

TV highlights 16/01/2013

Charley Boorman's South African Adventure | One Born Every Minute | Growing Up Poor | Spies Of Warsaw | Beauty And The Beast | Saving Face: True Stories

Jonathan Wright, Hannah Verdier, Gwilym Mumford, John Robinson and Ben Arnold

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David Tennant and Janet Montgomery in Spies of Warsaw. Photograph: Robert Palka/BBC/Fresh Pictures

Charley Boorman's South African Adventure **8pm, Channel 5**

Whatever you think of Charley Boorman as a travelling companion, his adventures don't want for incident. Tonight's South African odyssey begins with Charley being engulfed by a "monster wave" when he tries surfing. Undeterred, he heads off to the Sani Pass, a steep mountain road covered in ice, and the Tugela Falls, which can be reached only by climbing up rickety iron ladders. Exhausting to watch, but adrenaline junkie Charley takes it all in stride. *Jonathan Wright*

One Born Every Minute **9pm, Channel 4**

You can say one thing for those midwives at Leeds General Infirmary: they make this giving birth business all sound so easy. As the mums wail in pain, they give a breezy "Pop your legs open so I can do something excruciating, love" here and a cheery "I'll just get baby out with these giant salad servers" there. This week's victims are single mum Sasha and Surbhi, who was left paralysed in one arm after a motorbike crash with her husband. *Hannah Verdier*

Growing Up Poor

9pm, BBC3

After last week's instalment on girls, the last part of this documentary on youth poverty focuses on three teenage boys united in their desire to find work. Birmingham-born Wes wants his own place but is unable to afford one on his JSA. In London, Frankie dreams of going to uni but is put off by the steep tuition fees. Meanwhile in Rotherham, Craig, a skilled welder, is stuck scraping a living by fixing bikes. Despite moments of optimism, a sobering conclusion underlines how markedly the odds are stacked against the trio – and young people in general. *Gwilym Mumford*

Spies Of Warsaw

9pm, BBC4

David Tennant is more restrained than usual in this second world war-era drama, which is to say still verging on camp. An adaptation – by veteran screenwriters Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais – of Alan Furst's historical spy novel isn't a project he can entirely derail on his own, however. In spite of the wonky performances (Tennant is not the only culprit) and some low-end production values, tension is maintained throughout this concluding episode, as Jean-François attempts to gain info on German preparations for the coming war. *John Robinson*

Beauty And The Beast

9pm, Watch

The classic concept of a beastly creature and, erm, a beauty, is rebooted in a convoluted manner in this new US drama. Cat Chandler is a New York homicide detective haunted by the murder of her mother at the hands of two mysterious gunmen, to which she was a witness. She was only saved from death herself when the titular "beast" intervened. In this incarnation, he is a former doctor who turns beast when he's angry, like the Hulk. What with its clunking pop-culture references and expositional dialogue, you'll come

out feeling like you've been talked down to for 40 minutes. *Ben Arnold*

Saving Face: True Stories

10pm, Channel 4

Dr Mohammad Jawad is a cosmetic surgeon who found himself in the public eye after his work operating on the face of Katie Piper, a young British victim of an acid attack. In this Oscar-winning HBO documentary, we follow the charismatic, robust doctor to Pakistan, where, as he learns to his horror, there are around 100 reported acid attacks on women every year – an arena in which he feels his pro bono contribution might be useful. From there, the film moves beyond Jawad's experiences to touch on those who refuse to be part of a society that rarely takes strong punitive measures on the perpetrators of this kind of outrage. *JR*

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