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January 2012 Highlights



Nick Baker's Beautiful Freaks

UK PREMIERE ONE-OFF

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 9.00PM

Namibia, South West Africa is a land ancient, untamed, uncompromising and wild. It is also now the setting of Discovery Channel's one-off documentary, **Nick Baker's Beautiful Freaks**

Nick has always been fascinated by the ways that animals and plants are moulded and shaped by the pressures put upon them by their environment. The more extreme the environment, the more bizarre and peculiar their adaptations appear to be. And as one of the harshest and most extreme countries on earth, Namibia is a prime location to search for **Beautiful Freaks**.

Nick firstly travels through Namibia's Central Plateau, a landscape of semi-arid desert, where the annual rainfall can vary by as much as 70cm. Such extreme conditions create wonderfully

bizarre wildlife, and Nick is on the look-out for them. First up is the bat-eared fox, one of the smallest members of the dog family, who has adapted to his environment and learnt to survive on the plentiful termites rather than meat. Then there is the Namib Dune Gecko who, in order to function at its best in its low, gritty and sandy environment, has adapted a very cool party trick. It can clean its eyeballs with its tongue. Next up is the Side Winder, an adder which moves in a manner adept to its name, across the sand in by far the most efficient way of all animals in the desert. These are just a few of the incredible adaptations that viewers will discover in **Nick Baker's Beautiful Freaks**.

Nick Baker's Beautiful Freaks will be simulcast in 3D on Sky 3D.

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The True Story

UK PREMIERE SERIES

SUNDAYS FROM 1ST JANUARY, 9.00PM

The True Story is a series of riveting one-offs that delve into the incredible stories of some of Hollywood's greatest movies to reveal widely unknown, exciting, personal and sometimes shocking accounts of what *The True Story* really was and where truth became fantasy. The films featured include; *Saving Private Ryan*, *Master And Commander*, *Apollo 13*, *Braveheart*, *Close Encounters* and *True Grit*.

Each fascinating episode of *The True Story* goes behind the gloss and glamour of these cinematic legacies to discover the truth behind the plot. Taking each film in turn, the series unravels fact from fiction to expose the real heroes.

This series premieres with *Saving Private Ryan*, one of the most realistic and intense portrayals of war ever brought to the screen by legendary director Stephen Spielberg. The explosive opening scene recreates the agony and terror experienced by allied soldiers on D-Day. The film portrays the daring rescue of Private Ryan, sole surviving brother of his family. Inspired by two real American families tragic losses but did the mission really happen the way it does in the movie? The film's most explosive scenes are put to the test and it becomes clear that the incredible story behind Private Ryan is as dramatic as anything Hollywood could imagine. Experts and eye witnesses reveal the extraordinary story behind *Saving Private Ryan*.

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Aircrash Confidential

UK PREMIERE SERIES

MONDAYS FROM 30TH JANUARY, 9.00PM

Every air crash is a catastrophe that leaves behind bereaved families and ruined lives. But with each, a lesson is learnt, and it is partly because of these tragedies that we now know how to build safer planes, evacuate passengers more swiftly, and avoid air collisions altogether. This returning series of **Aircrash Confidential** investigates various aviation disasters from recent years, including the Russian plane crash in 2011 when, due to mistakes made by the pilot during take-off, 44 people were killed including an entire professional hockey team, to the deadliest single-aircraft accident in history, when in 1985, 520 people died after Japan Airlines Flight 123 suffered mechanical failures and crashed into Mount Takamagahara.

Each gripping episode in this six-part series will explore how and why the disaster happened, including pilot fatigue, poor maintenance and systems failure. Powerful personal accounts from witnesses, survivors and the families of the bereaved will show the human cost of air disasters, while dramatic reconstructions, CGI illustrate and interviews with investigators and experts illustrate the precise technical causes of the disasters.

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Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

UK PREMIERE SERIES

MONDAYS FROM 2ND JANUARY, 9.00PM

Born Survivor returns to Discovery Channel with survival expert and extreme adventurer, Bear Grylls, embarking on a journey of new challenges in new ferocious destinations, all the while sharing his incomparable survival strategies along the way.

This season dramatically kicks off in the Arizona desert where Bear must take on its landscape, avoid its deadly inhabitants (including rattle snakes) and face head-on all the challenges that are thrown at him. Arizona is known for its extreme temperatures; during the day it has been known to reach up to 128 degrees, whilst at night as low as -40 degrees. Get lost off the beaten track in Arizona and you might never be found.

Later in the series, Bear visits New Zealand where he must cross a raging river on a tree trunk to get to civilisation. New Zealand loses 100 people each year to drowning and has one of the highest annual drowning tolls in the developed world. Of all these tragedies, most occurred in rivers and if Bear's tree trunk moves, there looks to be little way of coming back. This season, in each gripping episode, Bear will show viewers what it takes to get out alive in some of the most dangerous places on the earth.

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Swords: Life On The Line

UK PREMIERE SERIES

TUESDAYS FROM 17TH JANUARY, 9.00PM

The unforgiving North Atlantic is home to the multimillion dollar sword fishing industry and one of the deadliest fishing grounds in the World. Only the bravest make the journey and only the lucky will survive as they put their lives on the line to bring back catches of a life time.

Once again, ***Swords: Life On The Line*** will follow four courageous fishermen as they head to the Grand Banks in search of one of the world's most elusive prey. Early on in the season viewers see the fleet struggling to find the fish. Scotty Drabinowicz, Captain of the Eagle Eye, senses something isn't right, but he can't figure out what it is. After several days of terrible fishing, they finally find the fish... but it's only days before two gale force hurricanes are headed their way.

The Eagle Eye, along with the Big Eye, captained by Chris "Chompers" Hansen, decide to make a run from the storm and head for the docks in Bay Bulls, Newfoundland. But once in port, they are still not safe from the ferocious 100mph wind. The boats take a brutal beating, snapping ropes and cleats, but, it's not nearly as bad as the one taken by the Hannah Boden, captained this season by the legendary Linda Greenlaw. Linda decides to weather the tempest at sea. It's a gamble, especially on a boat with a history as storied as the Hannah Boden. It's been nearly 20 years since that fateful October, when Linda was last on the Hannah Boden during the "Perfect Storm." She was the last person to speak to Andrea Gail captain, Billy Tyne, before his boat and crew were lost at sea.

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Sons of Guns

UK PREMIERE SERIES

WEDNESDAYS FROM 11TH JANUARY, 10.00PM

Their business is weapons; they design, they build and they modify a variety of firearms and this is most definitely NOT something viewers should try at home. Will Hayden is Red Jacket Firearms and he and his team of gunsmiths are hired to do the impossible. In this series viewers will see them make an extremely rare Civil War cannon fire, 150 years after it last

saw action, create a twin M16 gun mount that can fire hundreds of rounds a minute within changing magazines for a Navy special teams boat gunner, restore a flamethrower as a tribute to a WWII Marine Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient. It is all in a day's work for Hayden and his team who embrace the motto "If you can dream it, we can build it."

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World's Toughest Prisons

UK PREMIERE ONE-OFF

SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY, 9.00PM

Latin American Prisons are unlike anything in Europe or the United States. The guards man the walls on the outside but inside, the prisoners are in charge. In these jails rape, murder and starvation are facts of life and prisoners accept that there is only a 50 per cent chance of survival. Santa Martha in Mexico and Lurigancho in Peru are two of Latin America's toughest prisons. This one-off documentary, *World's Toughest Prisons* takes a look at the life on the inside of both.

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Jodie Marsh: Body Builder

UK PREMIERE ONE-OFF

WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 10.00PM

DMAX's highly anticipated one-off special, **Jodie Marsh: Bodybuilder** gives viewers a unique, if unlikely, insight in to the extraordinary world of female bodybuilding through the eyes of glamour model Jodie Marsh, as she goes from Men's Magazine pin-up to ripped bodybuilding champion.

This intimate documentary follows the former party girl as she cuts out the clubs and alcohol and embarks on a gruelling two month personal journey to pump iron and participate in a national natural bodybuilding competition. Jodie's gruelling gym regime will involve training for eight hours a day, seven days

a week, eating half her recommended daily allowance of calories, ripping every muscle in her body and taking herself to the absolute limits. In addition to her tough natural training, the star bodybuilder has to clear her house of all fattening foods, learn how to pose bodybuilding style, eat 17 carbohydrate heavy meals in the space of 12 hours, get her body fat down from 24 per cent to just 10 per cent, eat fish for the first time ever in her life (she's a strict vegetarian) and take a polygraph test to prove it's been through hard work and not performance enhancing drugs. It will take blood, sweat and tears to achieve this ultimate goal. Will it all be worth it?

DMAX

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Bad Girls Club

UK PREMIERE SERIES

THURSDAYS FROM 5TH JANUARY, 10.00PM

Why are bad girls bad? Is their outrageous behaviour hiding something deeper? And would they change if they could? **Bad Girls Club** brings seven self-proclaimed "bad girls" together in a beautiful Los Angeles mansion to find out.

Within hours of arriving in their new home, the girls are marking their territory and competing to be the baddest of them all. Will it be former stripper, Leslie who gets chucked out of a club for violent behaviour on the girl's first night together, Daddy's girl, Ripsi who clears her hangover with shots of vodka at 8.45am or Jodie who is repelled by the fact she is living in a house with 'white trash'? This show is a ticking time bomb waiting to detonate. Outrageous language, fist fights and name calling are just the tip of this frosty iceberg, will living together help them move forward and turn their lives around, or will chaos rule?



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Auction Kings

UK PREMIERE SERIES

THURSDAYS FROM 5TH JANUARY, 10.00PM

For Paul Brown auctions are in his blood. He was raised in an auction house and now he owns his own, Gallery 63. Fascinating items are continuously passing through its doors and auctioned off to the highest bidder. Paul and his team take their commission and seller gets the rest. It's never known what is going to bring in the big bucks or be a big disappointment, but it isn't over until you hear 'sold sold sold!'

In this new series of **Auction Kings**, Gallery 63 is overflowing with new treasures and new customers. Once again the team are hunting down and auctioning off America's most unusual rarities, including a 19th-century lady gambler's watch, a hand scrawled poem by Doors frontman Jim Morrison, an extremely rare Civil War telescope, and even... dinosaur poop. The team digs into each item's past to find out its unique history and determine its worth. But every auction is still a gamble, will the seller get the deal or the buyer get a steal?

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Ludo Bites America

UK PREMIERE SERIES

FRIDAYS FROM 6TH JANUARY, 9.00PM

Ludo Lefebvre is a five-star French chef who's re-writing the restaurant rule book. He and his business partner/wife, Krissy, are taking to the road and embarking on a mission to reinvent American cuisine. Each gripping episode finds Ludo and Krissy setting up their innovative pop-up restaurant in the kitchens of local eateries. Using only the

best local produce, Ludo intends to blend his extraordinary culinary talents with each community's everyday eats and whilst he is there, get the restaurants staff up to his five-star standards. If it all pans out, they'll find both seats and stomach full, but inevitably not without a few tears and tantrums along the way.

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Pit Bulls and Parolees

UK PREMIERE SERIES

SUNDAYS FROM 8TH JANUARY, 8.00PM

Two hundred pit bulls, ten dusty acres in the middle of nowhere, ex-cons on parole, and at the centre of it all; one fiery, extraordinary woman, Tia Maria Torres, renowned pit bull trainer and founder of the Villalobos Rescue Centre, who devotes her days and nights to giving the underdogs of the canine and human worlds a second chance in Animal Planet's returning series ***Pit Bulls And Parolees***. In this third season, Tia faces a new set of challenges and unexpected dramas including watching her daughters, Tania and Mariah, take

a more active role in running the centre; bearing witness to one of the most important moments of parolee Armando's life; and the touching adoption of a pit bull that has been involved in three failed adoptions. One thing that hasn't changed is Villalobos' core mission to rescue pit bulls from dangerous and abusive situations and finding them loving and lasting homes.

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Hope For Wildlife

UK PREMIERE SERIES

WEEKNIGHTS FROM MONDAY 2ND JANUARY, 6.00PM

On a seemingly quiet address of Canada's East Coast is a wildlife rehabilitation centre which is anything but quiet. Each year the centre rehabilitates and releases thousands of animals. At the heart of it all is Hope Swinimer, the centre is her home, it is her passion and it is all she has ever wanted to create. Although struggling to make ends meet, Hope is driven by the determination needed to keep going. To her and her 100 volunteers, every animal matters and although it is not always a fairy tale ending, there is always **Hope For Wildlife**.



Too Cute!

UK PREMIERE SERIES

TUESDAYS FROM 3RD JANUARY, 8.00PM

This series contains material that is just too cute! It is a world where cuddly knows no bounds and a place where fluffy reigns supreme. First up is **Puppies**, a light-hearted, high-end nature documentary that follows the birth and first months of three distinct puppy litters from the puppies' perspectives. This is puppies the way they were meant to be seen, ridiculously up-close and in jaw-dropping super slow-motion.

Next up is **Kittens**, The remarkable story of three adorable kitten litters coming of age. From unsteady first steps to daring kitty pounces, the first eight weeks of their lives will be an epic journey for these adventurous Abyssinians, brash Bengals and perfect Persians. Between pushy puppies and bubble baths, a kitten's first few months may appear exhausting - but these cuddly kittens are simply too loveable, too curious, and too cute to quit.

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Auction Hunters

UK PREMIERE SERIES

MONDAYS FROM 23RD JANUARY, 9.00PM

Every day in America thousands of abandoned storage houses are put up for public auction. The auctions have become big business for those who know what they are looking for. Allen Haff and Clinton "Ton" Jones are **Auction Hunters** who travel the US and buy storage units and they are the best in the business. When the door of the storage unit goes up they have just seconds to determine the value and win the auction. In this new series of **Auction Hunters**, viewers will not believe the lucrative and often cutthroat world of storage-unit auctions nor the things they find and sell...

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Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire

UK PREMIERE SERIES

SUNDAYS FROM 8TH JANUARY, 10.00PM

Rise And Fall Of The Japanese Empire tells the dramatic story of a proud and ambitious warrior nation, which ultimately paid a terrible price for its audacity.

Although Russia, Britain, France, Australia, the USA and other western powers were directly involved, the forty-year conflict that raged from 1905 to 1945 was an Asian story. Instigated by Japan, which believed it was freeing Asia from centuries of western dominance, it was fought on Asian soil and the vast majority of casualties were Asian.

Rise And Fall Of The Japanese Empire will focus not on tales of American Marines, Aussie Diggers or British Tommies, but on the traumas suffered by the Korean, Chinese, South East Asian and Japanese people as they lived through four decades of bloody conflict.



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Birth Stories

UK PRMEIERE SERIES

NIGHTLY FROM MONDAY 9TH JANUARY, 6.00PM

Birth Stories is back on Home and Health to follow more women along their journey to motherhood. As most mothers will know the trip is rarely smooth sailing. This season viewers will meet a variety of characters including, radio host Marianne and her husband Kelly who are closing the deal on their house just two weeks before her due date, Jocelyne, who is pregnant by

her gay friend Tim, and Lorriane who although full of confidence about raising her child on her own, becomes overcome with emotion, when nine days overdue, it becomes time for a Caesarean. There will be emotional highs and lows, as with the joy of new life comes unparalleled pressures on careers and relationships. This heartfelt documentary takes a gripping real look at families and their **Birth Stories**.



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Australian Families of Crime

UK PREMIERE SERIES

THURSDAYS FROM 5TH JANUARY, 10.00PM

Australian Families Of Crime exposes life inside the families of Australia's most infamous criminals. This is a fetid and amoral world where greed and lust breed a ruthless band of thieves, drug dealers and killers. Through personal interviews with family members, associates, victims and police investigators, each episode will expose the rotting nest from which Australia's worst criminals have operated their terrifying web of violence and corruption.

This series launches with one eyed crime matriarch Kath Pettingill, who had ten children that either went to early graves, prison or witness protection. She has a

string of convictions, wrote an autobiography titled "The Matriarch" and is reported to have offered \$20,000 for the testicles of an undercover detective who infiltrated her crime family. Also featured is 'Mr Sin', Abe Saffron, who ruled his family with an iron fist. A tireless womaniser, he even had his son, Alan, committed to the infamous Chelmsford Psychiatric Hospital, and denied him access to his own children. Saffron's alleged criminal activities included illegal alcohol sales, dealing in stolen goods, illegal gambling, prostitution, drug dealing, bribery, extortion and murder. A fast paced combination of archival vision and gripping re-enactments relates the true stories of *Australia's Families Of Crime...*

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Café Racer

UK PREMIERE SERIES

WEEKNIGHTS FROM TUESDAY 3RD OF JANUARY, 8PM

Mike Seate hosts a tour of the world's most exclusive bike: the **Café Racer**. In this new series, Mike explores the history, development and worldwide cult surrounding the **Café Racer**, a motorcycle directly responsible for today's superbikes. **Café Racer** visits legendary motorcycle builders in the U.S., England, and Italy as they search for the perfect combination of style and speed. Celebrity clientele including Billy Joel and the World Champion Philadelphia Phillies weigh in on customized bikes for the motorcycle elite.

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Fishing Adventurer

UK PREMIERE SERIES

FRIDAYS FROM 6TH JANUARY, 10.00PM

Shed's *Fishing Adventurer* is back with young, charismatic fisherman, Cyril Chauquet, embarking on a mission to take viewers to the four corners of the earth, in search of rare varieties of exotic fish. During this journey he will discover some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world and have his eyes opened to new cultures by locals he meets along the way. Early on in the season Cyril visits Canada Quebec where he decides to explore the canyon of the Sainte-Anne River. Guided by one of Canada's top mountaineers,

Cyril is the first person to ever rappel down the canyon with a fishing rod on his back. His mission: the trout that lie at the bottom of the spectacular canyon. Cyril then heads up to Montreal, the economic metropolis of the province. Here, he fishes from a kayak in the impressive and dangerous rapids of the Saint Lawrence River, right in the middle of downtown Montreal – and because no one ever ventures on this part of the river, Cyril finds untouched and starving fish, happy to be fed!

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