
Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 07-08-2008 23:15

It took a few months, but I finally sat through a non-sport programme made by Sky. I forget the details but it had "Britain's" in the title, and consisted of lots of people talking about fights in pubs as if they were a pleasure on a par with Venetian painting.

Is it always this bad? If so, why? Don't American cable channels make the odd good show? Has satellite telly in Britain ever made a good show? What's the best ever, Danny Dyer's Real Football Factories?

Presumably if the licence fee went (not impossible) would we get any good programmes made at all?

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 07-08-2008 23:24

"Don't American cable channels make the odd good show?"

The subscription ones do (HBO, Showtime) and of course Comedy Central and Battlestar Galactica on Sci-Fi. But there's a lot of dross. Sky, unlike Fox, doesn't have much of a production budget or ethos as it's always been geared toward US imports and cheap sub-ITV filler.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by The Horse - 07-08-2008 23:32

Sky Arts has some decent stuff on occasionally, although I think it might well fail your "not Civilisation" test, Tubbs.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 07-08-2008 23:37

I've just become aware of that channel, and it looks fairly decent.

If budgets are the key, then you think they might bung some penniless academic a few quid to talk about something. Or is that sort of telly not as cheap to make as I'm suggesting?

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 07-08-2008 23:38

So Horse/GY, what's the best programme ever made by a British cable/satellite broadcaster?

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Mitch - 08-08-2008 08:27

Sky, unlike Fox, doesn't have much of a production budget or ethos as it's always been geared toward US imports and cheap sub-ITV filler.

The funny thing is that Sky always try to hype their terrible, homemade game-shows with the same fervour they'd give a Fulham-Wigan game on Sky Sports.

After really giving it some thought, the best programme Sky make might be the "Ross Kemp On Gangs" one.

I mean, the bald meathead does tend to ruin everything with the commentary, but the series does go to some interesting places?

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Cavalry Trousers Tips - 08-08-2008 23:32

The "Last Chance To Save" series was half-decent. I enjoyed that cartoon about lions with John Goodman too. I haven't had Sky for a year now, so I haven't a clue what's been on recently.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by barndoorio - 09-08-2008 00:14

The Ross Kemp in Afghanistan series was well done I thought and wasn't just all about showing how tough people were. A lot of trash is made and shown, but that was thoughtful and respectful whilst being interesting and revealing.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by ian.64 - 09-08-2008 08:21

Been doing without Sky One for a bit and I can't say I've missed it all that much. What helps is the trailers for the utter shite that are sometimes plonked on the other sports channels. The sight of gurning, muscle-bound oafs standing around Ian Wright promoting the Gladiators show can almost have its own inner voice attached, the one that says: "You're missing nothing. There are better things to watch. See this? Who cares? You'll be seeing and doing better things when this is on..."

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 09-08-2008 16:17

Have I read that correctly, Ian? You have sports channels but no Sky One. Please tell me the secret.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 10-08-2008 11:28

There's nothing on satellite TV that I can't get off the internet.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 11-08-2008 10:34

Well, look up "I Have Sex With Strangers" from one of the Virgin channels last night. Women are the sexual predators now- so concluded a panel of experts, three men outside a pub, and three women who laughed a lot and had their arms around each other's shoulders.

Branson for BBC Director General.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 11-08-2008 11:12

I watched some of that Tubbs. It was a bit daft. Men, it told us, used to find sex on the net. Now, though, women do to. It didn't mention who the men were finding to have sex with when it was just the men. (they did start off saying they were talking post-Gaydar, etc, so presumably not just other men).

It all seemed a bit unrealistic to me as well. Surely you have to be willing to sleep with people you don't actually want to, in order to get this much sex? Still, one of the characters was called Lucifer, which was amusing.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 11-08-2008 11:52

Indeed. "Sexual predator" women (in the sense of there are fewer of them than men and they can choose) exist in pubs and clubs as well.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 11-08-2008 16:42

I strongly reject the idea that women can take their pick. No we can't!

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 12-08-2008 06:51

You pretty much can. Us men are weak and stupid.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 12-08-2008 08:37

That is simply Not True.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 12-08-2008 15:23

Frankie Boyle agrees with Tubby.

'D'you ever watch TV and think, "This would be a lot more entertaining if I'd recently sustained a massive head injury"?

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 12-08-2008 20:48

Another day, another vibrant satellite programme. Britain's Next Top Model.

It's a bizarre format, where contenders not only have to wear clothes but also to spend time in each other's company. A white girl from Liverpool and a mixed-race girl from the south clearly don't get on. I didn't like either of them much- and the white girl made some very dodgy references to "the hood"- but the TV company weren't going to forgo such "tension", and both will probably make the final.

The panel's odd too. Four women and only one man. I was very surprised given the point of models is to sell sex to men. The panel also seemed to lack an obvious Mr Nasty figure and I felt a bit cheated.

Also odd (and rather cheating) is the fact that the models weren't particularly attractive. One had a spot where I couldn't stop looking at it, the other had teeth like David Ward, the former Surrey batsman. Yet none of the experts apparently noticed.

So one of the five had to be rejected. Instead of looks or ability to strike a pose, the criterion for eliminating one of them was "hunger". One of the models had spoken, with some enthusiasm, about becoming a policewoman. Such awareness of a world outside invites to China Whites was suspect, and out she went.

I noticed later Australia's Next Top Model is also on. I expect Gibraltar's is somewhere.

Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 12-08-2008 21:06

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/apr/23/channel4.bbc>

More vibrant programming likely if this "guru" has his way.

Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 12-08-2008 21:58

Lyra wrote:
That is simply Not True.

It actually is

Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 12-08-2008 22:02

No, it isn't.

Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 12-08-2008 22:04

the point of models is to sell sex to men.

But it isn't really, not with this type of model. it's to sell Stuff to women. We look at them and we learn to hate ourselves because we do not have genetic-freak level bodies and then we are psychologically prepared to believe all the nonsense they tell us in order to sell us I dunno clothes and hair dye and that.

sure there is another type of model that is about what you say but surely this show is not about them??

Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 12-08-2008 22:13

I can't see they're very effective at selling stuff to women if they make women feel bad.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 13-08-2008 09:19

Well you see, we see them and we can't help but see the gulf between them and us; and we also see that they are successful and so on and we wish we could be like them. We feel bad because we're not like them. We love to look at them and we wish we were them. So, we like them and by contrast dislike ourselves, and that's when we're most vulnerable to ads for bum cream and wrinkle fillers and the rest of it. The editorials of every magazine do the rest of the persuading (in return for ad revenue).

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 13-08-2008 14:11

Lyra wrote:

No, it isn't.

Sure it is.

How do you think I've ended up in this three year relationship?

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Mitch - 13-08-2008 14:38

I was reading a copy of Men's Health the other day for the first time, and it seems like that're now going for the same guilt & self-loathing angle.

I don't know if it's the male psyche in general, or just that I'm a hopeless case with no self-respect, but it doesn't seem to work though?

You know, the whole "GET WASHBOARD ABS IN TWO WEEKS!" thing; I'm five-eight. If looked like the bloke on the front-cover, it'd be like those things at the seaside you stick your head out of for a novelty photo...

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 13-08-2008 14:44

EIM wrote:

Sure it is.

How do you think I've ended up in this three year relationship?

What it actually really is is, pretty people can take their pick and not pretty ones can't.

And in fact you're both pretty, so both of you could.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 13-08-2008 15:01

Aye, she's pretty all right. But me? I'm fucking weather beaten. Haggard almost. I feel like Jason Donovan, what looks I had are fading fast. I'll come out of the house in a few months time and mothers will cross the road with their babies to get away from me, and teenagers will throw coins at me and poke me with long sticks.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 13-08-2008 15:06

No, don't be silly, no-one's gonna throw coins at you.

Credit crunch, innit

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 13-08-2008 15:09

EIM I would bet a lot of money on you having more success than me in any average pulling situation. A LOT.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 13-08-2008 15:13

I think you're ignoring my astounding lack of charm and social interaction skills. A girl once came up to me to tell me her friend fancied me and asked if I liked her, I told her that I thought she was lovely, like a lovely bit of steak. There's no coming back from that, really.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 13-08-2008 15:23

Did you follow that up by saying how much you like rump?

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 13-08-2008 15:25

"Arise, Sir Loin."

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 13-08-2008 15:32

EIM stop it. I remember the wombles vs your lot game. There were about 5 people who were throwing themselves at you and another 12 going "wow, but I wouldn't stand a chance."

We're not talking about personality.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by EIM - 13-08-2008 15:38

Hahahahaha. Get to fuck.

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Re:Vibrant programming

Posted by Lyra - 13-08-2008 15:44

It's true! And it's also still true that women cannot just take their pick.

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