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TV highlights 06/03/2013

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Andrew Mueller, Julia Raeside, Hannah Verdier, Martin Skegg, Rebecca Nicholson, Gwilym Mumford and Ben Arnold

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Katy Wix and Anna Crilly in Anna & Katy. Photograph: Channel 4

America's Poor Kids

9pm, BBC2

This documentary opens with a statistic that feels scandalous, recession or no recession: 16 million American children live within the technical definition of poverty. Jezza Neumann's affecting but unsentimental film is a companion to a study he made of poor British children in 2011. He meets young Americans doomed, through no fault of their

own, to lives of struggle. In no case is the American dream entirely extinguished, but it's horrible to listen to children being so grimly pragmatic about their prospects. *Andrew Mueller*

Michael Grade And The World's Oldest Joke

9pm, BBC4

The former chief exec of Channel 4 goes in search of the origins of the joke and attempts to discover its earliest example. So he starts in Liverpool with comedy legend Ken Dodd. Trawling history for evidence of what tickled our ancestors, Grade discovers it was basically the same mother-in-law gags and references to anal wind we all love so much now. Interesting contributions come from Tim Vine and the ever-sharp Barry Cryer. Seriously, he must sleep in an amber cave. *Julia Raeside*

Show Dogs: The Road To Crufts

9pm, More4

You'd be hard pushed to find a more disparate group of people than these dog lovers, but they are united by their desire to get their canines to Crufts standard. As the jittery dogparents anxiously await the judges' verdicts, their back stories reveal how their devotion to pet ownership has given them a focus in their darkest hours. "A dog just lives in the moment," muses Paul, whose bull terriers helped him through depression, "which is a lovely thing." There's more dog action when Crufts starts on More4 on Thursday. *Hannah Verdier*

Russell Brand's Give It Up Gig For Comic Relief

10pm, BBC3

Cynics might suggest that you need to be charitable to sit through 90 minutes of Brand and his showbiz mates, but this music and comedy concert recorded at Wembley Arena does at least aim for breadth; where else will you see Noel Gallagher and Rizzle Kicks on the same bill, for example? Emeli Sandé, Jake Bugg, Jessie J and Kasabian are also in the mix, while performing comedians include Jimmy Carr, Eddie Izzard, Noel Fielding and Simon Amstell. *Martin Skegg*

Parks And Recreation