



ALTERNATIVE HISTORIES

Black Flash – A Century Of British Black Footballers

Black Flash is a major feature documentary charting the epic story of nearly 120 years of black involvement in professional football in Britain. From the eccentric Victorian Arthur Wharton, the original “fastest man in the world” who, bizarrely, kept goal for Preston North End in 1886, to Pele, whose inspirational performances at the 1970 World Cup inspired a generation of the UK’s aspiring young black footballers, from John Barnes to Ian Wright and beyond.

A story long overdue in telling, *Black Flash* takes an in-depth look at the development of football, juxtaposing general developments in British race relations with happenings on the football pitch.

With as many as six black players turning out for England at any one time, this film aims to show how, driven by an indefatigable will to win, generations of black players have overcome racist abuse, stereotyping and marginalisation, not only to make their mark on the national sport, but to entertain millions of football fans in the process.

To accompany *Black Flash* BBC Four presents a season of programmes that look at “the beautiful game” from fresh perspectives and with new insights. See overleaf for more highlights.



Fascism And Football

This compelling documentary explores how the three most prominent Fascist dictators of the 20th century, Mussolini, Hitler and Franco, seized upon football's massive popular appeal and ruthlessly exploited it as a vehicle for Fascist propaganda. Using rare archive footage, eminent historians and trenchant contributions and testimonies from world-class players, past and present, the film reveals the dark side of the beautiful game in Europe.

The history of football was changed forever by the intervention of Europe's key historical figures who stopped at nothing in trying to secure the success of their teams. *Fascism And Football* exposes extraordinary cases of corruption, sabotage, intimidation and even alleged murder that changed the lives of the sport's most high-profile players and the course of European politics.

The film reveals how Franco manipulated Spanish superclub Real Madrid to cement himself in power and win popular support for his regime; shows how the 1936 Berlin Olympics were merely a propaganda spectacle on behalf of the Nazis; and investigates the case of Austrian star footballer Mathias Sindelar who died in suspicious circumstances after refusing to play for the German national side. The film also examines allegations that football's ultimate prize, the World Cup, was fixed in 1934 by Mussolini's regime as a showcase for Fascist ideology.

Time Shift – Footballers' Lives

Time Shift reveals how footballers have fought for their financial freedom and the price they have paid to become the stars the modern game demands.

Using interviews with players, pundits and agents, and clips spanning four decades of footie footage, *Time Shift* investigates the creation of the working-class heroes. The George Eastham case in 1963 removed the maximum pay ceiling, but the Bosman Ruling and the collapse of ITV Digital have created an uncertain and restrictive environment for many players, especially those in the lower leagues.

Also part of the football season on BBC Four is a new *Profile* documentary on Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, plus a number of other documentaries and feature films.



The Mark Steel Lectures

Award-winning author, columnist and stand-up comic Mark Steel makes his long-awaited television series debut with an adaptation of his provocative, funny and very original BBC Radio 4 programmes – *The Mark Steel Lectures*.

Mixing historical commentary with stand-up comedy, he brings an intelligent and gag-rich approach to authored essays on key figures.

Tackling the worlds of science, literature and philosophy he brings to life the ideas of six great thinkers: Aristotle, Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, Lord Byron, Sigmund Freud and Karl Marx. With the help of experts in the field he reveals the hidden side of their characters, coming to his own unique conclusions about their motivations, ambitions and distinctive contribution to the history of ideas. Using critical biography, Mark unmask their highs and lows and shows how their personal lives influenced their work.

Each 30-minute programme sees Mark travelling to key locations and tracing the subject's life story – charting their triumphs and disasters while examining the philosophies, theories and writings that marked them out for greatness. The series will be closely supported by the *Great Thinkers* Learning Lights on www.Open2.net.

The Mark Steel Lectures is a co-production between BBC Four and the Open University.



Storyville – Morning Sun

Storyville, the flagship international documentary series reflecting the best and brightest of world non-fiction film, continues its run on BBC Four, including this new, compelling documentary on the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Told from a unique perspective, the film focuses on the experiences of the high-school generation at the time of the revolution, and their view of this tumultuous period. *Morning Sun* poignantly relays their thoughts, feelings and cultural convictions, creating an intriguing psychological history of a time of great political change.

Days That Shook The World

Days That Shook The World is a new series that juxtaposes key moments in history, examining each step by step and drawing fascinating parallels across time.

Disasters, discoveries, assassinations and decisive moments in conflict are documented and elucidated throughout the course of this new series, from the first powered flight in 1903 to Nelson Mandela's release from Robben Island in 1990.

Other *Days That Shook The World* include the assassinations of the Romanovs, Martin Luther King and JFK; Kristallnacht; the collapse of the Berlin Wall; the dawn of the atomic age; the aftermath of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima; the birth of Israel; and the Lockerbie bombing.