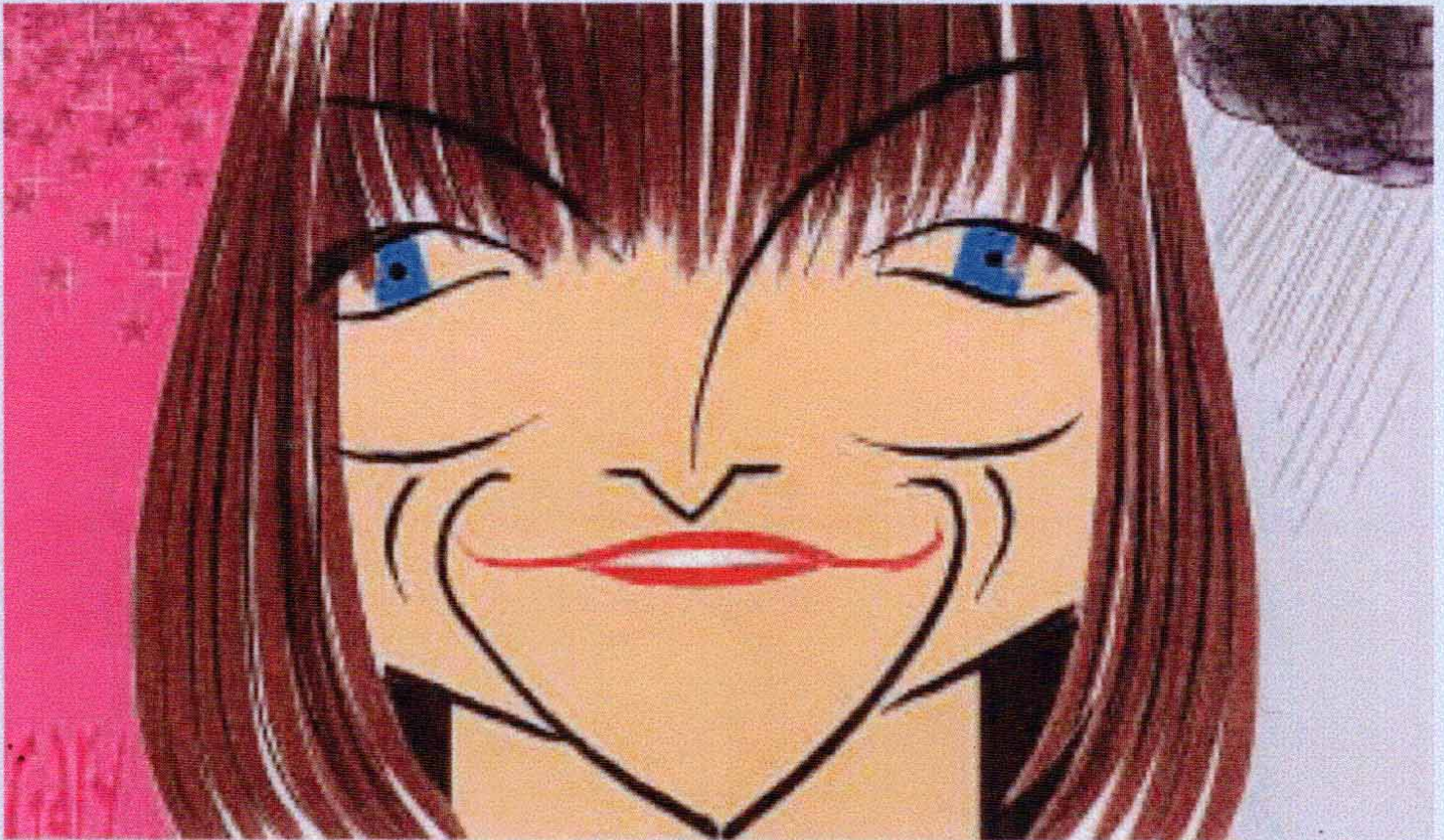


Critics' choice



Pick of the day

Famous, Rich And Jobless (BBC1, 9pm);
Jobless (BBC1, 10.35pm)

These documentaries share a theme, but are otherwise dissimilar, apart from the aptness of the term "reality". The reality associated with the first film is that which turfs personalities out of their comfort zones for entertainment as well as illumination of a social issue. Thus, the gardener Diarmuid Gavin, the actor Larry Lamb, interior designer Meg Matthews, above, and the, um ...

Emma Parker Bowles, pretend to be jobless and live in modest accommodation in deprived areas for a few days to see what it is like.

The real reality comes later, in a superb study by the director Brian Woods of families directly affected by the job losses that have risen as the recession has deepened. Here is genuine insight and empathy, the stories most revealing and poignant when the children are in focus. A parent's reference to "an IOU for £12 in the kid's money box" speaks of pride and hope maintained amid the final demands and rejection letters.

MARTIN JAMES