



PROFILE

There is nothing like a dame

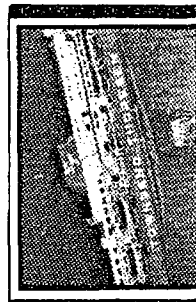
BARRY HUMPHRIES 5



INSIDE

My farewell to Channel 4

JEREMY ISAACS 6



MOMENTS OF CATASTROPHE PORTRAIT OF 1987



ARTS

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

INTERVIEW 15



SPORT

2-page sports calendar of the year

26, 27

ESTABLISHED 1791 No. 10238

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 1987

*** 50p



OBSERVER



Child brides 'must bring husbands home'

BRIEFLY SUMMIT MOVE Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed to meetings with US Secretary of State George Shultz...



Miriam Ali: 'Still worried'

THE TWO British women sold as brides in the Yemen Arab Republic will not be allowed home unless they are accompanied by their husbands.

EXCLUSIVE by EILEEN MacDONALD Yemeni Embassy in London last week, but was treated as a tourist rather than as a relative wishing to visit the country.

they will be moved to a luxurious house in Taiz with their husbands until 'all the paperwork is done.'

MARKET BLASTS Three car bombs killed one person and injured 35 in crowded markets in Pakistan's capital Islamabad.

BODY FOUND Police were questioning a man after the dismembered body of Anthony Brown, 30, was found at a derelict farm near Scarcroft, Leeds.

RANK OUTSIDER French horse Nupsala, a 25-1 outsider, won the £50,000 King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton.

RELICS CHARGE John Braddock, 41, was remanded in custody until Tuesday accused of damaging two valuable reliquaries—containers for religious relics—in an incident at Westminster Cathedral.

DOUBLE DEATH Police believe that a man strangled his wife on Christmas Day then hanged himself at their home in Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

BABY BOOM Britain's test-tube baby pioneers Mr Patrick Steptoe and Professor Robert Edwards yesterday announced the birth of their clinic's one thousandth baby.

COLLECTION Eighty-seven people have been charged after an undercover police operation against thefts from delivery vehicles in London in the run-up to Christmas.

WIN £25,000 The Observer Equitable Life Investor of the Year competition, with prize money of £25,000, is launched next Sunday.

THE WEATHER Mild; some rain, with brighter intervals.

INDEX INSIDE HOME NEWS 2, 3 FOREIGN NEWS 8, 9, 11 PROFILE 5 POLITICAL DIARY 5 SUE ARNOLD 6 SAYINGS OF THE YEAR 6 NOTEBOOK 12

REVIEW LETTERS 14 ARTS 14, 15, 17 MORE MUSIC 17 BOOKS 17, 18 TV GUIDE 20

BUSINESS YOUR MONEY 28, 29

SPORT RACING 31 FOOTBALL 32

WEEKEND WHITEHORNS 33 TIME OFF 37 MOTORING 38 PROPERTY 39 GARDENING 40 CROSSWORD 40

CLASSIFIED APPOINTMENTS 18, 19 MOTORING 38 PROPERTY 39 TRAVEL 19, 34, 36, 37, 39 WHAT'S ON 16

Afghans kill 250 Russians

by ARTHUR KENT

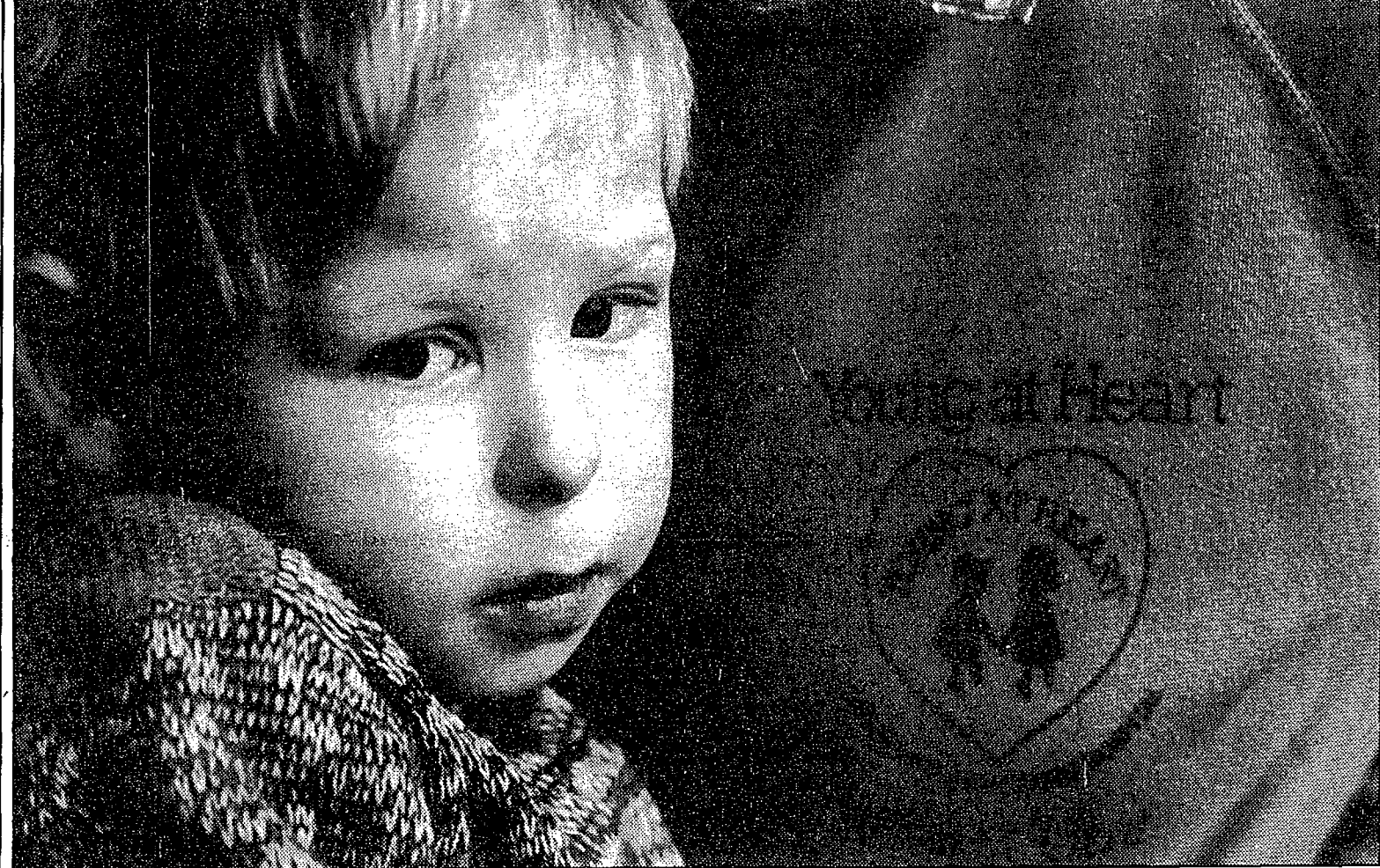


The battle for Khost

UP TO 250 Soviet paratroopers have been killed in Afghanistan in the past three weeks in the Red Army's attempt to relieve the besieged garrison at Khost.

their way through,' he said. 'Clearly they've resolved to reach Khost and to hold it at all costs.'

NO HOSPITAL BED FOR HEARTBREAK MATTHEW



THIS IS Matthew Collier, a little boy with a hole in his heart who was too weak to open his Christmas presents, writes Paul Routledge.

Doctors agree he desperately needs open heart surgery, but on Christmas Eve he was told for the fifth time there was no bed available in Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Matthew is four and a half, but weighs only 26lb and has never walked. The hospital says it cannot operate because a shortage of specialist nurses has halved the number of intensive care beds available to 12, only six of which are for heart patients.

Birmingham Children's is the hospital that figured in the controversy over David Barber, the baby boy who died three weeks ago after his heart operation had been repeatedly postponed.

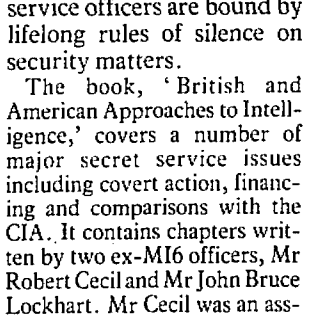
Ex-MI6 men cleared to write in book

by PAUL LASHMAR

THE GOVERNMENT has allowed a book on intelligence to be published which includes chapters from two named former MI6 officers.

men had been sent to the Foreign Office and then the Cabinet Office for clearance, which was granted.

Other less controversial books, such as 'One Girl's War' by wartime MI5 agent Joan Miller, have also been banned.



Ashes: Lord's treasure.

Charles will take Ashes to Australia

by ROBIN MEAD

PRINCE CHARLES has agreed to escort the Ashes to Australia next month because of fears for the safety of cricket's most famous trophy.

The MCC agreed to send them to Australia as a gesture of goodwill only after a protracted debate at Lord's.

YOUR MONEY AND YOUR LIFE A complete guide to financial planning FREE

BBC1

- 8.30 **THE RACOONS:** 'Surprise attack.'
- 8.55 **PLAY SCHOOL:** Presented by Elizabeth Watts.
- 9.15 **ARTICLES OF FAITH:** 'Prayer. . . As a Way of Life.'
- 9.30 **MORNING WORSHIP:** From the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Joseph's, Swansea. A mass in honour of the Holy Family.
- 10.15 **JOSEPH AND CHILD:** Arthur Dooley's sculpture.
- 10.30 **SIGN EXTRA:** 'The Turkey.' A film made by the Natural History Unit, plus sign language and subtitles.
- 10.55 **THE INTELLIGENCE MEN (film, 1965):** Mirthless comedy misusing the talents of Morecambe and Wise as a pair of idiots recruited by MI5 to combat the vicious espionage organisation 'Schlecht'.
- 12.35 **THE GRAND KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT:** Recall the rain-swept days of summer, with a repeat of Prince Edward's charity contest, held at Allonby Tower. The teams were led by the Yorks, the Princess Royal and Prince Edward.



Fry's delight: Cherie Lunghi and Kenneth Branagh (ITV, 10.30 p.m.)

TODAY'S TV

BBC2

CHANNEL 4

- 1.55 **NEWS.**
- *2.00 **EXTENDERS.**
- *3.30 **ESCAPE TO VICTORY (film, 1981):** Unintentionally hilarious World War II action yarn about a soccer match between allied prisoners (Pole and Bobby Moore among them) and a crack German team in occupied Europe. Among the worst films ever made by a major director (John Huston). Stars Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone.
- 5.20 **ROLF HARRIS CARTOON TIME:** 'The Million Hare', 'Cat Feud' and 'The Dog House.'
- 5.45 **THAT'S LIFE PRESENTS:** Another chance to see Meg the mathematical dog, the love-sick budgie and the sheep who thought she was a dog. Esther Rantzen looks at precocious pets from 15 years of 'That's Life.'
- 6.20 **NEWS.** Followed by weather.
- *6.35 **SONGS OF PRAISE:** Linking London and Jamaica on the 25th anniversary of the island's independence.
- *7.15 **LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE:** 'Big Day at Dream' and 'Soccer' plus episode finds Seymour, Compo and Cleeg helping out at the annual garden fete. Compo is distracted by the prospect of seeing Nora Batty in her waitress uniform.
- *8.35 **PERRY MASON — THE CASE OF THE SHOOTING STAR (TV film, 1986):** A chat show host is shot dead on prime-time TV by a film star. Raymond Burr resurrects the mighty bulk of Perry Mason to defend the star, ably assisted by faithful Della Street (Barbara Hale).
- 10.10 **NEWS.**
- 10.25 **EVERYMAN:** 'Madonna.' The Pope has declared 1987-88 as 'Marian Year.' Angela Tilly's film examines the image of the Virgin from Ephesus in Turkey (where she was ascended) to Lourdes (where thousands seek her miraculous cures).
- 11.20 **THE MALTESE FALCON (film, 1941):** John Huston's stunning debut as writer-director, an immaculately cast adaptation of Hammett's classic thriller featuring Humphrey Bogart as private eye Sam Spade. A wonderful start to Huston's career that ended this year with a superb adaptation of Joyce's 'The Dead.' (b/w.)
- 1.00 **WEATHER**
*Ceefax subtitles.

- 9.00 **PAGES FROM CEEFAX.**
- 9.15 **BABAR COMES TO AMERICA:** Narrated by Peter Ustinov.
- 9.40 **SEBASTIAN THE INCREDIBLE DRAWING DOG:** 'Hall Hal Joe.'
- 9.45 **THE MOLE IN A DREAM:** Children's story.
- 10.15 **MOLLY'S PILGRIM:** The children in Molly's new American school tease her about her Russian parents.
- 10.35 **CHARLIE BROWN:** 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.'
- *11.25 **ARABIAN ADVENTURE (film, 1979):** Cut-price re-working of 'Thief of Baghdad', a hard day's Arabian night starring Christopher Lee as an evil caliph challenged by a Filipino journalist, and a Shingai music teacher and a chief choreographer Yuri Grigorovich lend a much-needed touch of class.
- 1.00 **NO LIMITS:** Teenage rock roadshow.
- *2.00 **THE BOLSHOI BALLET:** Memorabilia 'Omnibus' takes us inside the Bolshoi Ballet School and interviews some of the company's stars, including Galina Ulanova and chief choreographer Yuri Grigorovich.
- *4.10 **THE GREAT PHILOSOPHERS:** 'Wittgenstein'. Final programme.
- 4.55 **DID YOU SEE . . . ?** Ludovic Kennedy looks back over the year's TV.
- 5.45 **BUSH CHRISTMAS:** (film, 1983): Four Australian children try to save their father's farm by recovering a stolen racehorse but become hopelessly lost. A remake of the 1946 classic.
- *7.15 **MARY ROSE:** J. M. Barrie's ghost story, adapted for television by Trevor Ray stars Amanda Root as the women who returns to her family untouched by age, after disappearing for a quarter of a century. With Neil McCaul as her son and Anthony Call as her husband, Simon.
- 8.55 **GLOBAL REPORT:** A street child in Khartoum, an Estonian caterer taking advantage of Gorbachov's reforms, a Filipino journalist, and a Shingai music teacher are among those we meet in this documentary.
- 10.25 **STILL OF THE NIGHT:** (film, 1982): New York shrink Roy Scheider is obsessed with murder suspect Meryl Streep in a gleaming, ice-cold thriller, directed by Robert Benton, and designed as a homage to Hitchcock, to some two dozen of whose films it obsessively alludes.
- 11.55 **NINOTCHKA (film, 1939):** Garbo, in her penultimate screen role, laughs for the first time as a stern Russian official thawed and seduced by the West. Utterly delightful comedy, exquisitely directed by the incomparable Lubitsch from a script by Wilder and Brackett. Ends 1.50 a.m.

- 9.25 **MOVIE MAHAL:** Shamma Kapoor, star of 1960s musicals.
- 10.00 **COVENTRY'S CUP OF JOY:** Repeat of this year's FA Cup Final. When Coventry triumphed over the favourite team, Spurs.
- 12.00 **THE CHART SHOW CHRISTMAS SPECIAL:** The Top Ten singles of the year and a selection of hits from the 'Dance,' 'Heavy Metal,' 'Album' and 'Indies' charts. And what was the best new band of 1987?
- 1.30 **GLEN MILLER — A MOONLIGHT SERENADE:** Tributes, film clips and home movies, presented by Van Johnson.
- 3.00 **DAMON AND DEBBIE:** Phil Redmond's answer to 'Romeo and Juliet' — a spin-off from 'Brookside' featuring the two teenage lovers, played by Simon O'Brien and Gillian Kearney. First of three episodes (rpt).
- 5.30 **WEST COUNTRY JOURNEY:** British Rail travelogue made in 1955.
- 6.00 **AMERICAN FOOTBALL:** Followed by News Summary and Weather.
- 7.15 **MON CHER PAPA:** Illustrator Maurice Sendak developed a passion for Mozart after seeing 'Idomeneo' 15 years ago. The film follows Mozart's life through his own letters and Sendak's drawing.
- 8.20 **AN ICELANDIC SAGA:** Swedish cartoon.
- 8.30 **MARIA CALLAS — LIFE AND ART:** Robert Sutherland (Professor at the Royal College of Music and Callas's last accompanist) is just one of the many interviewed. He says, 'They had a lot in common. Aristotle Onassis was the most famous Greek man, and she was the most famous Greek woman. . . He used her like a diamond in his crown, but he never really understood her artistic needs.'
- 10.00 **THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE (film, 1968):** Wonderfully detailed incarnation of Edinburgh's wayward, life-enhancing pedagogue by Maggie Smith in a handsome, well-acted adaptation of Muriel Spark's brilliant novella. Yet somehow it lacks the book's individual tang.
- 12.10 **THE DECAMERON:** 'Pestle and Mortar.' Boccaccio's tales of lust and greed, in silhouette animation. Ends 12.30 a.m.

ITV — London Weekend

- 6.00 **TV-am.**
- 9.25 **BMX BEAT:** The Tizer World BMX Freestyle Championships. Second day.
- 10.00 **THE JOHNSTOWN MONSTER (film, 1971):** Irish children make a model monster to atone for one supposed to dwell in the nearby loch in an attempt to bring tourism and prosperity to their village.
- 11.00 **MORNING WORSHIP:** From St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in London's Soho Square. Reflecting the cosmopolitan nature of the community, the service will be in English, French, Spanish and Chinese.
- 12.00 **CHRIS BONNINGTON-THE EVEREST YEARS:** Portrait of the climber.
- 1.00 **FUZZBUCKET:** Disney children's film—a 12 year old boy with an invisible friend.
- 2.00 **THE ROYAL YEAR:** Interest in the Royal Family continues unabated. Julia Somerville looks back over the year's crop of stories.
- 2.45 **CHRISTMAS BULLSEYE:** Celebrity edition with Jan 'I've never thrown a dart before' Leeming, Geoff Capes, Eric Britton and others.
- 3.30 **THE BRETTs:** 'Grand Finale.' With the Princess Theatre badly damaged by fire, the Bretts decide to stage a pantomime to try to recoup their losses. Final episode.
- 4.30 **CUE GARY'S CHRISTMAS:** Laughing Gary Wilmot, with guests Linda Lusardi, and Bill Oddie.
- *5.15 **CORONATION STREET:** Hilda Ogden's farewell. 6.15 NEWS.
- 6.20 **HIGHWAY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL:** Among Sir Harry Secombe's guests are Roy Castle, Max Boyce and Brian Johnston.
- 7.15 **HOMETO ROOT:** 'Family Ties.' Feature-length edition of the sitcom starring John Thaw and Reece Dinsdale.
- 8.15 **CHRISTMAS SURPRISE SURPRISE:** What has Cilla got up her sequinned sleeve this evening?
- 9.15 **WATCHING:** Relentlessly chirpie Liverpool comedy finds the characters pondering on the problem of getting a Christmas tree on the cheap.
- 9.45 **NEWS.**
- 10.00 **SPINNING IMAGE:** 'Christmas Show Special.' Seasonal bile.
- 10.30 **THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING:** 'Shall we not suffer as wittily as we can?' demands a character in Christopher Fry's extraordinary drama, set in the 1400s. And suffer wittily they do—particularly Cherie Lunghi and Kenneth Branagh as the accused witch and confessed murderer. The dialogue is rich, playful and pleasingly eccentric. The production is an eighth birthday present to Fry, through the set and costumes let down the quality and the performances.
- 12.00 **HART TO HART:** 'A Christmas Hart.' Aetian and intrigue with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers.
- 1.00 **CARPENTERS-YESTERDAY ONCE MORE:** Musical tribute to the late Karen Carpenter, by brother Richard.
- 2.00 **NORTH TO ALASKA (film, 1960):** Lively comedy Western from veteran Henry Hathaway starring John Wayne and Stewart Granger as the turn-of-the-century gold prospectors bickering over chilly Capucine and uniting against colourful rival Ernie Kovacs. Nicely orchestrated.
- 3.45 **CASHILL: UNITED STATES MARSHAL (film, 1973):** Smug, sentimental Western, directed by Andrew V. MacLaglen in his sub-Ford style, with John Wayne as an ageing lawman whose neglected sons (Gary Grimes, Clay O'Brien) rebel by teaming up with outlawing George Kennedy. One of a 1970s cycle of pictures about frontier kids in search of role models.
- 5.40 **CARTOON TIME.**
*Oracle subtitles

'CHRISTMAS itself may be called into question,' runs an old piece of doggerel, 'if carried so far it creates indigestion.' This is certainly the case with Christmas television, the sole purpose of which is to cover the season with three coats of prime sugar-coating, leaving the discriminating viewer with a bad case of hives.

The conventional explanation for the relentless banality of the Christmas schedules is that the medium turns everything it touches into kitsch. But this is too charitable a theory. My own explanation is that television executives loathe Christmas because the event which it commemorates happened before television was invented. Thus there is no Desmond Wilcox film of the Virgin pregnancy, no interviews with the Three Wise Men, no 'Newsnight' exit poll on Herod's census, no 'Panorama' investigation into the involvement of right-wing Tory MPs in the Slaughter of the Innocents. There is not even, dammit, a 'Whicker's World' special on the Nativity, though a script for one exists.

It goes like this:

Whicker appears against a backdrop of mud-walled houses. A star gleams in the Eastern sky. Somewhere in the distance the distinctive sound of a camel farting can be heard.

WHICKER: 'There is a long tradition here of austere, ascetic abstinence, a resolute refusal to rely upon the resources of the Welfare State. Here, in Bethlehem, though carpenters may carp about the paucity of pre-natal nursing facilities and wanderers may whinge about over-booked bed-and-breakfast accommodation, self-help is the order of the day. Or the night. If the Hilton is full, then a guest-house will do. If the guest house is jam-packed, then the stable will suffice.'

Pan to reveal Nativity scene.

WHICKER: 'Not a pretty sight is it?

Both plums and turkeys

TELEVISION
by JOHN NAUGHTON

Normally you wouldn't want to get downwind of a set-up like this. But take a closer look. For this small-town artisan and his charming young wife are in on the ground floor of something really big. They're into religion and revelation, sacrament and salvation. One day this kid will be bigger than the Beatles, bigger even than Michael Jackson and Robert Maxwell rolled into one. Follow him, goes the sales pitch, and you shall have 'Everlasting Life'. The meek shall inherit the earth—though not its mineral rights. But right now the kid is cold and hungry. And all because his father didn't carry the right kind of plastic. The American Express Gold Card. Never leave home without it. Especially when you come to Bethlehem to be counted.

In point of fact, Christmas is an exceedingly dangerous time. Apart altogether from the risks attendant upon close proximity with one's relatives, there are the medical hazards cheerfully enumerated by Dr Miriam Stoppard in *Christmas is Coming*, YTV's salutary warning of the dangers ahead. Apparently some people get black eyes from high velocity champagne corks or just by walking into Christmas trees. Others are electrocuted by fairy lights. Still more crack their dentures upon coins embedded in Christmas puddings, while others regularly swallow cake decorations, a practice which, according to Dr Stoppard, could lead to peritonitis and a major operation.

Only a major operation could have got gorgeous, pouting Ms Stoppard herself into her party dress, a backless number from which her top half emerged like pistachio escaping from a disintegrating cornetto. In this con-

dition she held together a surprisingly entertaining ragbag of sketches.

The crucial thing to understand about the Christmas schedules is that they are pawns in a kind of arcane chess game, in which planners from the two networks compete for control of the mass audience. Each team has as its disposal a number of 'plums'—i.e. programmes or films certain to attract large numbers of viewers. 'The Sound of Music' is one such plum; almost any James Bond film is another. The trick is to schedule your plums in such a way that you capture the mass audience early and then keep it for the remainder of the day. Thus on Christmas Day the BBC started playing in earnest with 'EastEnders' at 3.10 p.m., followed by 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom', Russ Abbot, 'Only Fools and Horses' and 'The Two Ronnies.'

ITV, in contrast, mounted Disney's 'Alice in Wonderland' at 3.30, followed by a lame sequel to 'Mary Poppins', and then by Cilla Black, 'Coronation Street' and Dennis Norden's 'I'll be All Right on Christmas Night'. This meant that by the time the commercial channel reached its real plum of the evening—an excellent Inspector Morse whodunnit—BBC viewers were already 45 minutes into a new Miss Marple tale, and unlikely to switch.

The BBC is a formidable opponent in this game of ratings chess. This is partly because of the highly developed popularising instincts of people like Michael Grade (prior to his departure to

recording Piano Concerto no. 23 in A Major with the orchestra of La Scala and Carlo Maria Giulini; by BBC's recordings of Jacqueline du Pré's masterclasses; and by Julian Lloyd Webber's performance of the Elgar Cello Concerto (BBC2, Friday).

Wildlife enthusiasts were similarly blessed with a pair of quirky programmes: Brocksdie (BBC1) described the curious lifestyle of the urban badger—and the even more curious habits of badger aficionados, one of whom grinds up 17 pounds of bread and biscuits a night in order to entice the creatures into his lounge. The only conclusion to be drawn is that badgers must be pretty smart to reduce humans to this kind of reliable food source. Priddy the Hedgehog (BBC2) proved conclusively what one had long suspected, namely that hedgehogs are not very bright. In fact, they are roughly on a par with the TV moguls' idea of the average Christmas viewer.

Until then, Christmas will continue to be a bleak time for the discriminating viewer. At present, just about the only minority interests properly catered for are music and wildlife. For example, this week was much improved by Horowitz plays Mozart (BBC2), a riveting *vérité* account of the maestro



Miriam Stoppard: Pouting.

episode of 'Terry and June' and finishes up like 'Deliverance'. Two middle-class couples set sail up river for a holiday afloat—and make the mistake of picking up a demonic hitch-hiker en route. Marion Bailey and Joanne Pearce are particularly good as the wives with Stuart Wilson, as Vince the hitch-hiker.

10.15-11.15 **THE TEN GUY JURISTS (ITV):** The largest voluntary population shift in history occurred between 1947-73. One and a half million people left England for Australia when the British and Australian Government's Assisted Passage Scheme offered a one-way ticket to the Antipodes for just £10. We hear from those who stayed and those who came back. The programme also includes archive material from a 1965 documentary about four families planning to emigrate. What has happened to those families 21 years on?

MONDAY

- 8.00-7.40 **WAGAN (BBC1):** Terry assembles the stars of great radio comedy shows like 'ITMA', 'Round the Horne' and 'The Navy Lark'. His guests include Jimmy Edwards, the late Irene Handl, Leslie Phillips, and Deryck Guyler.
- 8.30-10.00 **CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH—DREAMS AND RECOLLECTIONS (Channel 4):** Mackintosh's career began brilliantly in Glasgow but ended in obscurity, and he was forced to turn from architect to water-colourist. Tom Conti stars as one of his descendants in a dreamy drama documentary which does visual credit to Mackintosh's clean lines and pale interiors.
- 9.55-10.35 **FLYING FOR FUN (BBC2):** The Aerona (a precursor of the microlight aircraft) buzzed over the English countryside in the 1930s, piloted by Major-General Jack Parham (played in this drama-documentary by Geoffrey Beavers). The 'flying bathtub' had a top speed of 75 mph and could hover.
- 10.00-11.00 **THOMAS' FATS' WALLER—THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN' (Channel 4):** Fats burst on 'a dance crazy' world with the music they wanted. His son (a dead ringer for his father) is among those interviewed about Fats, the jazz he played, and the people he knew. . . . At Capone 'kidnapped' him once and paid him 100 bucks for each request.

TUESDAY

- 3.00-5.05 **THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY (Channel 4):** Channel 4's first-ever commission comes round for a repeat. The RSC's production starring Roger Rees and David Threlfall (among many) is chopped into four chunks and will be shown on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afterwards.
- 8.00-10.00 **SHERLOCK HOLMES—THE SIGN OF FOUR (ITV):** Granada TV produce the trump card in the Holmesian centenary celebrations with a two-hour adaptation, starring Jeremy Brett (the best-ever Holmes, I would contend). The story opens outside a Gothic mansion, mistle-a-swirl, as a peg-legged man and some sort of pluffing dwarf make their way across the grounds. The re-creations of Victorian London are particularly fine.
- 8.30-9.30 **JUST A SONG AND DANCE STORY (Channel 4):** Wednesday night's archive evening on Channel 4 is called 'Salute to ATV'. Tonight's

WEDNESDAY

- 8.30-12.05 **SALUTE TO ATV (Channel 4):** The late comedian Marty Feldman won the Golden Rose of Montreux award in 1972 for this compilation of sketches from the Comedy Machine series. Called *The Best of the Comedy Machine (8.30-9.00pm)* it also features Spike Milligan. The next dip into ATV's archives brings up the first episode of

WEEK IN VIEW — JENNIFER SELWAY



Double act: Husband and wife Tom Conti and Kara Wilson in 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh' (Monday).

programme looks at the company's contribution to British television and that of its impresario, Lord Grade. ATV gave us 'Sunday Night at the London Palladium', 'Emergency Ward Ten', 'The Persuaders', 'Edward the Seventh' and of course, 'Crossroads' and 'The Muppet Show'.

10.15-11.00 **A SOURCE OF INNOCENT MERRIMENT (ITV):** Jonathan Miller's re-working of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Mikado' as an English pantomime, 'seems to have been as much fun in rehearsal as it is in performance. Even Miller is seen reduced to helpless laughter.

see, read about, have read the book of and will video when they come round on television.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
8.00-9.00 **THE CONTINENTAL (BBC2):** A sequel to John Godber's comedy series 'The Ritz', set in a vile Northern disco. The staff have moved on to Spain where they are opening a similar establishment called The Continental. Frank Bruno makes a guest appearance.

9.30-11.15 **THE MOTOWN STORY (Channel 4):** It's a perfect story in its way—big money, power, politics, talent and some tragic deaths along the way. It's also inter-cut with some of the best pop music ever recorded and is presented by the senior statesman of rock'n'roll, Paul Gambaccini.

9.35-2.55am **87 WHISTLE TEST 88 (BBC2):** Bruce Springsteen talks and plays (including his Hammersmith Odeon debut in 1975). At 11.05 we hear from Zimbabwe's Bhundu Boys and at 11.40 it's the inimitable Gary Glitter,

SATURDAY

- 7.15-8.15 **SCHUBERT (BBC2):** Kurt Masur conducts the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in a performance of Schubert's Symphony No 9 'The Great'. Recorded in St David's Hall, Cardiff. Jane Glover introduces the first of six televised concerts to be screened next week.
- 8.15-9.05 **BERGERAC (BBC1):** A sixth series for the Jersey detective. Susan, the girlfriend (Louise Jameson) is put out, when Bergerac (John Nettles) is assigned to be full-time baby-sitter to a supergrass and his mother. Films PHILIP FRENCH

THIS WEEK'S RADIO

On Tuesday Radio 4 offers a taste of Gamelan music—all gongs, drums and throwing off British inhibitions (12.25 a.m.), and starts a new six-part farce *Starring Leslie Willey* starring Leslie Phillips (12.25 p.m.). Ending an undistinguished Radio 3 series of parodies come moderately lunny ones on *Sartre (Parodies Lost, Tuesday 9.20 p.m.)* and *Joan Dixon (Wednesday 10.10 p.m.)*, elevated by Eleanor Bron's astonishing versatility. *John Peel's Festival 50* continues (Tues/Wed, Radio 1, 10 p.m.), and Radio 3 plays black American blues about Christmas (*Christmas Time Blues, Wednesday, 12.30 p.m.*). On New Year's Day Radio 1 charts the best of 'The Prince's Trust Concert (3.10 p.m.) with Clapton, Phil Collins. This *Week's Composer* (Monday-Friday, Radio 3, 9.10 a.m.) is Ravel.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

- **BBC1:** As London except Wales: 1.00 a.m. News and Weather. Northern Ireland: 1.00 a.m. News and Weather.
- **BBC2:** As London.
- **ANGLIA:** As London.
- **BORDER:** As London except 12.00 midnight Top Ten New Acts of the 1980s. 12.30 a.m. Border weather.
- **CENTRAL:** As London except 12.00 midnight Prisoner Cell Block H. 12.55 a.m. Donahue. 1.50 Thriller Classic: *Burnt Evidence*. 3.00 a.m. Jobfinder.
- **CHANNEL:** As London except 12.00 midnight Airplane II — The Sequel. 1.35 Weather and Closedown.
- **GRAMPIAN:** As London except 12.00 midnight America's Top Ten. 12.30 Reflections. 12.35 Closedown.
- **GRANDAD:** As London except 12.00 midnight Alfred Hitchcock Presents. 12.30 Closedown.
- **HTV WEST AND WALES:** As London except 12.00 midnight. America's Top Ten 12.30 Weather. Closedown.
- **SCOTTS:** As London except 12.00 midnight. Late Call. 12.05 The All-time Christmas Top Ten. 12.35 Closedown.
- **TSW:** As London except 12.00 midnight. Postscript. 12.05 Weather and Shipping forecast. 12.06 Closedown.
- **TSW:** As London except 12.00 midnight. Postscript. 12.05 Weather and Shipping forecast. 12.06 Closedown.
- **TYS:** As London except 12.00 midnight. Airplane II — The Sequel. 1.35 Company followed by Closedown.
- **TYNE TEES:** As London except 12.00 midnight. Easy Street. 12.25 News. Closedown.
- **YORKSHIRE:** As London except 12.00 midnight. Lord of the Tin Soldiers. 12.30 Five Minutes. 12.35 Closedown.
- **RTE1:** 9.00 The Phantom Freethinker. 10.15 Laurel and Hardy 11.10 Holy Communion. 11.55 News followed by film, Hugo the Hippo. 12.20



Fortycoats and the Seraphim Stone. 1.45 Dr Snuggles. 3.20 Sunday Matinee: National Velvet. 5.30 Piano Plus. 6.00 The Angelus. 6.01 News. 6.10 Iris '87. 6.40 Measure of the Year. 7.45 Johnny McEvoy and Friends. 8.15 Where in the World? 9.00 News. 9.15 Johnny Logan. 10.15 Sunday Night at the Movies: 'The Bounty'. 12.30 a.m. Late News. 12.35 Closedown.

■ **RTE 2:** 4.55 p.m. Pajo's Junkbox. 5.55 Barunty. 8.00 Nuacht. 8.05 Remington Steele. 9.00 The Madonna. 9.55 Minnie on Minnelli. 11.15 Twilight Zone Special. 12.10 Nocturne. 12.40 Closedown.

■ **S4C:** As Channel 4 except 8.45. Haloc. 1.30. Film 'My Man Godfrey'. 3.15 The Snowman. 3.45 The Old Man of Lochnagar. 5.00 A Gospel Service. 7.15 Sam Tan Y Teledu. 7.20 Newyddion. 7.30 Rhaglen Hwyl Gwynfryn. 8.10 Pobl Y Cwm. 8.40 Dechrau Canu. Dechrau Canmol. 9.10 Film: 'Ira Breuddwyddion. 11.10 Maria Callas—Life and Art. 12.40. Closedown.

TODAY'S RADIO

- **HIGHLIGHTS:** George Harrison talks about his latest album (Radio 1, 4.00 p.m.); Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau sings lieder by Wolf (Radio 3, 7.30 p.m.); 'Hancock's Hall Hour' from 1958 (Radio 4, 12.25 p.m.); 'Space Children' is a musical with a moral (Radio 4, 7.0 p.m.); the vital role of 'The Warm-Up Men' (Radio 4, 11.0 p.m.).
- **RADIO 1 (1053 kHz/285m, 1089 kHz/275m, 88-90.2 VHF):** 6.0 a.m. Nicky Campbell. 8.0 Peter Powell. 10.0 Dave Lee Travis. 1.0 Mike Read. 3.0 Radio Scraples. 3.30 Backchat. 4.0 On Cloud Nine. 5.0 Top 40 7.0 Anne Nightingale. 9.0 Andy Peebles. 11.0-12.0 Ranking Miss P.
- **RADIO 2 (693 kHz/433m, 909kHz/303m, 88-90.2 VHF):** 4.0 a.m. Dave Bussey. 6.0 Graham Knight. 7.30 Roger Royle. 9.05 Melodisc for You. 11.0 Desmond Carrington. 1.0 Brian Matthew. 2.0 Benny Green. 3.0 Alan Dell. 4.0 Moira Anderson. 4.30 Sing Something Simple. 5.0 Charlie Chester. 7.0 Living with Betty. 7.30 Ian Wallace. 8.30 Sunday Half Hour. 9.0 Hundred Best Tunes. 10.05 Songs from the Shows. 10.45 Laurie Holloway. 11.0 Jazz. 1.0 Bill Rennells. 3.0-4.0 A Little Night Music. ■ **RADIO 3 (1215kHz/247m, 90.2-92.4 VHF):** 6.55 a.m. A. Weather. 7.0 News. 7.05 English Pastoral. 8.0 World Service News. 8.10 Lili Kraus. 9.0 News. 9.05 Concert Choice: Purcell, Lullini, Bach and Dvorak. 10.30 The Octave of the Nativity. 11.30 New Stockholm Chamber Orchestra: Tubin, Jolibet, Nielsen and Dvorak. 12.20 From the Aldeburgh Festival: Haydn, Britten and Beethoven. 1.45 London Classical Players: Beethoven. 2.25 Words. 2.30 London Classical Players: Beethoven. 3.20 Dmitri Alexeev (piano): Chopin and Scriabin. 3.55 My Dear Friend Henriette. 4.10 Dmitri Alexeev. 2. Schumann. 5.30 Martin's Lex Talloni. 6.35 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra: Lutoslawski. Chain III. Cello Concerto. Shostakovich, Symphony No. 1. 5.0 Fischer-Dieskau at the OEH. 9.30 1987 Reith Lectures. 10.0 Anti-organic Developments. 10.50 The Octave of the Nativity. 11.57-12.0 News.
- **RADIO 4 (2004kHz/1500m, 92.4-94.8 VHF):** 6.0 a.m. News. 6.10 Prelude. 6.30 Morning News Broken. 7.0 News. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.40 Sunday. 8.50 Sir Harry Secombe, appeal. 9.0 News. 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Morning Service. 10.15 Archers. 11.15 On Duty. 11.30 Pick of the Year. 12.25 Hancock's Hall Hour. 1.0

News. 1.05 New Review of the Year. 2.0 Les Misérables. 3.0 The Pickwick Papers. 3.40 An Evening with Alan Jay Lerner. 5.0 With Great Pleasure: Sue Townsend. 6.30 Murder at the Red October. 7.0 Space Children. 7.45 Crime at Christmas. 9.15 The Natural History Programme. 10.0-10.15 Britain and the Sciences. 11.0 The Warm-Up Men. 11.30 Seeds of Faith. 11.45 Little Horrors. 12.0-12.15 News.

■ **WORLD SERVICE (648kHz/435m):** 6.0 a.m. Newsdesk. 6.30 Radio 1. 7.00 Radio 2. 7.30 Twenty-Four Hours. 8.30 Sunday Half Hour. 9.0 World Service News. 10.05 Songs from the Shows. 10.45 Laurie Holloway. 11.0 Jazz. 1.0 Bill Rennells. 3.0-4.0 A Little Night Music. ■ **RADIO 3 (1215kHz/247m, 90.2-92.4 VHF):** 6.55 a.m. A. Weather. 7.0 News. 7.05 English Pastoral. 8.0 World Service News. 8.10 Lili Kraus. 9.0 News. 9.05 Concert Choice: Purcell, Lullini, Bach and Dvorak. 10.30 The Octave of the Nativity. 11.30 New Stockholm Chamber Orchestra: Tubin, Jolibet, Nielsen and Dvorak. 12.20 From the Aldeburgh Festival: Haydn, Britten and Beethoven. 1.45 London Classical Players: Beethoven. 2.25 Words. 2.30 London Classical Players: Beethoven. 3.20 Dmitri Alexeev (piano): Chopin and Scriabin. 3.55 My Dear Friend Henriette. 4.10 Dmitri Alexeev. 2. Schumann. 5.30 Martin's Lex Talloni. 6.35 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra: Lutoslawski. Chain III. Cello Concerto. Shostakovich, Symphony No. 1. 5.0 Fischer-Dieskau at the OEH. 9.30 1987 Reith Lectures. 10.0 Anti-organic Developments. 10.50 The Octave of the Nativity. 11.57-12.0 News.

■ **RADIO 4 (2004kHz/1500m, 92.4-94.8 VHF):** 6.0 a.m. News. 6.10 Prelude. 6.30 Morning News Broken. 7.0 News. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.40 Sunday. 8.50 Sir Harry Secombe, appeal. 9.0 News. 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Morning Service. 10.15 Archers. 11.15 On Duty. 11.30 Pick of the Year. 12.25 Hancock's Hall Hour. 1.0