

# Today's TV & Radio

**YOUR 4-PAGE  
PULL-OUT FOR  
TV, RADIO AND  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**REGIONAL CINEMA LISTINGS - SEE 7 DAYS EVERY THURSDAY**

**STARS, SUDOKU - PAGE 36**

## Fat chance

### Tonight's TV

By Steve Pratt

email: steve.pratt@nne.co.uk



**Jamie's Food Revolution Hits Hollywood (C4, 10pm)**  
**This Green and Pleasant Land (BBC4, 9pm)**  
**Britain's Next Big Thing (BBC2, 8pm)**

**C**HEF Jamie Oliver has had remarkable success at tackling the state of British school dinners and home cooking in his TV series. Now, after a brief interlude trying to improve the British educational system with Jamie's Dream School, he's back in the kitchen for his new series.

But in the second series of his US food revolution, he's hardly welcomed with open arms by the Americans.

Last year he travelled to America's unhealthiest city - Huntington, West Virginia - to get to grips with America's junk food addiction. The result was the Emmy Award-winning Food Revolution series and the start of his campaign across the US.

This time he's aiming to tackle the eating habits of Los Angeles, a town of 11 million where "it's easier to get a gun, crack or a prostitute in a lot of areas of (this city) before you can get a tomato".

Diet-related problems such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes mean that America's children could be the first generation to live shorter lives than their parents. So Oliver takes it upon himself to change how America feeds itself at home, in schools and eating out.

Things don't start well. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) authority, which is responsible for 650,000 school meals a day in the LA area, refuses to let him film in their canteens. Perhaps they fear he's brought over a suitcase full of turkey twizzlers.

Oliver decides to try to win over parents and teachers in the hope of persuading the authority to change its mind. At least one outraged parent is disgusted that her child is offered "nothing fresh" at school, only processed foods.

He opens a kitchen in affluent Westwood, where he hopes to teach people the skills they need to combat the obesity epidemic. But he's confronted with the scale of the problem at a school lunch convention, when he discovers a seminar advocating flavoured (and sugar-laden) milk be served.

He stages a dramatic demonstration, filling a school bus with the 57 tonnes of sugar which the children of the LAUSD



#### KITCHEN CAPER:

Jamie Oliver prepares to take on the might of the American eating machines in Jamie's Food Revolution Hits Hollywood

area consume every week - purely from their intake of flavoured milk.

But again it falls short with the local community. Could his food revolution be doomed before it's even got started?

**R**OLLING hills, stunning greenery and a stillness that you would struggle to replicate or find anywhere else - some would say that nowhere else in the world has stunning countryside views quite like Britain.

The documentary Green And Pleasant Land looks at the depiction of the British landscape in art. It's a subject that has typified English artwork since back in the 18th century.

Here, various artists, critics and academics will be casting their keen eyes over some of the very best portrayals of our landscapes, as the programme charts the genre's development from the earliest Flemish paintings in the court of Charles I, right through to David Hockney's digital drawings.

The programme also features contri-

butions by film-maker Nic Roeg, historian Dan Snow and novelist Will Self.

**T**HE search for new products continues in Britain's Next Big Thing, with Dragons Den millionaire Theo Paphitis helping would-be entrepreneur dip their toes into the world of big business. This week the pound signs can be seen shining in his eyes when he believes he may have just found a product with the potential to make billions of pounds.

In the penultimate episode of an agreeable, if hardly outstanding series, there's a mixed bag as some inventors seem to be well on their way up the ladder of success to the big time, while for others, it seems they may have to stay put in their day job a little longer.

Liberty buyer Michelle Alger appears to be losing her patience with the young designers, while Show and Tell's light project narrowly avoids making a costly mistake, Boots push Birgitte's pram shade to the limits and Stuart Jolley's male deodorant wipe undergoes a makeover.

### Theatre critics

**Jason Isaacs and The Greg Francis Orchestra**  
**Journal Tyne Theatre, Newcastle**

**T**HE fabulous 14-piece Greg Francis Orchestra set their tone to swing with a foot-tapping instrumental to start an evening of polished rat pack music.

As soon as Jason Isaacs came on stage, an eruption of applause welcomed the man billed as the biggest voice in swing. Isaacs is returning to his home town for the sixth consecutive year and for this Georgie crowd he's their very own croon of the toon, their Emperor of easy.

They love him. He's young, suave, sophisticated and very easy on the eye with the swagger of a kickboxer, tempered with friendly banter and he soon had the audience hanging on every note.

Kicking off with Ain't That a Kick in the Head, Isaacs was joined by the Dream Girls, four delectable dancers with legs all the way up to their eyebrows. All too soon with Let There Be Love, Cheek to Cheek and other classics under his belt, Isaacs welcomed guest star, Fay Tozer, to perform a duet of How Do You Like Your Eggs In A Mornin', a song made even more famous by a certain brand of orange juice.

Ex Steps singer, Tozer proved her guest star quality

**The Northern Sinfonia**  
**The Sage, Gateshead**

**S**TEPPING into the breach for another performer at short notice must be a daunting prospect at the best of times, but Francesco Piemontesi rose to the challenge with style when he substituted for pianist Ingrid Fliter at the Sage.

Fliter, who was indisposed through illness, was programmed to play the Saint Saens' fiendish Piano Concerto No 2. So it was understandable that Piemontesi settled for more the more familiar Mozart Piano Concerto No 14.

Studied though his opening may have been, he soon loosened up with the backing of Northern Sinfonia, accomplished Mozartians they are. Piemontesi gave a stirring account of the last movement. The appreciative audience was treated to, not one, but two encores - a blazing rendition of the last part of Stravinsky's

with a superb solo version of Hey Big Spender. Proving his all-round appeal, Isaacs produced a brilliant upbeat saxophone solo In The Summertime.

Another guest star, Jason King, joined him for a couple of duets, most notably Me And My Shadow.

By the end of the show, Isaacs had the whole audience swinging and swaying to My Way, ably assisted by the sparkling Fenner Sisters. When you watch a man who is born to sing with vocal chords this good, it's a pleasure to behold.

**Helen Brown**



**IN GOOD VOICE:** North-East singer Jason Isaacs

Firebird and reflective piece from Schubert. Piemontesi's appearance was topped and tailed with polished performances by the Sinfonia under the baton of the youthful Ainars Rubikis.

The evening opened with a dazzling account of Rossini's Silken Ladder. The crescendos were perfectly pitched, with scintillating dotted lines from the woodwinds. Ravel's Pavane pour une infante defuncte oozed Gallic charm, with Rubikis maintaining a deliberate pace, emphasising each phrase, without being soporific.

Mozart's overture to the Magic Flute was followed by as fine an interpretation of Schubert's Symphony No 8 as one could hope for. The opening passage from cellos under Louisa Tuck established a warmth that permeated the performance. Rubikis laid out two-movement work in all its grandeur.

A wholly satisfying evening.  
**Gavin Engelbrecht**

### Cinema



**BOLDON**  
CINEWORLD  
Tel: 0870-155-0512  
**CONSETT**  
EMPIRE  
Tel: 01207-218171  
**DARLINGTON**  
ODEON

Tel: 0871-2244-007  
**ARTS CENTRE**  
Tel: 01325-348843  
**DURHAM**  
GALA  
Tel: 0191-332-4041  
**GATESHEAD**  
ODEON

Tel: 0871-224-4007  
**HARROGATE**  
ODEON  
Tel: 0870-5050-007  
**HARTLEPOOL**  
VUE  
Tel: 01429-261100  
**NEWCASTLE**

**EMPIRE**  
Tel: 08714-714-714  
**TYNESIDE**  
CINEMA  
Tel: 0191-232-8289  
**SOUTH SHIELDS**  
CUSTOMS HOUSE  
Tel: 0191-454-1234

**SUNDERLAND**  
CINEWORLD  
Tel: 0871-200-200  
**TEESSIDE**  
MIDDLESBROUGH  
CINEWORLD  
Tel: 0870-907-0734  
**SHOWCASE CINEMA**

Tel: 0871-220-1000  
**STOCKTON ARC**  
Tel: 01642-525199  
**THIRSK**  
**THE RITZ**  
01845-524751  
**WALLSEND**  
SILVERLINK

Tel: 0870-010-2030  
**YORK**  
VUE  
Tel: 08712-240240  
**CITY SCREEN**  
Tel: 01904-541144  
■ Telephone for programme details