

BBC Charter Review
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
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23rd May 2005

THE appalling vulgarians in charge of the BBC like to claim they are running a public service system. So consider two tests of taste.

I recently watched two trailers for a book programme which were, gulp, set to a background beat. The programme (thump thump) would deal with certain books (thump thump) and included among participants (thump thump) would be...

But bottom had still not been reached. A Radio 4 announcer was talking about the history of the Reith lectures (thump thump) which had run (thump thump) for so many years (thump thump)...

This grotesque exercise continued to the point where we heard the voice of Bertrand Russell, of all conceivable members of the human race, accompanied by, yes, thump thump.

It is hard to see any reason for the renewal of the BBC licence if it gives us serious items sounding like cheap adverts on commercial TV.

Presumably, the bosses at the BBC, supposed to be serious people, saw or heard these items. All they had to do was pick up the phone and say this sort of thing cannot be allowed. But no, evidently, they were content. Thump thump.

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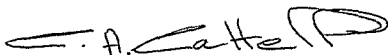
The affixed article by Andrew Alexander from a recent Daily Mail very aptly exemplifies the main point (of criticism! ... and there are plenty of others) I wish to make about current BBC output ... programme after programme (including some quite 'supposed-to-be-serious/intellectual' documentaries) absolutely ruined by this damned 'thumping', and making many programmes unwatchable for me. I had to repeatedly turn off the sound of the 'book programme' trailer Andrew Alexander complains of. God knows how 'dumbed-down' the programme itself was ... I didn't risk watching it!

Why should I be expected to pay out my licence-fee money only to have to keep turning the sound(-or the whole programme) off because the actual 'visual' content of such programmes is so spoilt by the trashiness of the sound-track?

There are regularly letters published in local and national newspapers complaining about the same thing, but the BBC takes no notice ... in fact it often seems that the more people complain ('Feedback'/'Points of View' etc.) the more the BBC does it!

My father (now passed away, aged 88) grew increasingly deaf as he grew older, and often commented that he could hear so much better when there was no cross-talk or background 'hubbub'. Why the 'deaf' charities/organisations don't complain vigorously to the BBC on behalf of hearing-impaired people about all this totally unnecessary background 'din' in programmes both surprises and disappoints me.

I wish also to register my disgust at the increasing levels of filth and swearing in programmes, and do not think the BBC's Charter should be renewed unless they **GUARANTEE** to do something about these things.



[Ms.] C. A. Cattell