

From: David Bleiler  
Sent: 16 December 2003 18:48  
To: BBC Charter Review  
Subject: Charter review

I am an American living in Philadelphia with an avid interest in all things British. I have visited your great country on three separate occasions... I look forward one day to a return visit.

In the meantime, I am content with British films, theater and TV, some of which is available here in the States.

I recently signed up for Digital Cable service solely for access to BBCAmerica. My favorite show is "Eastenders," and that is over such other current favorites here such as "Six Feet Under," "The West Wing" and "The Sopranos." I was very happy to pay the extra fee, because BBCAmerica advertised itself as "the best of British television," and - joys of joys - I could see new episodes of "Eastenders."

The best of British TV? That may have been at one time, but not now. Now the BBCAmerica landscape is littered with ceaseless reruns of Gardening and Do-It-Yourself shows, that seen once in a while are fine, but constitute sheer boredom after a few times. The history of British television is a distinguished one, one introduced to me on our local PBS stations. But lately even the PBS stations are suffering. And that means we all are suffering. And, worse of all to me, "Eastenders" is no longer available here in America - either on BBCAmerica or through my local PBS station.

Whether BBC has "control" over BBCAmerica or not, BBCAmerica represents the BBC if for no other reason than its very name. And lately that name has been tarnished.

PBS stations have stated that BBC fees are too high, and one wonders which is more important: for your great product to be seen, or to turn a greater profit. Remember, you get nothing if none of your shows are aired.

BBCAmerica must be held accountable, and be forced to be more representative of England's varied television programming. For me, that begins with "Eastenders."

Thank you for your time in this matter.

David Bleiler

