



Ed Stoppard is cracking as the genius Alan Turing

How Britain broke the codebreaker

Alex Hardy
Last Night's TV



Britain's Greatest Codebreaker

Channel 4

★★★★☆

We Need to Talk About Dad

Channel 4

★★★★☆

It's not only the film-makers who get to re-edit people's lives. We all do it, and often. Autotuning our kids' voices so that we can believe they're the most talented. Painting a witch's hat on to our boss's head because, well, it's the done thing to associate authority with villainy, isn't it? There are a thousand everyday moments when we adjust what we perceive and what we will put up with. But boy, did Channel 4 come up with corking examples last night of existences re-edited

so comprehensively that the shift was savage. The first was the tale of Alan Turing, labelled **Britain's Greatest Codebreaker** because he cracked the Enigma Code so crucial to victory in the Second World War. A genius equivalent to Newton, said the film's talking heads, about a man whose achievements ranged from practically inventing the computer... to inspiring *Bladerunner*. Yet Turing's life was rewritten in the harshest way when he admitted to being gay. "Pervert" was his new label. And "threat", for 1950s wisdom cast homosexuals as untrustworthy. Physically, too, he was recast: chemically castrated, muddying his male body and brilliant mind.

How sharply and compassionately the documentary relayed this shift. Many docudramas struggle to make their reconstructions any better than "not entirely naff". Here they were sumptuous period pieces, enticing us into the past with vintage music, and into Turing's viewpoint, with scenes richly scripted from his letters and diaries. Ed Stoppard was cracking in the lead role, especially towards the end, as the tortured man's tears lingered just within his eyes. Behind them was a brain still so searching that he saw code in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*: he committed suicide, via poisoned apple, soon after.

There was a monumental amount of re-editing going by the Johnsons in **We Need to Talk About Dad**. Here they were, marching on as the perfect family, cheery Christmas dinners and all: even though

Radio Choices
John Bungey

Ken Clarke's Jazz Greats

Radio 4, 11.30am

The Justice Secretary, right, is taking time off from politicking for another series of his jazz ruminations. Today he celebrates the life of Zoot Sims, the tenor and soprano-sax man whose

name was a Muppet character. Clarke often more relaxed than penning there a line and political Clarke observed trumpeter style was a losing an attention, up at the be to a political

Radio 4

FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz

- 5.20am Shipping Forecast
- 5.30 News Briefing
- 5.43 Prayer for the Day
- 5.45 Farming Today
- 6.00 Today
- 8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
- 8.58 (LW) Weather
- 9.00 The Life Scientific
The cognitive scientist Nicky Clayton explains her research into the brains of birds (7/12)
- 9.30 One to One
Evan Davis hears from an advertising executive, who shares his thoughts on the ethics of being economical with the truth (7/12)
- 9.45 Book of the Week:
My Week with Marilyn
By Colin Clark. Abridged by Robin Brooks (2/5)
- 9.45 (LW) Daily Service
- 10.00 Woman's Hour
Including at 10.45 Drama: *How Does That Make You Feel?* by Shelagh Stephenson (2/5)
- 11.00 Saving Species
Brett Westwood reports on a 500-year plan to restore ancient woodland in Britain
- 11.30 Ken Clarke's Jazz Greats
Celebrating the saxophonist Zoot Sims, who became so popular that his likeness and name were borrowed for a Muppets character. See *Today's Choices* (2/4)
- 12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
- 12.04 Call You and Yours
- 1.00 The World at One
- 1.45 Stephen Fry on the Phone
The *QI* presenter explores how Britain became a world leader in communications technology in the 1980s (2/5)
- 2.00 The Archers (r)
- 2.15 Afternoon Play: **Six Impossible Things**
By Glen Neath. A police psychologist investigates claims that a double murderer acted under the influence of hypnosis (r)
- 3.00 Making History
- 3.30 Off the Page
Three guests discuss Japan (4/7)
- 4.00 Brain Culture:
Neuroscience and Society
How research into brain development could change Britain's education system (2/3)

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- 1.00

Other stations

Radio 1

FM: 96.7-99.8 MHz
6.30am Chris Moyles 10.00 Fearne Cotton 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Greg James 4.00 Sara Cox. Sitting in for Scott Mills 7.00 Zane Lowe's Masterpieces. Amy Winehouse's 2006 release *Back to Black* 9.00 BBC Radio 1's Review with Nihal. With Wretch 32 10.00 Nick Grimshaw 12.00 Nihal 2.00am Gilles Peterson 4.00 Dev

Radio 2

Radio 5

MW: 693, 909
5.00am Morning
Up to Money 6.00
10.00 Victoria De
Shelagh Fogarty
Bacon 4.00 5 Live
Sport. The day's
Champions League
9.40 Final Whist
Livesey 1.00am

6 Music

Kate