



TELEVISION

Street cred

Dave Chappelle's Block Party
 Saturday, 10pm, SBS

Fans of US comic Dave Chappelle will no doubt have already seen this. You might even own it on DVD. For those who came in late, Chappelle enlists the help of musicians such as Kanye West (before his ego got the better of him), The Fugees and Cody Chestnut to throw a big neighbourhood party. That's pretty much the gist of it but it is all accomplished with Chappelle's inimitable sense of humour. Well worth watching if you haven't seen it before.



Humpbacks: From Fire to Ice
 Sunday, 7.30pm, ABC1

After watching him on Channel 9 earlier in the year, there is something about hearing Sir David Attenborough's mellifluous tones on the ABC that gives one the sense the universe has been put to rights. In this latest outing, our favourite naturalist follows the amazing journey of the humpback whale from Hawaii to Alaska and back again. There's a lot of information to absorb in this one but Attenborough's practised delivery makes it easy.

Rove
 Sunday, 8.30pm, Ten

Rove is planning on ending the year with a bang and his final show of 2008 is suitably packed with big names. He has Daniel Craig (or Bond, James Bond, as we know him these days), Ben Stiller and Chris Rock confirmed for the final episode as well as UK rockers Snow Patrol. Add regulars Pete Helliard, Dave Hughes and comic duo Hamish and Andy into the mix and you should have more than enough reason to switch on.

The Howard Years
 Monday, 8.30pm, ABC1

With 11 years in the top job, John Howard was Australia's second-longest serving prime minister. In that time he survived controversies including

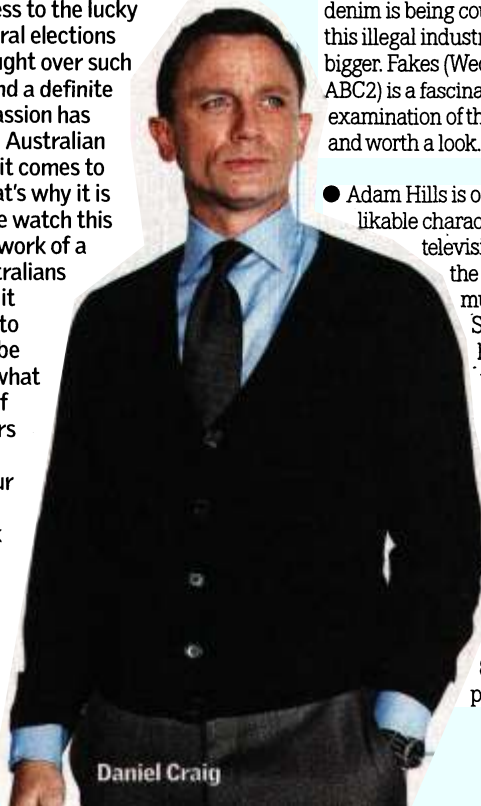




the children overboard scandal and passed unpopular legislation to privatise Telstra, institute workplace reform and, of course, introduce the GST. A lesser man wouldn't have lasted one term. This four-part documentary series is the definitive examination of Howard's reign as PM and gains unprecedented access to his political colleagues, staffers and to the man himself. Love him or hate him, this fascinating series will confirm your feelings either way.

A Well-Founded Fear
 Wednesday, 8.30pm, SBS

Sitting in comfortable lounge rooms it is all too easy to look at footage of asylum seekers and see them as illegal aliens, trying to cheat the system and gain access to the lucky country. Federal elections have been fought over such sentiments and a definite lack of compassion has crept into the Australian psyche when it comes to this issue. That's why it is imperative we watch this film. It is the work of a group of Australians who've made it their mission to travel the globe and find out what has become of asylum seekers who were rejected by our government and sent back to where they came from. This documentary has the power to change your perceptions.



Daniel Craig

WATCHING BRIEF

● Every now and then a TV show comes along that asks questions that you've always wanted answered – Where's My Robot (Sunday, 8.35pm, SBS) is that show for me. I remember watching TV shows like Beyond 2000 and reading magazines that said I'd have my very own robot butler by now. So where is it? I demand answers.

● Anyone who has visited Hong Kong, Bali or Thailand will know just how big a business counterfeiting consumer goods has become. Everything from shoes and handbags to designer-label denim is being counterfeited and this illegal industry is only getting bigger. Fakes (Wednesday, 9.30pm, ABC2) is a fascinating two-part examination of the knock-off trade and worth a look.

● Adam Hills is one of the most likable characters on Australian television. As host of the ABC's popular musical quiz show, Spicks and Specks, he has risen to the top of the food chain but it is good to see he can still cut it in the world of stand-up comedy. Adam Hills Live: Joymonger and Characterful (Thursday, 8.35pm, ABC1) is proof of that.