



Client: C4 Consumer and Regional Press
Source: Radio Times
Date: 22/09/2015

Keyword: Channel 4
Page: 98
Reach: 783042
Size: 666
Value: 23902.74

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY Choices

The pick of today's TV

Thief Trackers

11.45am **BBC1**

DAYTIME CHOICE Two bicycles are stolen in London. Not unusual, and most of us would glumly assume that that's the last we'd ever see of them. But it's possible to find out where they've gone by using tracking technology. In this case they end up in the East End of London, where one is sold on.

This series, which started on Monday, tells the story of what becomes of stolen laptops, mobiles, bicycles and DVD players (and even more unusual items, such as ornaments from a grave). Some are stolen to order and exported overseas; others are sold online to innocent members of the public, or to shops, where they're often bought in good faith. **JANE RACKHAM**

The Great British Bake Off

8.00pm **BBC1**

FOOD Can the *Bake Off* nearly be over for another year? Oh woe, yes it can. So let's treasure every last minute of the closing stages.

The watchword in tonight's semi-final is chocolate, and lots of it. For their signature challenge the remaining bakers must make a chocolate pastry for a chocolate tart. Sounds easy enough, surely? But the pressure throbs in the Tent of Dreams as everyone inches into the technical challenge – a chocolate soufflé – that is so quick it needs a staggered start.

Prepare to hitch a ride to chocolate heaven for the showstopper and

some spectacular chocolate centrepieces. **ALISON GRAHAM**

Welcome to the Mosque

8.00pm **BBC2**

DOCUMENTARY What's it like to be an ordinary Muslim in Britain? Robb Leech, who made *My Brother the Islamist* and *My Brother the Terrorist* for BBC3, turned his hand-held camera on the East London Mosque around the time, coincidentally, that three London schoolgirls ran away to Syria to become jihadi brides.

He gets remarkable access, and is honest about his misgivings on issues such as male and female segregation, but the mosque clearly isn't the hotbed of extremism some inflammatory newspaper articles have suggested. As one youngster says, "Isis are barbaric... they go against all the qualities of Islam..." **JR**

Doctor Foster

9.00pm **BBC1**

DRAMA What a charming bunch the people of pretty Parminster are, denouncing their supposedly adored doctor, Gemma Foster, online and anonymously. You suspect her community turning on her hurts more than her husband's affair.

It seems poor Gemma (Suranne Jones) doesn't have a friend in the world, not even that passive-aggressive sneak she works with, Ros (Thusitha Jayasundera), who gets a bit holy when someone makes a serious allegation against Gemma.

It's a weird episode, coming over all Jane Campion at one point, but

the writing (by creator Mike Bartlett) and acting, particularly by Jones and Bertie Carvel as her rotten husband, Simon, grip hard and fast. **AG**

Midwinter of the Spirit

9.00pm **ITV**

DRAMA This is such a delightfully rich stew – there's a thunderstorm, actual bumps in the night, demonic possession, a sacrificial crow and much, much worse. Who knew pretty, peaceful Herefordshire hid such depraved depths? At the forefront is plucky exorcist the Rev Merrily Watkins (Anna Maxwell Martin), fortified by wine and endless fags. She has seen two deaths that she suspects were murders and she can't shake off the feeling that she's been infected by the reeking soul of the ghostly man she comforted on his deathbed.

It's great fun and outrageously melodramatic, but the admirable Maxwell Martin and David Threlfall ("God help you, Merrily!") give it all they've got. **AG**

Dark Side of the Greens

9.00pm **BBC4**

DOCUMENTARY For Mark Twain, golf was a good walk ruined. For many today, golf is ruinous to nature. In a follow-up to his excellent *You've Been Trumped* – about Donald Trump's plans to build a luxury golf resort in Aberdeenshire – Anthony Baxter also looks at the campaign to stop a resort in Dubrovnik.

It's another sobering David v Goliath story, with Robert Kennedy Jr claiming, "Wherever there's large-scale environment destruction, there's a subversion of democracy."



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And environment destruction is par for the course: according to the UN, water irrigating golf courses could meet the needs of 80 per cent of the world's population.

DAVID CRAWFORD

Forced Marriage Cops

10.00pm **C4**

DOCUMENTARY OF THE WEEK Since June 2014 it has been illegal in the UK to force someone to marry, a crime carrying a prison sentence of up to seven years. But as Anna Hall's superb film following Greater Manchester Police shows, enforcing that enlightened law is hard. We meet South Asian women who have fled their homes after receiving threats to their life, but the victims rarely give statements. Roksana fled her father's threats of violence; in a chilling police interview, he protests that *of course* he wouldn't hurt her because, "You can hit your wife, you can hit your son but [not] daughters – I don't know why you can't. That's our weakness." **DB**

Asian Provocateur

10.00pm **BBC3**

DOCUMENTARY New series

Comedian Romesh Ranganathan is, says his Sri Lankan mother, "a coconut" – ie, Sri Lankan on the outside, white British on the inside. "You made me a coconut!" he retorts – but he agrees to go to the land of his forefathers to appease her.

She wants him to meet his relatives, including the enigmatic Uncle Thiru, who tries to persuade Romesh to invest in an elephant poo paper factory. The comic's deadpan delivery is irresistible. **HANNAH SHADDOCK**



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You, Me and the Apocalypse

9.00pm Sky1

COMEDY DRAMA New series Broadcasters routinely claim their offerings are "bold" and "ambitious". This new series is all of that, done on a scale that feels almost unBritish. Mathew Baynton (of BBC2's *The Wrong Mans*) plays another Berkshire everyman. He's Jamie, a mournful Slough bank clerk who is baffled when the police arrest him for international cyber-crime. His arrest happens on the very day a comet is discovered to be hurtling towards Earth. As well as Jamie, we follow what the end of the world might mean for an Oklahoma librarian arriving in prison and an Italian nun applying for a post at the Vatican, where her boss is a rogue priest played by Rob Lowe.

Add Megan Mullally (from *Will & Grace*) as a white supremacist and Pauline Quirke as Jamie's mum and you've got a heck of an ensemble cast. **DB**
 Rob Lowe: page 30

DIVINE COMEDY
 Pauline Quirke, Mathew Baynton and Rob Lowe make a star ensemble

TV CV: SARAH ALEXANDER

■ Sarah Alexander can be seen in new sitcom **Marley's Ghosts** (10pm Gold) as Marley Wise, a woman who can talk to the dead – including to her recently deceased husband Adam, played by John Hannah.

■ Her early acting credits include the BBC comedy *Alas Smith and Jones* and she regularly appeared in the ground-breaking *Smack the Pony*, often writing for the show.



■ She is best known for her roles in successful comedies, notably as the irritating Angela in Channel 4's *Green Wing*, bride-to-be Mel in *The Worst Week of My Life* and Susan in the "Friends-style" sitcom *Coupling*, written by Steven Moffat.