

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



The Elephant in the Room

Session Leader: Graeme Isaac

We're all defined in some way by the history we choose to forget. Whether it's the secrets within our families, or our national identity, some things are too painful to acknowledge publicly. Does a public broadcaster have a responsibility to help its audience talk about "the elephant in the room"? The programme in this session do just that in their own, very different, ways. Nations, families and rituals all brought out in the open by their makers

Rene Bousquet or the Arrangement

93.0, France, Fiction

Presenter: Pierre Beuchot (Writer)

Shopsteward: Graeme Isaac

A leading French businessman who was the head of the police force during the Second World War is accused in the press of having collaborated with the Nazis in the deportation of Jews to Auschwitz. This compelling and innovative programme uses pseudo-documentary storytelling conventions mixed with conventional dramatisation to bring its story to life. It is based almost entirely on real characters and real events, raising a difficult discussion about France's collaboration with the Nazis.

Not My Daughter

15.0, Ghana, Documentary

Presenter: Cosby Bikpe (Director)

Shopsteward: Eunjoo Kim

A Ghanaian woman who has given birth to a baby girl, leaves her husband and runs away with the baby just before her child's circumcision ceremony. Is she representative of Ghanaian women who are opposed to the practice? Is female circumcision – considered by some as mutilation and others as an act of beautification – a matter that generates strong debate within Ghanaian society? Was this programme broadcast on public television in Ghana? What was the consequence? The programme was sponsored by a mobile phone company. What was the purpose of the sponsorship?

Khumbul'ekhaya:

48.0, South Africa, Factual Entertainment

Presenters: Retsepile Makamane, Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Khulile Nxumalo

Shopsteward: Carvin Eison

The producers of *Khumbul'ekhaya* are using this television series to promote reconciliation and forgiveness for people from all walks of life. This episode focuses on people who find themselves at society's peripheries. Invariably the production arouses deep feelings in both the central subjects of the story as well as the viewing audience. At the conclusion of the programme it appears that all is well – a lifetime of deeply rooted problems are solved or so it seems? Should the makers of this popular series provide the guests real medical/psychological/social support and should the same be provided for the production crew? *Khumbul'ekhaya* poses the question: can television be used to effectively engineer social transformation? Join us for the answers.

Alone in a Box

Session leader: Bill Gilcher

We all know that TV likes to tell stories. Perhaps that's all we ever do. What happens when your story involves a single character and a really limited set for the small screen? Try these experiments on for size.

Everlasting

19.0, Russia, Documentary

Presenter: Irina Vasilyeva

Shopsteward: Victor Carrera

In Russian jails people who get a death sentence are called the “everlasting”. In this film, a former prosecutor and murderer now on death row, explores through a monologue what life is like in such a “zero gravity” environment. What is the landscape of death? What kind of storytelling techniques would you use to describe it?

Screenz

30.0, Israel, Fiction (Series)

Presenter: Yoram Mandel

Shopsteward: Susan Taylor

Intimacy without borders... that's the premise of this daily drama that focuses on human interaction over the Internet. The series explores the nature of human communication and intimacy when contact is limited to web cameras. How have new technologies changed how we tell stories on TV? Can TV accurately represent the relationships that exists in a web-based environment?

Just an Ordinary Jew

88.0, Germany, Fiction

Presenter: Claudia Schröder

Shopsteward: Bill Gilcher

A tour-de-force of writing, acting, and directing – basically one well-known actor (Ben Becker) in a small apartment. This is a hyper-deconstruction of common attitudes towards Jews in Germany and German-Jewish attitudes towards the society around them. Does it lead the audience to think and feel differently? Or does it reinforce stereotypes?

In the Beginning was the Word

Session leader: Jouko Salokorpi

Television is full of speech and dialogue, but do we ever really stop to think about the words that make up the script. Or do we see them? These three programmes try to visualise the language, the grammar and the words in television. But first of course you have to learn to read.

Plan B

40.0, Denmark, Documentary

Presenter: Joachim Majholm (Director)

Shopsteward: Lidia Piechota

When you are young, you usually take your time to learn as much as you can and as you learn you make mistakes. But it's human and mistakes help you to remember difficult rules and facts better. But what if the facts can't reach you or the words don't make any sense and reading is like torture. And what if all the universally accepted teaching methods fail to solve the problem? Do not despair if plan A fails, there may just be a Plan B. Being behind at the beginning doesn't mean staying so for ever. This show gets TV involved in finding solutions for children with reading and learning difficulties. Can you read it? Now watch it!

Oh, Deer

13.0, Hungary, (Series Educational)

Presenter: Edit Szendi

Shopsteward: Jouko Salokorpi

South Park goes to grammar school in Hungary, or is it Hungary that goes South Park? This weekly magazine programme mixes many layers of information and devices such as video games, animation and old paintings. It is educational without underestimating the target audience. You'll be surprised how enjoyable a grammar lesson can be.

Dictionary

Details: 23.0, Finland, Other

Presenters: Laura Joutsu & Atro Lahtela

Shopsteward: Luca Paiva Mello

How do you make people aware of language? How do you make a programme about semantics without it being didactic or simply dull? Sometimes, less is more. This series is an example of an effective format. In one year 325 Finnish words were explained in two minutes each by people who work with the words. This project was neatly designed for multi-platform use: TV, radio, mobile and Internet.

Men at Work!

Session leader: Luca Paiva Mello

Rites of passage have changed over time. Caught between tradition and modernity, men face the need to take responsibility for their lives and to shape their identity. They are struggling to do so by creating their own personal rites of passage. But in this age of personal exposure, has TV become the ultimate therapeutic weapon? Does Public TV play a role as the catalyst for dialogue between different generations? How can we address identity within different cultures? What is the place of tradition in a cultural melting pot.

A Son's Sacrifice

27.0, USA, Documentary

Presenter: Yoni Brook (Director)

Shopsteward: Victor Carrera

How does TV deal with the conflict between Islamic tradition and western values? How do Islamic immigrants in western societies identify their deep roots? How do Muslims make sense of living in these contradictory worlds, how do they divide themselves between these opposite lifestyles? Find some answers through the story of Imran, a young successful man in the advertising business in New York who, one day, decides to take over the family business, a Halaal slaughterhouse.

The Bodybuilder and I

92.0, Canada, Documentary

Presenter: Bryan Friedman (Director)

Shopsteward: Luca Paiva Mello

In this piece the filmmaker and subject are father and son. Using the process of film making as personal therapy, what are you revealing in hiding the final cut? What were the motivations of the filmmaker and did the process change his first intentions?

Mountain Shadow

48.0, South Africa, Fiction (Series)

Presenter: Micky Dube, Seipati- Bulane Hopa, Mokopi Mothoagae

Shopsteward: Jean Pierre Bekolo Obama

Ndoda's always been a model son, but when his idolised cousin dies during his Xhosa manhood initiation ceremony, Ndoda finds himself torn between his father's steadfast tradition and his mother's very real fear. Will he risk death for a life worth living? This is gripping human drama set in the context of very relevant issues facing many South Africans, including how to hold on to traditions and cultural identity in a society that is dominated by western values? This coming-of-age series tells a strong, beautiful and quintessentially African story.

After the broadcast of *Umthunzi Wentaba's* second episode, the SABC received a barrage of complaints from the public. The most vociferous complaints came from the custodians of traditional cultural practices. The SABC decided to pull the programme. Was the broadcaster's decision to pull and re-cut the programme the right one? Do artists and filmmakers have the right to depict culture as they please? Can anyone be an author of culturally sensitive stories?

Badly Drawn Roy

22.0, Ireland, Documentary (Animation)

Director: Alan Shannon

Presenter: Mark Cumberton

Shopsteward: Jo Raknes

Once upon a time in Ireland, in a working class suburb of Dublin, in the year 1972, a new life comes into the world. A very badly drawn one. Roy is the first animated baby born into a live action family. This "mockumentary" follows the life of Roy, regularly unemployed, living with his parents and trying to deal with adulthood in a not so comic world. Roy's animated body prevents him from securing regular manual jobs and his poor rendering has seen him rejected from countless animation auditions. Who says animation characters do not experience growing pains?

Who Owns the Arts?

Session leader: **Bill Gilcher**

Presenting the arts for mass audiences is part of public broadcasting's standard mission. How are we doing? Take a look at how four innovative broadcasters have faced the challenge of getting the arts out in fresh ways to television viewers – thereby posing the question; who in society gets to define words such as “art” and “artist”?

Sleeping Betty

14.0, Canada, Fiction (Animation)

Presenter: Claude Gauthier

Shopsteward: Eunjoo Kim

Old tales have a long future... For those who think nothing new could be told about the well-known fairy tale, *Sleeping Beauty* – think again. This short animation is loud, brave and humorous. What else could you ask for?

The Stones of the Kingdom

51.0, Brazil, Fiction (Series)

Presenter: Luis Alberto de Abreu

Shopsteward: Bill Gilcher

Part of a series that uses the storytelling form and exaggerated characterisation of Commedia dell'arte in adapting stories by Brazilian authors. Scheduled at prime time, the series challenges the audience to put aside TV soaps and soccer to watch a programme that draws on literary and theatrical traditions that are themselves spectacular – in this case, adapting a work by 20th-century author Ariano Suassuna and shooting this 1930's story in 18th century costumes on location in a baroque town in northeastern Brazil.

Mr Dial Has Something to Say

60.0, USA, Documentary
 Presenter: Celia Carey (Director)
 Shopsteward: Claudia Schreiner

This film explores the works and life of the African-American artist Thornton Dial through his “discovery” in the 1980s by a white art historian and collector named William Arnett. The narrative follows the incredible journey and the immense struggles they experienced together over two decades, while trying to have Dial’s work – and Southern African-American art – recognised by the elite contemporary art world. In the late 80s, with Arnett’s help, representation and connections, Dial became a major rising star of the art world. Famous contemporary artists such as Keith Haring and Jean Michel Basquiat visited Arnett’s Atlanta home to see Dial’s work and gain inspiration. Inexplicably, a catastrophic, defamatory profile appeared on the TV show *60 Minutes* leading to death threats for Arnett and cancellations of every Dial exhibit planned around the world. The film reveals and analyses how race and class are decisive issues at all levels. Who decides what art is? Have terms such as folk, visionary, outsider art been used to degrade the work of major artists?

The Magic Flute: Onstage & Backstage

Details: 45.0, Switzerland, Other
 Presenter: Christian Eggenberger
 Shopsteward: Graeme Isaac

This innovative programme involved the live broadcast on the Swiss national broadcaster SF1 of a performance of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, and a simultaneous broadcast on a 2nd network, SF2, showing what was going on back-stage as the performance was taking place revealing a world that is normally hidden from the audience. The television audience for this unique live event was able to switch at will from the front stage to the back stage view by changing channels, as we will do in this screening at Input.