

**BRITISH DOCUMENTARY FILM SELECTION****6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION, 2015****Searching for Sugar Man**

2012, R. Malik Bendjelloul, 86 mins.

This award-winning documentary charts the extraordinary and inspirational story of mysterious 1970s musician, Rodriguez.

“Searching for Sugar Man” is a documentary which details the efforts of two Cape Town fans in the late 1990s, Stephen “Sugar” Segerman and Craig Bartholomew Strydom, to find out whether the rumoured death of American musician Sixto Rodriguez was true, and, if not, to discover what had become of him. Their investigation leads them to a story more extraordinary than any of the existing myths about the artist known as Rodriguez.



Won 43 awards among which an Academy Award and a BAFTA Award for Best Documentary in 2013 and had 26 nominations.

**Lucian Freud: Painted Life**

2012, Randall Wright, 90 mins

The documentary follows Lucian Freud’s artistic career, from the bohemian early years in the 1950s and 60s London through to the international adulation that he enjoyed later in life. The film shows Freud at work on his final painting, while family and friends, including David Hockney and Andrew Parker Bowles, tell the story of a complex man who dedicated his life to portraits at a time when painting - let alone realist painting - was said to be dead. The film shows how Freud never swam with the flow and only achieved celebrity in older age. He rejected the artistic fashions of his time, sticking to figurative art and exploring portraiture, especially with regards to nude portraiture, which he explored with a depth of scrutiny that produced some of the greatest works of our time. The stories - of how he burnt his art school down, of how he gambled millions at a time on horse races, of how his luggage on a trip to New York consisted of one shirt in a carrier bag - in this brilliant profile are quite something. This



documentary is both a definitive biography and a revelatory exploration of the creative process, also due to John Harle's award-winning score which accompanies the documentary.

### **The Imposter**

2012, R. Bart Layton, 99 mins.

A 13-year-old boy disappears from his home in Texas. Three and a half years later, he is found alive in Spain with a shocking story of kidnap and torture.

His family is overjoyed to bring him home. But all is not what it seems. He looks decidedly different, and speaks with a strange accent. Why doesn't the family seem to notice these glaring inconsistencies? When an investigator starts asking questions this astounding true story takes an even stranger turn.

Winner of 13 awards among which a BAFTA for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer and 27 nominations.



### **The Tube: An Underground History**

2013, R. James House, 58 mins.

London Underground is 150 years old. The world's first underground railway is spending its anniversary year celebrating its own history; they're sending a steam train back underground, and there's a Royal visit to prepare for. This film tells the story of the Underground - through the eyes of the people who work for it. Farringdon station supervisor Iain MacPherson reveals why his station – the original terminus - was constructed in the 1860s, and recalls the dark days of Kings Cross in the 1980s; Piccadilly line driver Dylan Glenister explains why every Edwardian station on his line has its own unique tiling pattern, and how in the 1930s the construction of new stations expanded the borders of London. And there's Head of Design and Heritage, Mike Ashworth, whose predecessor pioneered the art of branding in the 1920s; and Customer Service Assistant Steve Parkinson, who was part of a wave of new recruits from the Caribbean from the 50s. With privileged access to disused stations and rare archive footage, this is the Tube's hidden history, revealing why it was first built, and how it's shaped London ever since.



## The Joy of Logic

2013, R. Catherine Gale, 59 mins.

A sharp, witty, mind-expanding and exuberant foray into the world of logic with Computer Scientist Dave Cliff, 'The Joy of Logic' takes viewers on a roller-coaster ride through philosophy, maths, science and technology all of which, under the bonnet, run on logic.

Wielding the same wit and wisdom, animation and gleeful nerdery as its predecessors, this film journeys from Aristotle to Alice in Wonderland, Sci-Fi to Supercomputers to tell the fascinating story of the quest for certainty and the fundamentals of sound reasoning itself. Dave Cliff, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Bristol University, is no abstract theoretician. 15 years ago he combined logic and a bit of maths to write one of the first computer programmes to outperform humans at trading stocks and shares. With the help of 25 seven-year-olds, Prof. Cliff creates, for the first time ever, a computer made entirely of children, running on nothing but logic. We also meet the world's brainiest whizz-kids, competing at the International Olympiad of Informatics in Brisbane, Australia.



## The Trouble With Tolstoy

2011, R. Rupert Edwards, 60 mins. x 2

In this two-part documentary, especially commissioned as part of the BBC's Year of Books, Alan Yentob examines the life and times of the renowned novelist, Leo Tolstoy. The film reveals a difficult, restless, ferociously brilliant man with an appetite for causing trouble - for himself, for his family and for the world around him.



## Last Chance School

2014, R. Marc Williamson, 58 mins.

Each year, over 5000 children are excluded from mainstream education in the UK, and just under 60 of them study at Muntham House School: a specialist boarding school for boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Many of Muntham House's pupils have been excluded because of violent and disruptive behaviour. But the dedicated teachers, led by charismatic headmaster Richard Boyle, are committed to finding out what it is in each boy that will inspire them to want to turn their





lives around. The school is one of the best of its kind and one of its goals is “to provide a happy experience for the boys”. Muntham House has a high student-teacher ratio, and a combined team of teachers, therapists and care workers.

Winner of the CTVC Best Newcomer Documentary of the Grierson Trust, in 2014.

### **Close Up: Freedom to Broadcast Hate**

2014, R. Sam Farnar & Omar Razek, 47 mins.

As the Middle East continues to be torn apart by war, sectarian violence, and a bloody backlash against the Arab uprisings, BBC Arabic investigates the television channels that are fanning the flames of communal hatred.

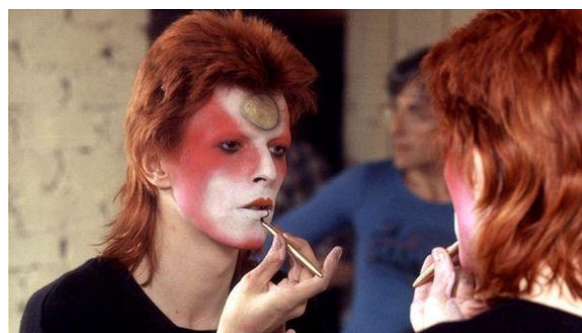
Since the beginning of the Arab Spring in 2011, the Middle East has experienced a proliferation of new television channels eager to spread political and religious messages to audiences keen to hear what they weren't able to hear before. In this film BBC Arabic takes a closer look at these channels and their impact.



### **David Bowie - Five Years**

2013, R. Francis Whately, 90 mins.

This film focuses on the five key years that best represent seismic changes in Bowie's career that made him a musical institution. Featuring an extraordinary wealth of previously unseen archive, from collections around the world “Five Years” looks at how Bowie evolved from “Ziggy Stardust”, to the soul star of “Young Americans”, to the “Thin White Duke”. The film then looks at his retirement from the spotlight, first in Paris and then Berlin, with the critically acclaimed albums “Low” and “Heroes”, before finally exploring his triumph with “Scary Monsters” and his global success with “Let's Dance”.



Won FOCAL Award for Best use of Music Performance Footage in 2014

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6nsMyj8LI4>