda babies.

TUE 21:00 Chinese School (b00b40pk)
Olympic Fever

Documentary series about a group of children at three schools in rural China. Xiuning county may be 1000 miles from Beijing, but that hasn't stopped Olympic fever reaching its schools ahead of China's first time hosting the games. It's Autumn and, after the heat of summer and exams, students hit the sports field. With 3400 students, Haiyang Middle school is the largest school in the county so sports day is a mammoth undertaking for the deputy head teacher; for school radio DJ Zha Yujie, it's the highlight of the year. Ping Min primary school holds its first sports day ever. Young champion Dai Deli is determined to take gold.

TUE 22:00 Goodness Gracious Me (b00b691h)
Series 3

Episode 3

Award-winning British Asian comedy sketch show, starring Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kulvinder Ghir, Meera Syal and Nina Wadia.

TUE 22:30 The Christmas Tale (b00b51tb)
Psychological horror in which five children find a woman dressed in a Santa costume at the bottom of a pit deep in the woods. At first they intend to help her, but they soon find out that she is a dangerous criminal with lots of cash. Since they want her money, they decide to let her stay in the pit until she reveals where she has hidden the money, but they are unprepared for a dramatic turn of events when she escapes.

TUE 23:40 Chinese School (b00b40pk)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

TUE 00:40 BBC Proms (b007wvnn)
2007

Mahler and Brahms - Prom 40

Verity Sharp introduces baritone Matthias Goerne singing a selection from Mahler's Des Knaben Wunderhorn, with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony conducted by Paavo Jarvi. Also, Weber's Oberon Overture and Schoenberg's orchestration of Brahms's ambitious Piano Quartet.

TUE 02:55 Chinese School (b00b40pk)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2008

WED 19:00 World News Today (b00b40vj)
The latest news from around the world.

WED 19:30 Pop Go the Sixties (b0088xvn)
Series 1

The Johnny Harris Orchestra

A colourful nugget of pop mined from the BBC's archive, as the Johnny Harris Band perform Satisfaction.

WED 19:35 Batman (b00b5q6q)
Series 2

Deep Freeze

Fantasy adventure series. The Dynamic Duo set their sights on thwarting Mr Freeze, who has threatened to turn the city into a giant glacier unless he is given one billion dollars.

WED 20:00 Life in Cold Blood (b00936vz)
Armoured Giants

David Attenborough meets the reptile heavyweights - the tortoises, turtles and crocodiles, showing what it's like to live within a suit of armour, and revealing a dynamic, warm and caring side to these ancient giants.

Mating giant tortoises fit together like spoons, green turtles passionately mate in tropical seas, a mother spectacled caiman rescues a huge creche of babies and sophisticated saltwater crocodiles ambush fish just like bears catching salmon.

WED 21:00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama (b00741oy)
Series 1

King Death

Simon Schama continues his look at British history with the Black Death, the horror of medieval Britain. Those it did not kill were condemned to suffer decades of anarchy and unrest, not least King Richard II. But it created an unlikely breed of survivor - the country gent.

WED 22:00 El Cid (b0077fth)
The epic story of the 11th-century Spanish hero Rodrigo Diaz de Bivar, better known as El Cid. Involved in a tempestuous marriage to the beautiful Chimene, Rodrigo plots against various royal factions to gain power after the death of King Ferdinand, but his greatest campaign is to rid Spain of its Moorish invaders. He drives the Moors to their last outpost - Valencia - for a tumultuous and decisive battle.

WED 00:50 Selling the Sixties (b009364s)
Documentary about Madison Avenue, home of the American advertising business, a semi-mythical place where the dreams of a new, affluent society were spun in the early 1960s. These were the 'days of heaven', when the country felt to many like a land of plenty and a land of hope - politics was reinvigorated thanks to a product known as new, improved JFK, consumerism was on the up and the challenges of Vietnam, feminism and the counter-culture still lay in the future.

Includes contributions from advertising legend George Lois and writer Gay Talese.

WED 01:50 David Ogilvy: Original Mad Man (b009pg3d)
Documentary about pioneering British advertising executive and self-proclaimed genius, David Ogilvy, who led a revolution in advertising, feeding dreams and shaping aspirations with famous campaigns, slogans and jingles. He started what eventually would become conglomerate Ogilvy and Mather in 1948 and the film reveals the extremes and eccentricities of the man through interviews with those who knew him and worked with him, including his widow and son and authors Peter Mayle and Fay Weldon.

WED 02:50 Timeshift (b0094yzq)
Series 7

The Rise and Fall of the Ad Man

Cultural commentator Peter York takes a characteristically insightful and witty look at the changing fortunes of British advertising through the story of the personalities who led it through its highs and lows.

Inspired by the maverick US advertisers of Madison Avenue, a new generation of British ad men created a unique style of advertising based on authentic British culture. It tapped into home-grown humour and marketed itself as almost a branch of the arts. During the 1970s, British ads came to be regarded as the best in the world.

But as York shows, the same combination of ambition, big spending and oversized egos which fed British advertising's glorious rise also led to a disastrous fall when the business

climate changed in the 1980s. Now the British ad man has had to reinvent himself for a new, global market.

York gets the extraordinary inside story from top British advertising figures past and present including Alan Parker, David Puttnam, Tim Bell, Frank Lowe and the most successful ad man in the world today, Martin Sorrell.

THURSDAY 01 MAY 2008

THU 19:00 World News Today (b00b413l)
The latest news from around the world.

THU 19:30 In Search of Medieval Britain (b00b413n)
Heartlands

Medieval art historian Dr Alixe Bovey uses the oldest surviving route map of Britain to make a series of journeys through Britain in the Middle Ages. Exploring the life of the commoner, she discovers the origins of precedent in common law and uncovers the foundations of modern parliament in a bloody power struggle.

THU 20:00 Sacred Music (b03d09b3)
Series 1

The Gothic Revolution

Documentary series in which actor and former chorister Simon Russell Beale explores the flowering of Western sacred music.

He begins his journey at Notre Dame in Paris, where an enigmatic medieval music manuscript provides the key to the early development of polyphony - music of 'many voices'. Featuring music performed by members of the award-winning choir The Sixteen, conducted by Harry Christophers.

THU 21:00 Inside the Medieval Mind (b00b413s)
Belief

Leading authority on the Middle Ages, Professor Robert Bartlett, presents a series which examines the way we thought during medieval times. Our forebears believed they shared the world with the dead and that angels and demons battled for control of human souls. As the church's grip on our beliefs increased, men and women were dragged before religious courts and multitudes were killed in the name of God.

THU 22:00 Crusades (b00b413v)
Jihad

Terry Jones describes how the crusaders lost Jerusalem in 1144 to Zengi, the Arab leader. A second crusade fell foul of Zengi's son, Nur el-Din, who planned to surround the crusaders by gaining control of Egypt. For this he employed a Kurdish general - Shirkuh - and his nephew Saladin. After Nur el-Din's mysterious death, Saladin succeeded him in Damascus, a daunting figure who was wholly committed to the jihad, or holy war.

THU 22:50 Mad Men (b00b3zd3)
[Repeat of broadcast at 22:00 on Sunday]

THU 23:40 Chinese School (b00b40pk)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Tuesday]

THU 00:40 In Search of Medieval Britain (b00b413n)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

THU 01:10 Inside the Medieval Mind (b00b413s)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

THU 02:10 The Book Quiz (b00b3zk8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 on Monday]

THU 02:40 In Search of Medieval Britain (b00b413n)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

THU 03:10 Inside the Medieval Mind (b00b413s)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

FRIDAY 02 MAY 2008

FRI 19:00 World News Today (b00b41h0)

The latest news from around the world.

FRI 19:30 Transatlantic Sessions (b0080w4g)

Series 3

Episode 4

Folk musicians come together in what have been called 'the greatest backporch shows ever'. Iris DeMent and Phil Cunningham are among the performers. There is also a piping duet from Scotland's Fred Morrison and Ireland's Michael McGoldrick with backing from Donal Lunny.

FRI 20:00 Darcey Bussell's Ten Best Ballet Moments (b00813dd)

Darcey Bussell, who retired from the Royal Ballet in 2007, introduces and demonstrates some of her favourite ballet moments with dancers Roberto Bolle and Jonathan Cope.

Featuring some of her own performances and archive highlights, with music ranging from Scott Joplin to Tchaikovsky.

The ballets include Giselle, The Nutcracker and a classic performance by Margot Fonteyn in Swan Lake.

FRI 21:00 James Taylor: One Man Band (b00b41h2)

Singer-songwriter James Taylor showcases material from the past 40 years including You've Got A Friend and Sweet Baby James in a series of concerts at the Colonial Theatre in the Berkshires, while interviews and rare archive footage tell the stories behind some of Taylor's most beloved hits.

FRI 22:05 Hotel California: LA from the Byrds to the Eagles (b0074t87)

Documentary looking at the music and mythology of a golden era in Californian culture, and telling the story of how Los Angeles changed from a kooky backwater in the early 1960s to become the artistic and industrial hub of the American music industry by the end of the 1970s.

Alongside extensive and never before seen archive footage, the programme features comprehensive first-hand accounts of the key figures including musicians (David Crosby, Graham Nash, J. D. Souther, Bernie Leadon and Bonnie Raitt, music industry bosses (David Geffen, Jac Holzman, Ron Stone and Peter Asher) and legendary LA scenesters including Henry Diltz, Pamela Des Barres and Ned Doheny.

The film explores how the socially-conscious folk rock of young hippies with acoustic guitars was transformed into the coked-out stadium excess of the late 1970s and the biggest selling album of all time.

FRI 23:40 In Concert (b007rm8l)

James Taylor

A classic concert from 1971 by American singer-songwriter James Taylor.

FRI 00:20 The Avengers (b0074tgk)

Series 5

The See-Through Man

Fantasy drama series. An invisible guest pays a visit to the Ministry's records office, while Steed and Mrs Peel follow a trail to an inventor who has made an extraordinary breakthrough.

FRI 01:10 James Taylor: One Man Band (b00b41h2)

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

FRI 02:10 Darcey Bussell's Ten Best Ballet Moments (b00813dd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

FRI 03:10 Transatlantic Sessions (b0084lmp)

Series 3

Episode 6

Folk musicians come together in what have been called 'the greatest backporch shows ever'. Features Cara Dillon with Paul Brady, Darrell Scott, Aly Bain, Jerry Douglas, Michael McGoldrick, Donal Lunny and Bruce Molsky.