

My farewell to Channel 4

JEREMY ISAACS

INSIDE

MOMENTS OF CATASTROPHE PORTRAIT OF 1987



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

ARTS

INTERVIEW



2-page sports calendar

of the year

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SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 1987



Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed to meetings with Us Secretary of State George Shultz in preparation for a new summit between Mikhail Gorbachov and President Reagan. (Battle to beat the clock, page 8.)

Three car bombs killed one person and injured 35 in crowded markets in claimed responsibility, but explosions.

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. (Report, page 31.)

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. (Details, page 29.)

THE WEATHER Mild; some rain, with brighter intervals.

(Details, page 2.)



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BRIEFLY

SUMMIT MOVE

MARKET BLASTS

Pakistan's capital Islamabad. No one Pakistan has blamed Afghanistan for previous

Miriam Ali: 'Still worried'.

battles of the war.

mas Day, 1979.

garrison.

a crawl.

The Russians' determina-

tion to press ahead in the

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

Nadia and Zana Muhsen, who were taken from their remote mountain villages last week after The Observer revealed their story, have had to accept publicly the men they were married to seven years

A Yemeni Government official with whom they are staying in the city of Taiz has told them he will be providing them with visa application forms requesting that their husbands be allowed into Britain.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the British Embassy in the capital, Sana'a, had been told of the

latest information, supplied to them by The Observer, and was arranging to interview the husbands with the women when they arrived in the

The young children of the women -- Nadia's daughter, 21month-old Tina, her son Haney, four, and Zana's son, 20-month-old Mohammed-were left behind in the mountain villages of Hockail and Ashube when their mothers were collected last week.

Zana told The Observer yesterday: 'We wanted to bring them with us, but the man said, no, they would be collected later.

'My mother-in-law is looking after them, but the official says that he is going to collect them today.'
The three children have been entered on to the women's pass-

EXCLUSIVE

Child brides 'must bring husbands home'

ports, which are awaiting their visit

to the British Embassy. North Yemen's second city, they were taken to the home of the Yemeni Government official who had collected them. They found that their husbands, whom they had not seen for two years, had been recalled from Saudi Arabia, where

they had been working. provided with a flat near the official's home, where they are now living with their husbands. Their mother, Miriam Ali, is desperate lest the girls should become pregnant and be forced to stay. Don't worry, Mum, they are so

by EILEEN MacDONALD

When the sisters arrived in Taiz,

On Christmas Day they were

scared they are not touching us,' Zana reassured her yesterday in a

telephone call. The official has also told Miss Ali, who was not married to the sisters' father, Muthana Muhsen, that it could take up to four weeks before

the women can come home. Miss Ali, 44, said yesterday: 'He says that everything must quieten down in the Press and the visas granted to the husbands before the girls and their children come home.

'I am so scared that it could all go wrong. The girls are so far away, and living with this official. I just hope they tell him the things he wants to hear.'

Miss Ali applied for a visa at the

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

'They told me to come back on Tuesday with \$500, three passport photographs and a return air ticket, she said. 'When I visited them before I was treated as their mother.'

The sisters have also had a lengthy telephone call from their father on Christmas Day. He begged them not to come home soon. Zana told her mother yesterday: 'He said, don't leave until all the fuss has died down because there would be a lot of reporters at the airport and he would be

ashamed. He said he would be so ashamed that he would kill himself.' The sisters have been told that

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

On Christmas Day, The Observer informed the Foreign Office of the latest development in the women's

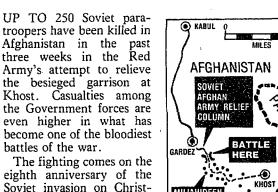
We also gave the Foreign Office and the British Embassy in Sana'a the telephone number of the house where the women are staying.

The Geneva-based charity, Defence of Children International, has told Miss Ali it is considering whether any criminal charges can be brought against the women's father. Miss Ali said: 'Their lawyer, Geraldine Van Beurin, thinks it may be possible to ask the police to interview him about what he has done.

Dream of Freedom, page 7

Afghans kill 250 Russians

by ARTHUR KENT



The battle for Khost

face of such high losses This is ambush country, against the Mujahideen and the Mujahideen enjoy guerrillas has surprised the advantage of high Western defence analysts. The sacrifices made to reach ground, particularly at the Khost will almost certainly mouths of 12 side-valleys which overlook the windprove to be a fraction of what it will take to hold the ing, heavily-mined road.

Soviet and Afghan com-For all the men and mando units have been forced armour thrown into what into a treacherous series of the analysts say is the leap-frog landings by helibiggest Soviet-Afghan off- copter at night to avoid antiensive in two years, the aircraft fire. Each landing has Mujahideen have held the pushed the advance a few territory. assault column's advance to hundred metres further tow-

A demonstration in Mosards Khost.

Helicopter-borne Soviet Held up by this bottleneck calling for the withdrawal of commandos breached the is a 10,000-man force Soviet troups from Afghapass at Sato Kandau last backed by the latest in week. They overran Muja- Soviet artillery, 'a vast hideen positions and swathe of troops and allowed a handful of tanks to armour, 18 miles long', descend into the Zadran according to one observer valley, the steep-sided 30- close to the battle.

mile-long mountain gaunt- 'If the Russians are happy let standing between the to accept a high number of assault force and its dead and wounded, then they can eventually bull

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

Chris Gregory, the wife of the British camerman Andy Skrzypkowiak, missing and

Skrzypkowiak, aged 36, was killed by members of an Afghan resistance group, Hizbe Islami, which has been accused by foreign aid workers of blocking free transit of overland trails to

city of Mardan have been

group spokesman said.

government.

presumed dead in Afghanisshe was 'angered and irritated' by what she describes as Pakistan ineptitude in the investigation of the case. Evidence suggests that

the north.

Since 14 December, police in the North West Frontier questioning four Hizbe members in connection with Skrzypkowiak, who disappeared on I October while travelling through Hizbe

cow vesterday by a group nistan was broken up by police and security men, a

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said yesterday that Russia should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and allow it to form a truly independent

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 weights only 26lb and has never

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

walked. The hospital says it cannot operate because a shortage of specialist nurses has halved the number of intensive care beds

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 available to 12, only six of which are had been repeatedly postponed. for heart patients. Birmingham Photograph by John Reardon.

Ex-MI6 men cleared to write in book

THE GOVERNMENT has allowed a book on intelligence to be published which men had been sent to the includes chapters from two named former MI6 officers. This conflicts with its own stated policy, central to the 'Spycatcher' case and the dispute over the BBC Radio 4 series, 'My Country -Right or Wrong,' that secret said. 'RUSI has had close links service officers are bound by

security matters.
The book, 'British and American Approaches to Intelligence,' covers a number of major secret service issues including covert action, financing and comparisons with the CIA. It contains chapters written by two ex-MI6 officers, Mr Robert Cecil and Mr John Bruce Lockhart. Mr Cecil was an assistant to Sir Stewart Menzies, head of MI6 from 1939-53. The book states Mr Bruce Lockhart was 'actively involved with intelligence at a senior level'.

lifelong rules of silence on

The book is part of a Royal United Services Institute series published by Macmillan at £29.50. It is a collection of papers first given by leading intelligence experts at an Anglo-American conference on intelligence held by the RUSI in 1984.

The Cabinet Office is responsible for screening books by former civil servants, but would not say last week whether the book had been cleared. One source, however, said that the two chapters by the ex-MI6 Wright's 'Spycatcher' allega- and 'Spycatcher.'

by PAUL LASHMAR

Foreign Office and then the Cabinet Office for clearance, which was granted. The Director of the RUSI, Group-Captain David Bolton,

had been cleared. That was 'a matter for the book editor,' he BRITISH AND AMERICAN. APPROACHES

said he did not know if the book

INTELLIGENCE EDITED BY K.G. ROBERTSON Wraps off:

Intelligence papers. with the Ministry of Defence for 150 years and we would have

acted responsibly.' The book's editor, Mr Ken Robertson, of the University of Reading, was unavailable for comment. The Government now gener-

ally prevents the publication of books, or even interviews, by ex-intelligence officers. Last week in the High Court a permanent injunction preventing The Observer, The Guardian and The Sunday Times from publishing ex-MI5 officer Peter tions was not granted by Mr Justice Scott. But an interim injunction was reimposed pending the Government's appeal on

18 January.

Other less controversial books, such as 'One Girl's War' by wartime MI5 agent Joan Miller, have also been banned. The Government still has an injunction against the BBC broadcasting the programme 'My Country — Right or Wrong' because it contains interviews with former intelligence officers.

Mr Lockhart's chapter is called 'Intelligence: a British View,' and is a detailed analysis of the role of British intelligence. He says his views are one man's thoughts, based on practical experience. 'Mr Lockhart is described as having served in the Foreign Office from 1945-65.

Mr Cecil's chapter is entitled The Assessment and Acceptance of Intelligence: a Case Study'. It compares intelligence gathering for the Falkland crisis of 1982 with the lesser Falklands crisis of 1951 which, Mr Cecil admits, draws on his personal Foreign Office experience.

Mrs Thatcher was challenged last night to prosecute a former MI6 officer who is reported to have published his memoirs privately and sent them to friends as a Christmas card. Mr George Foulkes, Labour spokesman on foreign affairs. said the Prime Minister should take action or abandon the legal hattle against Mr Peter Wright

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Charles will take Ashes to Australia by ROBIN MEAD

anged because the MCC could and said the body would be

not allow the Ashes, which cremated and the ashes taken

PRINCE CHARLES has agreed to escort the Ashes them to Australia as a gesture

famous trophy. sources, the Ashes are to January. travel on the Royal flight when the Prince and Princess are being kept secret and the of Wales leave to celebrate MCC has refused to comment

Australia's bicentenary. They will be carried by a Australian soil. senior diplomat under a Jewels than a few bits of burnt wood.

travel on a commercial flight.

to Australia next month because of fears for the protracted debate at Lord's. The Australians intend to safety of cricket's most display them during the bicentennial Test Match, According to diplomatic which starts in Sydney on 29 Details of the Royal flight

The MCC agreed to send

until the Ashes are safely on The Ashes commemorate degree of security more the first defeat of England by appropriate to the Crown Australia at the Oval in 1882. A mock obituary published in wood. the Sporting Times lamented
The Royal escort was arr- the death of English cricket

were impossible to insure, to to Australia. The following year, when



and presented it to the England captain.

England, led by the Hon. Ivo Bligh, won the Test series, some Melbourne women burned a bail, sealed it in an urn,

Ivo Bligh later married one of the women. When he died in 1927, as Lord Darnley, he bequeathed the Ashes to the MCC at Lord's.

hives.

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 discri-

minating viewer with a bad case of

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

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

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

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

WHICKER: 'Not a pretty sight is it?

Pan to reveal Nativity scene.

MONDAY

■ 7 00-7.40 WOGAN (BBC1) : Terry

assembles the stars of great radio

comedy shows like 'ITMA', 'Round

he Horne ' and ' The Navy Lark '. His

uests include Jimmy Edwards, the

late Irene Handl, Leslie Phillips, and

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

8.30-10.00 CHARLES RENNIE

MACKINTOSH—DREAMS AND RECOLLECTIONS (Channel 4):

a script for one exists.

It goes like this:

can be heard.

stable will suffice.

Deryck Guyler.

Panorama' investigation into the

Normally you wouldn't want to get downwind of a set-up like this. But take

a closer look. For this small-town

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

one. Follow him, goes the sales pitch,

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

In point of fact, Christmas is an

exceedingly dangerous time. Apart

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 cham-

pagne corks or just by walking into

Christmas trees. Others are electro-

cuted 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

Only a major operation could have

got gorgeous, pouting Ms Stoppard

number from which her top half

emerged like pistachio escaping from a

disintegrating cornetto. In this con-

herself into her party dress, a backless

a major operation.'

altogether from the risks attendant

Bethlehem to be counted.

Especially when you come to

and you shall have "Everlasting Life"

Jackson and Robert Maxwell rolled into

artisan and his charming young wife are

Both plums and turkeys

by JOHN NAUGHTON

dition she held together a surprisingly

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 at its

disposal a number of 'plums'—i.e.

programmes or films certain to attract

large numbers of viewers. 'The Sound

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

Doom,' Russ Abbot, 'Only Fools and

Horses' and 'The Two Ronnies.'

'Indiana Jones and the Temple of

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 Nor-

den's 'It'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

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

The BBC is a formidable opponent in

of Music ' is one such plum; almost any

entertaining ragbag of sketches.

TELEVISION

- 8.30 THE RACOONS: 'Surprise attack. 8.55 PLAY SCHOOL: Presented by Elizabeth
- 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
- 10.15 JOSEPH AND CHILD: Arthur Dooley's sculpture
- 10.30 SIGN FYTRA . '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 TOURNA MENT: Recall the rain-swept days o summer, with a repeat of Prince Edward's charity contest, held at Alton Towers. The teams were led by the Yorks, the Princess Royal and Prince Edward.
- 1.55 NEWS.
- *2.00 EASTENDERS.
- *3.30 ESCAPE TO VICTORY (film, 1981) Unintentionally hilarious World War II action yarn about a soccer match between allied prisoners (Pele 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 chael Caine and Sylvester Stallone.
- 5.20 ROLF HARRIS CARTOON TIME: 'The Million Hare', 'Cat Feud' and 'The Dog
- 5.45 THAT'S LIFE PRESENTS: Another chance to see Meg the mathematical dog, the love-sick budgle and the sheep who thought she was a dog. Esther Rantzer looks at precocious pets from 15 years of
- 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 Acres.' Feature length episod finds Seymour, Compo and Clegg helping out at the annual garden fete. Compo is distracted by the prospect of seeing Nora
- *8.35 PERRY MASON -- THE CASE OF THE SHOOTING STAR (TV film, 1986): A cha show host is shot dead on prime-time TV by a film star. Raymond Burr resurrects the mighty bulk of Perry Mason to defend Street (Barbara Hale).
- 10.10 NEWS.
- 10.25 EVERYMAN: 'Madonna.' The Pope has declared 1987-88 as 'Marian Year Angela Tilby's film examines the image o the Virgin from Ephesus in Turkey (where she ascended) to Lourdes (where thousands seek her miraculous cures).
- 11.20 THE MALTESE FALCON (film, 1941) John Huston's stunning debut as write director, an immaculately cast adaptation of Hammet's classic thriller featuring Humphrey Bogart as private eye San Spade. A wonderful start to Huston's career that ended this year with a superb an adaptation of Joyce's 'The Dead.' (b.

■ BBC1 : As London except Wates : 1.00 a.m. News and

■ BORDER: As London except 12.00 midnight Top Ten

■ CENTRAL: As London except 12.00 midnight Prisoner

Cell Block H. 12,55 a.m. Donahue, 1,50 Thriller Classic:

M CHANNEL: As London except 12.00 midnight

Airplane II - The Sequel. 1.35 Weather and

GRAMPIAN: As London except 12.00 midnight

America's Top Ten. 12.30 Reflections, 12.35 Closedown

■ GRANADA: As London except 12.00 midnight Alfred

■ HTV WEST AND WALES:As London except 12.00

nidnight. America's Top Ten 12.30 Weather

■ SCOTTISH; As London except 12.00 midnight. Late

Call. 12.05 The All-time Christmas Top Ten. 12.35

■ 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.

2.05 Weather and Shipping Forecast, 12.06 Closedowr

■ TVS: As London except 12.00 midnight. Airplane II

M TYNE TEES: As London except 12.00 midnight, Easy

■ YORKSHIRE: As London except 12.00 midnight, Lord

of the Tin Soldiers. 12.30 Five Minutes. 12.35

Laurel and Hardy, 11 10 Holy Communion, 11.55

News followed by film, Hugo the Hippo. 1.20

iel. 1.35 Company followed by Clos

New Acts of the 1980s, 12.30 a.m. Border weather,

ence. 3.00 a.m. Jobfinder

chcock Presents, 12.30 Closedown

Northern Ireland: 1,00 a.m. News and

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

1.00 WEATHER Ceefax subtitles.

■ BBC2: As London

■ ANGLIA: As London

Weather



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

TODAY'S TV

BBG2

- 9.00 PAGES FROM CEEFAX. 9.15 BABAR COMES TO AMERICA: Narrated
- SEBASTIAN THE INCREDIBLE DRAWING DOG: 'Hall Hat Joe.
- THE MOLE IN A DREAM : Children's story. 10.15 MOLLY'S PILGRIM: The children Molly's new American school tease her
- about her Russian parents. 10.35 CHARLIE BROWN: "You're a Good Man
- *11.25 ARABIAN ADVENTURE (film, 1979): Cutprice re-working of 'Thief of Baghdad', a hard day's Arabian night starring Chris topher Lee as an evil caliph challenged by stocky, uncharismatic Prince Oliver Tobias. Elizabeth Welch and Mickey Rooney lend a much-needed touch of class.
- 1.00 NO LIMITS: Teenage rock roadshow. THE BOLSHO! BALLET: Memorable 'Omnibus' takes us inside the Bolshoi Ballet School and interviews some of the company's stars, including Galina Ulanova
- f choreographer Yuri Grigorovich THE GREAT PHILOSOPHERS: 'Wittgen stein '. Final programme. 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
- 1948 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 Nei McCaul as her son and Anthony Calf as he
- 8.55 GLOBAL REPORT: A street child in Khar toum, an Estonian caterer taking advantage of Gorbachov's reforms, a Filipino journalist, and a Shanghai music teacher are among those we meet in this
- 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 enton and designed as a homage to Hitchcock, to some two dozen of whose ns 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.

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

Where in the World? 9.00 News, 9.15 Johnny Logan,

a.m. Late News, 12,35 Closedown,

Nocturne, 12,20 Closedown.

10.15 Sunday Night at the Movies: The Bounty. 12.30

■ RTE 2: 4.55 p.m. Pajo's Junkbox, 5.55 Barnum, 8.00

Nuacht, 8.05 Remington Steele, 9.00 The Madonna, 9.55

Minnelli on Minnelli. 11.15 Twilight Zone Special. 12.10

S4C: As Channel 4 except 8.45. Hafoc, 1.30. Film I

My Man Godfrey, 3.15 The Snowman, 3.45 The Old Man

Teledu, 7,20 Newyddion, 7,30 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn,

8.10 Pobol Y Cwm. 8.40 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau

Canmol, 9.10 Film: I fro Breuddwydion, 11.10 Maria

Callas-Life and Art. 12.40. Closedown.

of Lochnagar, 5.00 A Gospel Session, 7.15 Sam Tan Y

the Year, 7.45 Johnny McEvoy and Friends, 8.15

CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 MOVIE MAHAL: Shammi 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 SPE CIAL: 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 o
- 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 1953.
- 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 accom panist) is just one of the many nterviewed. 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 hand-some, 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 am.

- nearby lough 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 nat
- 12 year old boy with an invisible friend.
- the Bretts decide to stage a pantomime to
- Gary Wilmot, with guests Linda Lusardi. and Bill Oddie,
- farewell, 6.15 NEWS.
- 7.15 HOMETOROOST: 'Family Ties.' Feature length edition of the sitcom starring John Thaw and Reece Dinsdale.
- has Cilla got up her sequinned sleeve this evening?
- pool comedy finds the characters pondering on the problem of getting Christmas tree on the cheap.
- cial.' Seasonal bile

- Carpenter, by brother Richard.
- 3.45 CAHILL: 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 (Garv Grimes, Clay O'Brien) rebel by teaming up with outlaw George Kennedy. One of a 1970s cycle of pictures about ontier kids in search of role models. 5.40 CARTOON TIME.

ITV- London Weekend

- 9.25 BMX BEAT: The Tizer World BMX Freestyle Championships. Second day.

 10.00 THE JOHNSTOWN MONSTER (film, 1971)
- 12.00 CHRIS BONNINGTON-THE EVEREST
- 1.00 FUZZBUCKET: Disney children's film---
- tow and others.
- try to recoup their losses. Final episode. 4.30 CUE GARY'S CHRISTMAS!: Laughing
- 6.20 HIGHWAY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Among
- 8.15 CHRISTMAS SURPRISE SURPRISE: What
- 10.00 SPITTING IMAGE: 'Christmas Show Spe-
- 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 eightieth birthday present to Fry, though the set and costumes let down the quality and the performances.
- 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 villain Ernie Kovacs. Nicely orchestrated
 - 9.55-10.35 FLYING FOR FUN (BBC2): The Aeronca (a precursor of the nicrolight aircraft) buzzed over the inglish countryside in the 1930s. iloted by Major-General Jack Parham played in this drama-documentary by offrey Beevers). The 'flying bathtub ' had a top speed of 75 mph and

- stand in for one supposed to dwell in the
- ure of the community, the service will be in English, French, Spanish and Chinese.
- 2.00 THE ROYAL YEAR: Interest in the Royal ville looks back over the year's crop of
- 2.45 CHRISTMAS BULLSEYE: Celebrity edition with Jan 'I've never thrown a dart before ' Leeming, Geoff Capes, Eric Bris-
- 3.30 THE BRETTS: 'Grand Finale.' With the cess Theatre badly damaged by fire,
- *5.15 CORONATION STREET: Hilda Ogden's
- Sir Harry Secombe's guests are Roy Castle, Max Boyce and Brian Johnston.
- 9.15 WATCHING: Relentlessly chirple Liver-
- 10.30 THE LADV'S NOT FOR RUBNING "Shall
- 12.00 HART TO HART: A Christmas Hart. Aetian and intrigue with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers.
- .00 CARPENTERS-YESTERDAY ONCE 2.00 NORTH TO ALASKA (film, 1960): Lively
 - - to Mackintosh's clean lines and pale

■ HIGHLIGHTS: George Harrison talks about his latest album (Radio 1, 4,00 p.m.): Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau sings lieder by Wolf (Radio 3, 7.50 p.m.); 'Hancock's Half 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.).

TODAY'S RADIO

Dave Lee Travis. 1.0 Mike Read. 3.0 Radio Scruples. 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 ■ 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 Melodies 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. Weather. 7.0 News. 7.05 English Pastorals. 8.0 World Service News. 8.10 Lili Kraus. 9.0 News. 9.05 Concert Choice: Purcell, Luighni, 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, 5.0 Chris Martin's Lex Talionis, 6.35 BBC

Scottish Symphony Orchestra: Lutoslawski, Chain III; Cello Concerto; Shostakovich, Symphony Not 1, 7,50 Fischer-Dieskau at the QEH, 9,30 1987 Reith Lectures, 10.0 Anti-oranic Developments, 10,50 The Octave of Fischer-Dieskau at the QEM, 9.30 1907 Helth Lectures, 10.0 Anti-organic Developments, 10.50 The Octave of the Nativity, 11.57-12.0 News. ■ RADIO 4 (200kHz/1500m, 92.4-94.8 VHF) 6.0 a.m. News. 6.10 Prelude. 6.30 Morning Has Broken. 7.0 News. 6.10 Prelude. 6.30 Morning Has 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 Half Hour. 1.0

RADIO 1 (1053 kHz/285m, 1089 kHz/275m, 88-90.2 VHF) 6.0 a.m. Nicky Campbell. 8.0 Peter Powell. 10.0 News. 1.05 New Review of the Year. 2.0 3.0 The Pickwick Papers, 3. 4.0 An Evenium News. 1.05 New Review of the Year, 2.0 Les Misérables News. 6.15 The Hundred and One Dalmatians, 2, 6,30 Murder at the Red October, 7.0 Space Children, 7.45 Crime at Christmas, 9.15 The Natural History Programme, 10.0 News, 10.15 Behind the Scenes of Crime. 11.0 The Warm-Up Men. 11.30 Seeds of Faith 1.45 Little Horrors. 12.0-12.15 News. WORLD SERVICE (648kHz/435m) 6.0 a.m. Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin. 7.0 News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 7.50 Waveguide. 8.0

News. 8.09 Reflections, 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours, 9.0 News. 9.09 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Cantabile at Christmas. 9.45 On the Road. 10.01 Short Story. 10.15 Classical Record Review. 10.30 Service. 11.0 News. 11.09 News four chunks and will be shown on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday about Britain, 11.15 From Our Own Correspo 11.30 Londres Midi. 12.01 Play: Plutus. 1.0 News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 A Matter of Honour. 2.01 Sandi Jones. 2.30 Sports Roundup. 2.45 The Hound of Fate. 3.0 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Concert Hall. 4.0 News. 4.05 Commentary. 4.15 Art and Accountability. 4.45 Letter from America. 5.0 News. 5.09 Reflections. 5.15 English by Radio. 5.45 Londres Soir, 6.30 Heute Aktuel, 8.0 by Radio. 5.45 Londres Soir. 6.30 Heute Aktuel. 8.0 News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 8.30 A Matter of Honour. 9.01 Short Story. 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 10.0 News. 10.09 I've Been Together Now for 70 Years. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial Review of the Year. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.0 News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letter from America. 11.30 Questions of Faith. 12.0 News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Service. 1.01 Pop Special. 2.0 News. 2.09 Commentary. 2.15 Peebles' Choice. 2.30 Discovery. 3.0 News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 Good Books. 3.30 A Matter of Honour. 40 Newsdesk 4.30 Six Victorian London are particularly fine ■ 8.30-9.30 JUST A SONG AND DANCE STORY (Channel 4): Wednesday Books, 3.30 A Matter of Honour, 4.0 Newsdesk, 4.30 Six Four Eight, 4.35 Financial News, 4.45 Morgenmagazin, 5.45 Recording of the Week. night's archive evening on Channel 4 is called 'Salute to ATV'. Tonight's

TUESDAY ■ 3.00-5.05 THE LIFE AND NICKLEBY (Channel 4): Channel 4's first-ever commission comes round to a repeat. The RSC's production starring Roger Rees and David Threlfall (among many) is chopped into

■ 10.00-11.00 THOMAS ' FATS '

WALLER-THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN'

crazy 'world with the music they

father) is among those interviewed

neople he knew . . . Al Capone

100 bucks for each request.

Channel 4): Fats burst on a 'dance

anted. His son (a dead ringer for his

about Fats, the jazz he played, and the

kidnapped 'him once and paid him

afternoons ■ 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 contest). The story opens outside a Gothic mansion, mists a-swirl, as a peg-legged man and some sort of shuffling dwarf make their way across the grounds. The re-creations of

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 in ATV's archives brings up the first episode of

programme looks at the company's

itribution to British television an

that of its impresario, Lord Grade. ATV

gave us ' Sunday Night at the London

Palladium ', ' Emergency Ward Ten ',

Seventh ' and of course, ' Crossroads '

Jonathan Miller's re-working of Gilber

English panto musical 'seems to have

been as much fun in rehearsal as it is in

WEDNESDAY

m 8.30-12.05 SALUTE TO ATV (Channel

and Sullivan's 'The Mikado 'as 'an

performance. Even Miller is seen

reduced to helpless laughter.

The Persuaders ', ' Edward the

and 'The Munnet Show '

職 10.15-11.00 A SOURCE OF

INNOCENT MERRIMENT (ITV):

the acclaimed series Edward the h (9.00-10.00) made in 1975. Wit Annette Crosbie as Victoria and Robert Hardy as Albert, 1961 is the date of Val Parnell's Sunday Night at the London alladium (10.00-11.00pm) which teams up a very young Bruce Forsyth in a shiny suit, with Norman Wisdom, And finally it's The Saint (11.00-12.05am) staring Roger Moore, before he became 007. This sadly, is one of the later episodes made in colour-not the

superior monochrome from the early

■ 9.50-12.10 THE MIKADO (ITV) : In Jonathan Miller's production for the English National Opera, the action has been transferred from Japan in the 1880s to England in the 1930s, Eric Idle Lord High Executioner; with Bonaventura Bottone as Nanki-Poo, Richard Van Allan as Pooh-Bah and Lesley Garnett as Yum-Yum. **■** 10.45-11.30 FILMS OF THE YEAR (BBC1): Barry Norman makes his selection of the year's cinematic highlights—the films you saw, meant to 11.40 it's the inimitable. Gary Glitter.

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

(BBC2): A seguel 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 iest appearance

(Channel 4): It's a perfect story in its way-big money, power, politics, talent and some tragic deaths along th way. It's also inter-cut with some of the best non music ever recorded, and is presented by the senior statesman of ock'n'roll, Paul Gambaccini

built advantage over ITV, namely that it can deploy BBC1 and BBC2 in coordinated pincer movements. The ITV boys, in comparison, appear to have little control over Channel 4. This became particularly obvious on Boxing Day, when the main ITV plum -Ghostbusters', starting at 7.30—was undermined by BBC1 starting 'The Paul Daniels Magic Show 'at 7.25 while at the same time ensuring that 'Oliver!' on BBC2 didn't finish until 7.40 The rules of these games were laid down many years ago, and may in fact be changing. They were based on theories of 'audience inertia', i.e. the

Channel 4), partly because the BBC

currently has some very popular shows

(EastEnders for example, Paul Daniels

and 'The Two Ronnies') and partly

because the Corporation has one in-

belief that viewers were essentially passive sods who were likely to stick with whatever channel they first turned to. But his assumption is being undermined by technology. The advent of video recorders offers viewers the possibility of choosing when they watch what. And remote-control televisions are increasingly popular, giving viewers the ability to zap from channel to channel without leaving their armchairs. If these trends continue, then the TV moguls will eventually have to invent other ways of keeping viewers hooked over the holiday period. 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



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: Brockside (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.

WEEK IN VIEW — JENNIFER SELWAY

switch.

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE ■ 8.00-9.00 THE CONTINENTAL

■ 9.30-11.15 THE MOTOWN STORY

■ 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

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 live, from Bournemouth Internationa Centre. There could be no better star to the New Year. **2 9.45-11.15 TAGGART (ITV) : ' Cold** /ince the hitch-hiker

Blood.' A feature-length thriller with he dead-eyed Glasgow detective (played by Mark McManus). But there's ittle in the way of Hogmanay jollies on his beat, when a masseur is found. murdered at a health and beauty exhibition, Diane Keen co-stars, **NEW YEAR'S DAY** ticket to the Antipodes for just £10. We

■ 8.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. AUSTRALIA LIVE (Channel 4): Down Under they're watching this in the evening at the start of Australia's Bicentenary Year. Opened with a speech by Prime Minister Bob Hawke. The programme visits 70 locations, and is presented by Clive James, Paul Hogan and Dame Edna Everage, combining to give a picture of the country's past and its present. It concludes with a firework 9.00-10.00 THE GIFTIE (Channel 4)

Comic variation of the doppelganger story stars John Wells and Richard O'Sullivan as two suburban males who nave inadvently duplicated themselves, Joanna van Gysegham and Janet Key play the wives who find this proliferation of husbands is a mixed blessing. ■ 10.00-11.40 WAY UPSTREAM (BBC1): In the words of adaptor/

director Terry Johnson, Alan

small shops in Nation of

Ayckbourn's play begins like an

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 **園 10.15-11.15 THE TEN QUID** TOURISTS (ITV): The largest voluntary population shift in history occurred between 1947-73. One and a half nillion people left England for Australia when the British and Australian Government's Assisted Passage Scheme offered a one way

includes archive material from a 196 documentary about four families planning to emigrate. What has happened to those families 21 years

hear from those who stayed and thos

who came back. The programme also

SATURDAY 7.15-8.15 SCHUBERT (BBC2) : Kurt Masur conducts the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in a performance of Schubert's Sympho 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. 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

■ Today, George Harrison discusses nis new album, On Cloud Nine (Radio 1, 4 p.m.), while Radio 4 offers a musical Space Children (7 p.m.) about the last children to leave Planet Earth, Verdi's life is dramatised in three parts, in Vive Verdi. (Mon. Wed. Thurs, Radio 4, 11 a.m.) and John Waite reports on five surviving, cherishable, specialist Shopkeepers (Monday, Radio 4, 12 noon). Radio 1 charts The Rise and Rise of U2, 1987's leading group with their 'Joshua Tree' album (Monday, Radio 1, 2 p.m.). At 5.10 p.m., Radio 3 broadcasts three classic Henry Reed comedies, in memory of their producer, the late Douglas Cleverdon: A Very Great Man Indeed (Monday), A Hedge, Backwards (Wednesday), and The Primal Scream, as It Were ... (Friday).

On Tuesday Radio 4 offers a taste of Gamelan music-all gongs, drums and throwing off British inhibitions (11.25 a.m.), and starts a new six-par farce Starring Leslie Willey starring Leslie Phillips (12.25 p.m.). Ending an undistinguished Radio 3 series of parodies come moderately funny ones on Sartre (Parodies Lost, Tuesday 9.20 p.m.) and Joan Didior (Wednesday 10.10 p.m.), elevated by Eleanor Bron's astonishing versatility. John Peel's Festive 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 features 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.