

Pick of the day



Jobless 10.35-11.35 BBC1

★★★★★

Unlike their rich, famous counterparts, the protagonists of 'Jobless' are just that, for real. Andy is one of the white-collar unemployed, an IT sales manager struggling to feel valued while his wife's fledgling business starts to take off. Gary, a builder, has been out of work for four months and has to bear the pain of his eight-year-old offering him ten pence towards petrol. Paul was laid off by a car manufacturer and lost both redundancy pay and pension – he and his fellow workers have occupied the factory to get justice. And Derek has been made redundant by the *Daily Record*, having reported on the difficult local job market for decades.

It's another typically thoughtful and balanced film from Brian Woods ('Chosen', 'The Dying Rooms'), using split-screen very effectively as narrative device and metaphor, as unemployment drives a wedge between couples. While the jobseekers veer from phlegmatic and driven to maudlin and self-pitying (and, quite rightly, no judgement is cast), the observations from the children caught up in it invariably cut to the quick. An observational-doc so simple and effective it seems effortless. *Gabriel Tate*