

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Jacko starts off a creepy, thrilling weekend

Plenty of frights, murder and mayhem this weekend. Oh, Mounties too



[Andrew Ryan](#)

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Prepare to fall back this weekend. The unavoidable reality of Daylight savings time requires all of us to wind back our clocks one hour before retiring on Saturday night, which means everybody gets an extra hour of sleep. Unfortunately, that means the days shall heretofore seem especially short and many of us will now be ending the workday in the pitch dark. On the upside, the new TV season is still in full swing. This weekend's preferred viewing options include a rarely-aired film starring the deceased King of Pop, a ripping new British crime-drama and a reality-TV take on our very own Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Come Monday you'll be grateful for that extra hour.

Michael Jackson's Ghosts

Saturday, MuchMoreMusic, 10 p.m.

Wanna see something really scary? Recommended viewing for Halloween night, this short film offers a far better display of the late pop star's talents than, say, the new tribute film *Michael Jackson's This Is It*. Acknowledged by the Guinness World Records people as the longest music video ever made, the 38-minute film was directed by movie special-effects maven Stan Winston, who was obviously handed a sizable shooting budget. Filmed in the time before Jackson's descent into truly odd behaviour and sordid sex scandals, the story eerily reflects the holding pattern of Jacko's life at the time: He plays a mysterious figure named The Maestro, who lives alone in a mansion overlooking the town of Normal Valley. The town's obnoxious mayor – also played by Jackson, virtually unrecognizable in a fat-suit and rubbery makeup—bursts into The Maestro's home with several citizens in tow and lays into the recluse for the act of entertaining the local children with magic tricks. The Maestro's response involves terrifying the uninvited visitors, which is followed by three choreographed dance numbers strongly reminiscent of the classic *Thriller* music video. A good way to scare the wits out of the kids after the tricks and treats.

Masterpiece Contemporary: Place of Execution

Sunday, PBS, 9 p.m.

Based on a bestseller by Scottish novelist Val McDermid, this grim crime drama had critics raving upon its recent broadcast in the U.K. The two-part story stars the fine English actress Juliet Stevenson as Catherine

Heathcoate, a single mother and filmmaker who becomes too closely involved in her latest project. While researching a profile of a high-ranked police official, Heathcoate discovers the copper's illustrious career achieved liftoff stage four decades before with his first big case: the presumed murder of a teenaged girl in the village of Scardale. Although a suspect was caught and convicted, the girl's body was never found. When Heathcoate's subject abruptly pulls out of his own film biography, the driven documentarian suspects a cover-up and sets about uncovering the decades of subterfuge surrounding the case. Much of the story is told in flashbacks of the original murder investigation, and the depictions of life in a sleepy English village, circa early-sixties, feel very authentic. The intense young actor Lee Ingleby, known for his work in the Harry Potter films, is remarkable playing the detective as a young man. Watch the first half, and you'll be back for next Sunday's conclusion.

Courage in Red

Sunday, OLN, 10 p.m.

Think of it as Red Serge Redux. Given the proliferation of unscripted reality shows on television, it was probably only a matter of time before the Royal Canadian Mounted Police received the reality-TV treatment. Filmed in locations across Canada and overseas, this new documentary series aims to introduce a new generation of viewers to our international police force long caricatured by stereotypes of horse-riding Mounties. The series launches with two distinctly different episodes. The first focuses on the ongoing efforts to ensure safety in Canadian high schools and universities. The increase in school shootings in recent years have forced the RCMP to rethink and revise plans for responding to the scene of such a crisis. The second episode is filmed at the RCMP's fabled Training Academy "Depot" in Regina, which has been turning out RCMP officers since 1885. The program focuses closely on a young lad named Kevin, who wants to follow in his Mountie father's footsteps, and viewers are also introduced to several other fresh recruits eager to dive into the six-month training program. Not a Dudley Do-Right in the bunch.

Check local listings.



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