



**The story of the BBC documentary**

***“Grapples, Grunts and Grannies,  
When Grappling Was Golden.”***



The years flash by and it's quite a while since a BBC producer got in touch and invited us to Bristol to help with a documentary they were planning. Naturally we built up the programme on our Heritage website and our members joined in the fun.

Throughout 2012 Wrestling Heritage shared its extensive resources with BBC 4 with the sole aim of producing a television documentary that faithfully recorded the development of professional wrestling in Britain to the point that, through the sixties, it was the most popular indoor spectator sport in the country. Many of you will have seen documentaries and news items in recent years that consider only the later period that already constituted the decline of British wrestling. We are proud to have made this important impact time-wise.

Transmission of "Timeshift: Wrestling" promised to be the most informative and comprehensive British Wrestling documentary yet made. On Heritage we previewed some of the show's content with our loyal Members.

The big news was that the tireless researchers at the BBC managed to track down the entire film of the 1962 epic between Jackie Pallo and Mick McManus. As a result, their long-running feud is covered in some detail and a major parallel feature appeared on Wrestling Heritage.

The programme included [interviews with celebrity fans, authors, promoters and popular sixties and seventies wrestlers including Johnny Kincaid and Adrian Street, as well as an appearance by Kendo Nagasaki.

We had the utmost respect and thanks to the programme's indefatigable director who quickly became hooked, then knowledgeable, then intrigued and as curious as many of us to explore wrestling's mysteries.

Access to the pre, during and after discussion of the show by expert Heritage Members and casual fans alike featured prominently on the Talk Wrestling forum. All are very welcome.

# Wrestling's Golden Age: Grapples, Grunts and Grannies

Will be broadcast on Thursday 13th December at 2100 on BBC 4

The Heritage build-up to the broadcast began weeks before transmission date, with daily contact between the site and the Director enabling us to know how the programme developed.



Wrestling Heritage regards "Wrestling's Golden Age: Grapple, Grunts and Grannies" as the biggest new contribution to the Heritage Years of British wrestling since the launch of Wrestling Heritage itself, and celebrates the screening on a grand scale with the following articles.

## Exclusive Countdown Previews

Watch the Wrestling Heritage Home Page in the run up to the first screening of "4G" as we take you exclusively behind the scenes and preview the show's contents. Look out for the BBC Radio preview of "4G" as advertised in our Talk Wrestling forum.

## Specially developed all-new and related articles

- \* A new Timeshift related A-Z entry
- \* New Timeshift related Ring Leader features.
- \* The Greatest Rivalry of all time.
- \* A new two part Heritage Countdown
- \* A new Timeshift related Armchair Corner entry.

## Timeshift night additions

- \* The Shining Star you have been waiting for
- \* Bumper New Wrestling Heritage Countdown

## Related Wrestling Heritage Articles

- \* Kinky Goings On
- \* Glitter, Glam Rock and a Forearm Smash
- \* Wrestling's Princess Kate
- \* The Other Side of Wrestling
- \* Unravelling the Strings of the Mask

## Screening after Timeshift

- \* Concluding The Greatest Feud of All Time

## Scroll sideways for full details of each Timeshift preview

## PLUS + PLUS + PLUS

The BBC are interested in the expert feedback on the show from Wrestling Heritage Members. Comments made in the related forum thread will be viewed also by people outside wrestling so please make your best focused comments according to the usual Heritage guidelines (no distractions to other sites or requests for emails), and use your best English to ensure Wrestling Heritage Members, representative of fans at large, are viewed in the best light possible. The Director of "Timeshift: Wrestling" has indicated she will participate in the related forum topic to answer questions as far as possible whilst always respecting the necessary privacy and BBC regulations. We hope not to have to delete any comments made in the forum and are sure of Members' discretion.

## Wrestling's Golden Age

## Grapples, Grunts & Grannies

### At The BBC



In the summer and autumn of 2012 Hack and Anglo Italian worked with the production team at BBC Bristol of the Timeshift documentary , “When Grappling Was Golden.”.

Our involvement with Timeshift began early in 2012 when we were contacted by BBC Director Linda Sands. Linda was surprised by the popularity of the Wrestling Heritage website and was exploring ways of satisfying this interest through the production of a documentary for the BBC series, Timeshift.

Sport or spectacle, and where, when and why the balance tips from one to the other, that was the quest of the Timeshift team.



Almost daily telephone contact and working with the production team in Bristol ensured the interests of Heritage members were well represented in the programme. Resources and memorabilia were loaned to the production company. We didn't like everything about the finished product, but we did have a positive impact on drawing the subject matter away from the initially planned 1980s to the decades that preceded it.

Research and interviews took place around the country, and even across to the United States at one stage, before three weeks were spent editing into a finalised product.

Following a postponement of the planned for broadcast date “The Golden Age of Wrestling: Grapples, Grunts and Grannies” was finally broadcast on BBC 4 on Thursday 13th December at 9.00pm.

## The Countdown Begins....

In the three weeks leading up to the broadcast Wrestling Heritage launched new items that related to the programme.

Launched in the Series/Rivalry section members were treated to an in-depth three part documentation of the greatest rivalry in wrestling.

## EXCLUSIVE TO WRESTLING HERITAGE!!!!

WRESTLING HERITAGE PROUDLY PRESENTS

Mick  
**McManus**

v  
Jackie  
**Pallo**

## Wrestling's Greatest Feud



It was without doubt the greatest wrestling feud ever, anywhere, and it all started in April 1962 at Wembley.

For years the rivalry of Mick McManus and Jackie Pallo demonstrated the strategic planning of British promoters at their best.

No opportunity was missed for these two London rivals to create the heat for the match that everyone wanted to see.

Sixty years later we invite you to read the full story of this rivalry to end all rivalries.

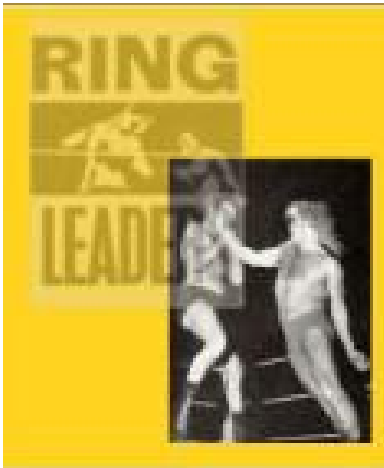
In three parts, launching now as part of our preview season for [Wrestling's Golden Age: Grapples, Grunts and Grannies](#). Join us now for part one of

Mick  
McManus  
v  
Jackie  
Pallo

## Wrestling's Greatest Feud



## The Countdown Continued



Each week we would rush for the TV magazine to find out who would be on the following week's wrestling show.

Most weeks we were content, or had to be, with a listing of that week's contests, but some weeks we would be treated to match previews or articles about the wrestling and the wrestlers.

Adrian Street is one of the featured wrestlers in the BBC Timeshift documentary, "Grapples, Grunts and Grannies."

By 1969 Adrian had been a television regular for six years and was ready to take the mantle from Mr TV Pallo as television's most flamboyant character. Let's face it Pallo was decidedly black and white in comparison with the multi-coloured Street on the new colour televisions that were leisurely entering the nation's homes.

In our latest addition to the Ring Leaders series we invite you to read the tv magazine's previews to two of Adrian's televised contests, in 1969 and 1972.



### MUSA THE TURK



We admit we were surprised to hear that Musa the Turk was to feature in Grapples, Grunts and Grannies. A decent enough worker on Dale Martin bills of the 1960s, but not exactly a household name.

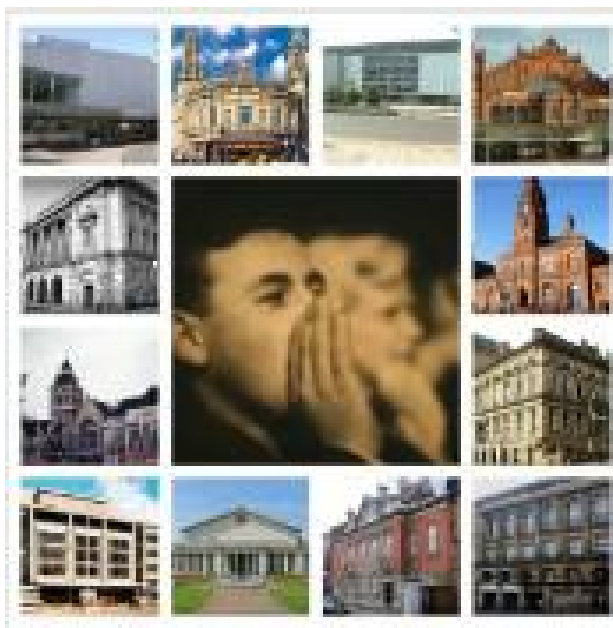
But then Musa was involved in another of wrestling's double crosses, one of those nights when the promoter cried, "Hey, what's going on here?"

What was going on?

Was this a case of an up and coming wrestler getting a bit uppity?

Or was it part of the bigger world of politics in the 1960s wrestling scene?

One of the protagonists will be appearing on Timeshift, and we look forward to hearing what he has to say.



*"Greetings grapple fans, and welcome to the Brent Town Hall....King Georges Hall....Barrow Town Hall..."*

Each week the wrestling halls of Britain invited the armchair fans to join them at ringside.

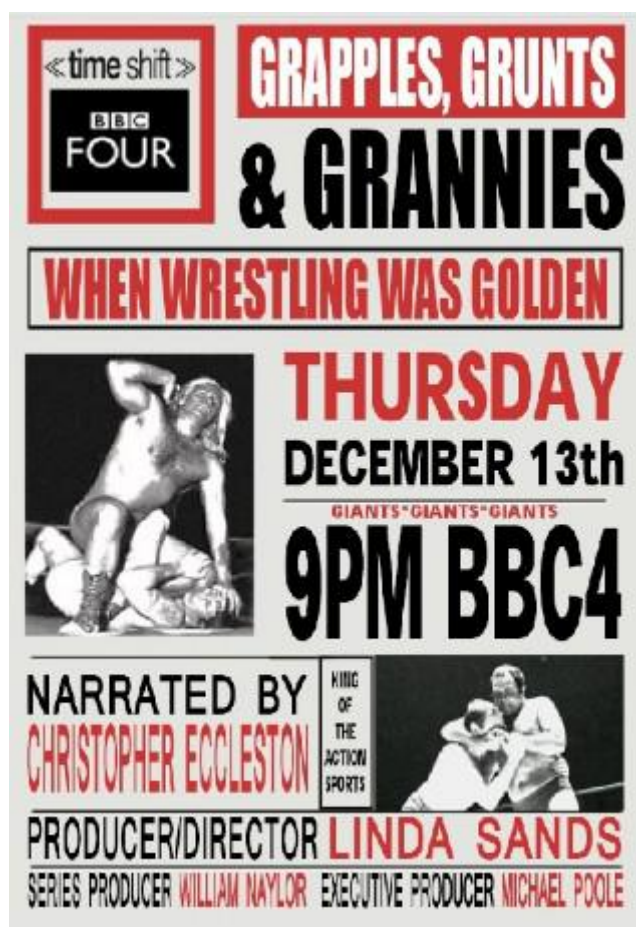
Thanks to the miracle of television places such as the Lime Grove Baths, Victoria Hall, Trowell and Shoreditch Town Hall became household names.

One question posed by readers of Wrestling Heritage has been which venue was seen most frequently on ITV wrestling?

Using all the available data we are now able

to answer that question.

Greetings grapple fans, and welcome to the Top 20 TV Venues



**The BBC produces its first ever wrestling poster!**

And what a job!

At this point we introduce Wrestling Heritage Members to Linda Sands, the brain and determination behind the whole show, and now an enthusiastic fan herself, complete with views, theories and curiosities all her own.

Linda is watching the forum, so time now to address any direct questions to her, or, if you feel more appropriate, after the show's transmission.

Well, we asked you yesterday in the forum about Doctor Whooo? The cat is now well and truly out of the tardis.

Well done Ken on guessing correctly.



**Palais Fan** began watching televised wrestling in 1958, when he was 7 years old. Dad had been to wrestling shows in the 1930s, at The Blackfriars Ring and elsewhere in London where he saw Bert Assirati, Tony Mancelli, Black Butcher Johnson and other legendary British wrestlers of the time.

Palais Fan's dad was full of stories about visiting villains from 'the north' including Jack Pye, famed for using the second's metal bucket as a weapon, and exotic foreign wrestlers like the Terrible Turk, who would get up to all kinds of skulduggery behind the referee's back.

When he watched televised wrestling his dad would react to every hold and move with a wide range of facial expressions and involuntary movements. It was as if he was in the ring dishing out and receiving blows, in equal measure. The most memorable of his expressions was a grimace that seemed to reflect real pain à la Tibor Szakacs.

His enthusiasm for, and appreciation of, professional wrestling simply rubbed off Palais Fan, demonstrated time and again through his contributions to Wrestling Heritage. Like this.....

The winter of 1962/63 is often remembered for being very cold for a long period. In the south the snow fell on Boxing Day (I was at the Crystal Palace v. Millwall football match that day, and froze) and the thaw didn't arrive until March. But it wasn't only the cold weather that is set firm in my memory from that particular winter; my Dad had made my Christmas by giving me the BBC Grandstand Sport book I coveted.

By the age of 11, I was a sports nut and devoured all the sports books, TV and radio programmes, I could access. During that football season, I had become a regular spectator at Stamford Bridge, to watch Chelsea FC, and on Thursday evenings you would find me, accompanied by my Dad, at The Wimbledon Palais watching the

greatest wrestlers of the day. Imagine my delight therefore, when I found that the BBC Grandstand Book my Dad had given me, surprisingly contained a feature on Professional wrestling.

Why would a book celebrating the BBC's most iconic sports programme, include a feature about ITV's most watched sport?

You may well ask! Without further ado please read through the feature which includes the original spelling and punctuation errors and is set out in the same small paragraphs found in the book.



## THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUED

As well as the 1962 McManus-Pallo match, programme researchers have unearthed other classic action. Including the great Rocky Wall, in action against Roy St. Clair:



And African Witchdoctor Masambula rolling his eyes for the BBC:



You'll see greats from the past, and you'll see regular evocative signs of what wrestling fans were like back in the Golden Days.



# A Glimpse of Nagasaki

There has been much discussion on the Talk Wrestling Forum about what really happened the first time Kendo Nagasaki's mask ever came off on national television when he wrestled Billy Howes.



41 years later, Wrestling Heritage can now share with its Members how the TV Times commented on the bout, in its picture report at the time.

## Kendo Nagasaki



## The Last Word



Here's the man with the last word.

The Timeshift team travelled to Milton Keynes in May to interview one of wrestling's most charismatic characters, Johnny Kincaid.

One of the most exciting wrestlers of the 1960s and beyond, Johnny Kincaid wrestled his way around the world for three decades.

Johnny is a great storyteller and poet, and we know the Timeshift team were thrilled by his contribution to the programme.

So much so that it is one of Johnny's poems that will bring the programme to its conclusion.





# Introducing...

## Mr TV

*(As though he needed any introduction!)*



## A GLIMPSE OF

## MR GUILLOTINE



Jackie Pallo is now one of the



On the second day of 2012, a Wrestling Heritage article was published in the Daily Mail. Apart from stoking the BBC's interest in the magnificence of professional wrestling, a whole new mystery was explored by the Heritage community of Members in the Talk Wrestling forum.

Mr Guillotine - Kendo Nagasaki in Japan was opened by Lofty Waterman as a result of the Wrestling Heritage article's publication.

With input from friends in the USA and Japan, we pieced together the series of 1968 bouts in Japan involving a mysterious masked British wrestler by the name of Mr Guillotine.

Wrestling Heritage is now able to bring you this photo of Mr Guillotine in Japanese action. See the forum topic for more detail.

Kendo Nagasaki is one of our favourite masked men of the 1960s, assuming centre stage following his defeat and unmasking of the great Count Bartelli in 1966.

One of the most celebrated Heritage years wrestlers that is still alive, the Timeshift team is to be congratulated on persuading Kendo Nagasaki to participate in the programme and spending a day filming on location.

Here's a man who could tell us so much, but will he reveal anything at all?

On Wrestling Heritage now

**Ring Leader:**

**A Glimpse of Nagasaki in 1971**



**KENDO NAGASAKI**



## The Man We Loved To Hate



Grappling...

Grocers...

Antiques

Mick McManus is added to the Ring Leaders series.

# BENDING

# THE

# RULES

Only in professional wrestling do we enjoy such mesmerisingly contradictory language!

By way of a lead-in to the Timeshift programme, strictly for the uninitiated of course, we launch the final part of our popular 2012 series on Wrestling Holds. Admittedly this piece isn't about textbook holds but it does throw up some uncertainties arising from Admiral Lord Mountevans rules.

And on Thursday you'll be able to see the much mentioned Admiral in all his regalia in "When Wrestling was Golden." Other notables to be looking out for include Ski Hi Lee, Black Butcher Johnson, Banger Walsh and the Reverend Michael Brookes.

Without doubt we proclaim her The First Lady of Wrestling, and the only female to have received a tribute amongst the pages of Wrestling Heritage. Klondyke Kate has been a star of British wrestling rings for more than thirty years and is respected by just about everyone in the business.

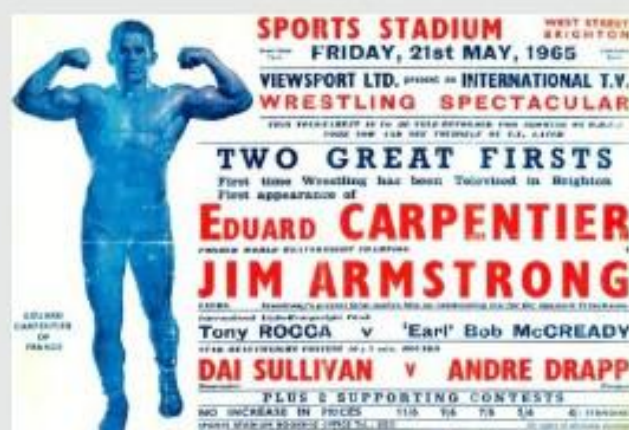
Klondyke Kate is not only known for her exploits in the wrestling rings of Britain and the world but also for her straight talking.

She possesses a combination of talents and experience that made her a natural choice for the BBC Timeshift researchers.

Klondyke Kate will be making a memorable appearance on the programme recalling her memories of the wrestling business and the fans that booed and jeered her on her way to wrestling success.

Related articles:





Whilst it is independent television usually associated with professional wrestling in Britain the national broadcaster, the BBC, also has a long and glorious tradition of covering British wrestling.

The BBC televised wrestling before ITV was even conceived. In the years prior, and soon after, the second world war BBC broadcast wrestling segments as part of their few hours a day transmissions. It was here that a very young Mick McManus first took to the mat in front of a solitary BBC camera in May 1947. In 1965 the BBC even dallied with the idea of broadcasting wrestling shows once again, but only two programmes actually materialised with the irrepressible Eddie Waring as commentator of shows at Brighton and Sothend.

Over the years BBC television have produced some good quality wrestling documentaries: The Klondyke Brothers, Masters of the Canvas, So You Want To Be A Wrestler amongst them.

Consequently we are not surprised that almost a quarter of a century after ITV took the decision to withdraw British wrestling from their schedules the gauntlet has again been taken up by good old Auntie BBC.

For Bristol based director, Linda Sands, and her colleagues it was a personal journey of discovery in which they uncovered a few of the mysteries of wrestling only to find more beneath the surface and understand why the sport remains a subject that fascinates thousands of Wrestling Heritage readers to this day.

Related articles:



**: STOP PRESS : STOP PRESS :  
STOP PRESS : STOP PRESS :**

We paraphrase enigmatic Master of Ceremonies, Mike Judd:

*"Ladies and Gentlemen, regrettably there is one late change to the scheduled programme..... Very unfortunately ..... Mick McManus ..... will still be appearing (Boos!). However, Musa the Turk has unfortunately met with a mishap and ended up on the cutting room floor."*

Fear not Grapple Fans, Wrestling Heritage will take steps to bring you full details of Musa the Turk's involvement in a controversial sixties double-cross just as soon as possible.

**: STOP PRESS : STOP PRESS :  
STOP PRESS : STOP PRESS :**

## MEDIA ALERT

For once we say to Members "You're on your own now!"

Related features and previews are popping up like mushrooms this week, so keep your eyes and ears peeled. Yesterday evening there was an interview on Radio 2's Drivetime with Simon Mayo.

Please notify everyone fast via the Talk Wrestling Forum if you become aware of a tv, radio or press feature this week. It's not often sixties wrestling makes national news in the 21st century, so let's enjoy it while we can.





# GRAPPLES, GRUNTS & GRANNIES

WHEN WRESTLING WAS GOLDEN



**THURSDAY**  
**DECEMBER 13th**  
GIANTS\*GIANTS\*GIANTS  
**9PM BBC4**

NARRATED BY  
**CHRISTOPHER ECCLESTON**

ONE  
OF  
THE  
ACTION  
SPORTS



PRODUCER/DIRECTOR **LINDA SANDS**  
SERIES PRODUCER **WILLIAM TAYLOR** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **MICHAEL POOLE**

## Today's the Day

9.00 PM TONIGHT ON BBC

4

Settle down tonight for the first screening of Wrestling's Golden Age: Grapples Grunts and Groans.

Whilst it is independent television usually associated with professional wrestling in Britain the national broadcaster, the BBC, also has a long and glorious tradition of covering British wrestling.

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BBC even dallied with the idea of broadcasting wrestling shows once again, but only two programmes actually materialised with the irrepressible Eddie Waring as commentator of shows at Brighton and Southend. Over the years, BBC television have produced some good quality wrestling documentaries: The Klondyke Brothers, Masters of the Canvas, So You Want To Be A Wrestler amongst them.



**SPORTS STADIUM** WEST STREET BRIGHTON  
**FRIDAY, 21st MAY, 1965**  
**VIEWSPOINT LTD, presents an INTERNATIONAL T.V. WRESTLING SPECTACULAR**  
THIS PROGRAMME IS TO BE TRANSMITTED FOR COUNTRIES AS WELL AS FOR THE HOME AND FOREIGN BY T.V. LINKS

### TWO GREAT FIRSTS

First time Wrestling has been Televised in Brighton  
First appearance of

**EDUARD CARPENTIER**  
CHAMPION WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION  
**JIM ARMSTRONG**  
WRESTLING'S greatest from under the sea - remembered best for the dramatic Frenchman

**Tony ROCCA** v **'Earl' Bob McCREADY**  
OF THE HEAVYWEIGHT PRIZE FIGHTING AND THE BELL

**DAI SULLIVAN** v **ANDRE DRAPP**  
OF THE

**PLUS 2 SUPPORTING CONTESTS**  
**NO INCREASE IN PRICES** 11/6 8/6 7/6 5/6 4/6 STANDARD  
SPORTS STADIUM, BRIGHTON, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1965

Consequently we are not surprised that, almost a quarter of a century after ITV took the decision to withdraw British wrestling from their schedules, the gauntlet has again been taken up by good old Auntie BBC. For Bristol-based director, Linda Sands, and her colleagues it was a personal journey of discovery in which they uncovered a few of the mysteries of wrestling only to find more beneath the surface and understand why the sport remains a subject that fascinates thousands of Wrestling Heritage readers to this day.



**The  
Other Side  
of Wrestling**

## Timeshift: The Rollcall

How many wrestling personalities did you manage to spot in the 58-minute Timeshift programme?

We managed to identify the 100 listed below in approximate order of first appearance. But there were more we have not yet identified, so just get in touch with the precise timing if you want to add to the list below and get us over the ton.





Criteria for inclusion: anyone relevant to the programme (but not merely edited in outsiders like Larry Grayson) and wrestlers seen in moving pictures as opposed to stills (eg Doctor Death) with the exception of those whose still is discussed (Hackenschmidt and Norman Morrell).





Kent Walton (voice)

Wild Angus	Sammy King	Nicky Monroe
Big Daddy	Hack	Johnny Kwango
Max Ward	Anglo Italian	Billy Howes
Johnny Kincaid	Peter Bates	Jacques Lageat
Kendo Nagasaki	Simon Garfield	Lou Marco
Joe D'Orazio	Georges Hackenschmidt	Goldbelt Brian Maxine
Adrian Street Esq.	King Kong	Clive Myers
Kent Walton	Tony Siano	Tony Mancelli
Jackie Mr TV Pallo	Admiral Lord Mountevans	Johnny Yearsley
Mick McManus	James Mason	Billy Two Rivers
Stan Stone	Brian Faulkner	Dave Bond
Charlie Fisher (voice)	Norman Morrell	Fred Downes
Ernest Baldwin	Steve Logan	Bobby Palmer
Brian Crabtree	Ted Beresford	Johnny Wilson
Man Mountain Benny	Al Miquet	Honey Boy Zimba
Black Butcher Johnson	Gordon Smith	Johnny Wilson
Rene Boukovac	Jon Cortez	Catweazle
Albert Rocky Wall	Ian Gilmour	John Harris
Roy St Clair	Peter Stewart	Mick McMichael
Joe Hill	Tibor Szakacs	Jim Breaks
Rev. Michael Brookes	Linda Sands (voice only)	Mike Judd
Freddie Greene	Frank O'Donnell	Judo Pete Roberts
Haystacks	Peter Kaye	Kung Fu
Will Hodgson	Colin Joynson	Kid Chocolate
George Gillette	Dave Reese	Atlantis Chronos Goth
Sir Peter Blake	Mark Rocco	John Elijah
Klondike Kate	Steve Grey	Rip Rawlinson
Frank Rimer	Yasu Fuji	Norman The Butcher
Jeff Kaye	Johnny Saint	Sid Cooper
Pietro Cappello	Charlie Fisher	Big Jim Harris
Ricki Starr	Fyfe Robertson	Alan Kilby
Masambula	Ski Hi Lee	Tony Banger Walsh
Vic Faulkner	Syed Saif Shah	John Curry
	George E. Gillette	Anaconda











## Timeshift: The Highlights

Rank	Time	Citation	Screenshot	Appeal
20	2.00	Masambula rolls his eyes		Under-televised but greatly loved by the fans, the African Witchdoctor holds plenty of screenspace in this documentary.
19	13.00	Rocky Wall scores a fall.		The commentator's excitement at the fall is in keeping with a 100% competitive event.
18	40.00	A blood-splattered and bewildered Johnny Kincaid...sells the Kamikaze Crash quite perfectly.		The very core of Wrestling Heritage exhibited once again in a couple of delightful seconds.
17	31.00	Adrian Street at 70.		Undiminished commitment to Professional Wrestling from one of our favourites who talks affectionately and frankly about his early wrestling years.


16	16.00	"In a drama scripted by Joint Promotions, how did you get to the top?"		We enjoy seeing the BBC taking the direction from our site and dedicating the central part of the programme to an ongoing theme at Wrestling Heritage.
15	3.00	The build up to McManus v Pallo I.		Spine-tingling anticipation even now. At this point we expect a documentary par excellence.
14	21.00	"The one and only TV Jackie Pallo"		Charlie Fisher's introduction is well selected and edited in. Just hear and touch the genuine importance of his words.
13	41.00	"My ambition was to be Kendo Nagasaki."		We can't relate to it but we respect and believe Sir Peter Blake's statement. All wrestling fans had and were perfectly entitled to their own interests and angles.





12	37.00	"We didn't try that hard."		The unmistakable truth of Johnny Kincaid's words gives us all something to ponder.
11	47.00	"Big Daddy would become one of the most revered and reviled names on the wrestling scene."		All credit to the BBC Producer, Linda Sands, for an eloquent and accurate oxymoron of her own making.
10	36.00	Adrian Street photographed with his father.		Emotional, personal moments. The photographer's skill conveys love, shock, pride, distance and closeness all at once.
9	56.00	The closing poem.		Quite apart from the poetic artistry, Kincaid's message describes the core of professional wrestling.

8	43.00	"He was good enough to keep his mask on."		<p>Kendo Nagasaki's lack of open contact with the old boy network in 2013 provides us with an ongoing mystery to explore and investigate. Johnny Kincaid elegantly and generously rises above the general code of silence to describe Nagasaki the wrestler in a way we seldom hear.</p>
7	36.00	"This is an international tag team contest of 30 minutes duration."		<p>Once again the professionalism of the professionals is quite striking. This time, Mike Judd's magnificence with the mike paves the way for excitement to come.</p>
6	45.00	"Professional wrestling had penetrated every aspect of popular culture."		<p>The very reason for the programme and the challenge for under 45-year-olds to comprehend.</p>
5	4.00	"The needle match of all needle matches."		<p>Kent Walton's excitement is so infectious.</p>




4	22.00	Seeing Ski Hi Lee		The BBC sourced one of our favourite villains, and gave us plenty of glimpses.
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## Our Top 3 Moments

3	40.00	Kendo Nagasaki's double arm suplex.		One for the purists.
2	21.00	"Those who witnessed McManus and Pallo wrestle live believe it wasn't fixed."		The ultimate accolade. The pair wrestled each other over thirty times and gave top value entertainment every time.

No.1

## Great Moments In “When Wrestling Was Golden”

1	13.00	"For those who like professional wrestling, no explanation is needed; for those who don't like it, any explanation would not be acceptable."		Max Crabtree sums up the appeal of professional wrestling quite captivatingly.
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## Timeshift: Anomalies

Now that the excitement of initial transmission has died down, it is time to analyse the programme a little more carefully.

Grapples, Grunts and Grannies represents a televisual historical record, at least in part, of the development of professional wrestling in Britain. It is likely to be viewed on DVD, Youtube and in many different places over decades to come. Whilst acknowledging the production team's commitment to the business and their success in making a fun and colourful programme, we also have a duty to ensure that any errors in the show be clearly identified and corrected. From this perspective, we now present our nit-picker's guide to untruths, exaggerations, slips of the tongue and all manner of inaccuracies to ensure, for posterity, that wrestling facts are recorded accurately.

Our list is a starting point and we welcome any further contributions from Members for inclusion, to be posted in the Talk Wrestling forum Timeshift topic.

Time	Original	Comments & Corrections
Title:	Grapples, Grunts and Grannies.	Grapples as a noun doesn't exist. Where they got this from the lord only knows. A book on English punctuation is available entitled "Eats, shoots and leaves". Even the narrator on his own website has amended the word to Grapplers.
0.00	Villains wore silver capes.	What is this based on?
1.00	Wrestling regularly drew tv audiences of 16 million.	Our grip on statistics is uncertain but we seem collectively to have agreed that 16 million was possibly a one-off peak in 1963. Regular audiences may have peaked at 8 million in the mid-sixties.
2:00	By the eighties, wrestling seemed out of step with popular culture, the bubble burst.	This implies that wrestling hadn't changed but society had. This site constantly assesses the decline of wrestling which accelerated in the eighties. No sixties audiences would have bought into the type of dumbing down that contributed to eighties decline. Wrestling had changed even more than the modern culture had. If sixties British Professional Wrestling had, albeit improbably, retained its mystique and magnificence by the eighties, it would undoubtedly have continued to flourish.
3.00	McManus and Pallo drew 22 million to one bout.	Very hard to prove or disprove anything now, but this seems to be an exaggeration.
3.00	In the right corner was Mick McManus.	Wrestling had red and blue corners, even, nay, especially in black and white.
3.00	McManus's Dracula-style hairdo.	This imagery was lifted from Ray Reardon in snooker. We referred to Mick's haircut as Emperor Nero, or occasionally as Kent Walton does here, as a widow's peak.
6.00	McManus and Pallo really didn't like each other.	There is no evidence for this. Their relationship may have faltered when Pallo left Joint Promotions in 1974, but prior to then they were reliable co-workers just like the majority of wrestlers. Each has publicly stated the other's worth. To have generated such heat so successfully over 11 years it is most unlikely they didn't get on. The statement stems from an editorial decision, stemming from Sir Peter's excitedly inaccurate comment, to portray the 1967 match as a legitimate shoot, which it clearly wasn't.

7.00	The first official world heavyweight was Georges Hackenschmidt.	Maybe champion?
12.00	Steven Logan	Astonishing to hear MC Ted Beresford introduce the Iron Man like this.
14.00	Will Hodgson was a professional wrestler for two years.	Fact or fiction?
15.00	(on villainy)	The blue-eye vs villain dichotomy is described to the exclusion of technical bouts, comedy bouts, clean grudge matches, and other types of match that added variety.
17.00	The hero would initially take a pounding.	Stereotypical simplification that does nothing to convey the variety of professional wrestling matches.
18.00	The hero would usually triumph with a last-minute victory.	Quite untrue, the pecking order had other parameters.
18.00	The fans didn't care in the end that it was fixed.	This presupposition is in danger of wiping out the fact that the wrestling was so good that it was believable and many fans had no doubts at all; and that many fans have witnessed at least parts of certain bouts that were real. Fixed is a nasty superficial word that dismisses the dangers and creativity involved.
18.00	Science fiction comic book pantomime.	Spoken by a youngster who may have judged wrestling 1985 onwards. Sadly it seems that his comment as edited in is applicable to the Heritage years, which it could not be in any way, shape or form.
22.00	We are told McManus v Pallo III was a shoot at the Royal Albert Hall.	This is the most satisfying anomaly on the list; that two pros' work was so good that years later the myth should develop that the grudge match was for real. This is the attainment of every wrestler's dream.
22.00	The headbutts started in Round One.	We can of course forgive Sir Peter's inaccurate recollection of the timing of McManus v Pallo III after 45 years, but must not let his version become history. For the paparazzi-splattering accurate account, read the Wrestling Heritage feature on the Feud.
27.00	You had to weigh 45 stone.	No tv wrestler ever weighed 45 stone. At the time of the World of Sport launch under discussion, 20 stones was considered super-heavyweight. Unhelpful hyperbole.
27.00	The technical wrestlers were actually quite boring.	A wholly personal and ill-informed comment at odds with the opinions certainly of most Members on this site. How ever was this comment left in the show?
28.00	Wrestlers who didn't have a strong image found their days were numbered.	Untrue, there was room for all types, and plenty of skilful low-key wrestlers enjoyed long and successful careers and were admired by fans nationwide. Wrestling dispensed gimmicks in limited doses, not wholesale.
31.00	Exotic Adrian Street.	Strictly speaking this name was developed after his last tv appearance. He wrestled on tv as Adrian Street Esquire.
32.00	He started in 1957 as Kid Tarzan.	No. See his profile on Wrestling Heritage, "Glitter, Glam Rock and a Forearm Smash".
41.00	Kendo Nagasaki always won.	Read around this site for defeats at the hands of various wrestlers, starting with Big John Cox in 1965.
42.00	The Outlaw unmasked ceremoniously.	The Outlaw never unmasked.
43.00	Kendo Nagasaki's tattoo was on his forehead.	Kendo Nagasaki's tattoo was on his pate.
44.00	Kendo Nagasaki put his mask back on 6 months after the unmasking.	No, it was much later. Read "The Face in the Window" in Armchair Corner.
46.00	Prince Philip and HM The Queen used to go to the Albert Hall every month.	The Queen never went. Prince Philip went twice officially but may have gone more often in a private capacity.



49.00	Big Daddy was a very unathletic sportsman.	This statement fails to address the real frustration with Big Daddy, the nature of his bouts finishing fast and unbelievably. This is all the more frustrating because we know he could wrestle and even take throws, and his remaining televised clean bout against John Elijah shows a variety of skills and moves.
51.00	Giant Haystacks with his Irish background, was portrayed as the Celtic villain.	Untrue.
52.00	Big Daddy v Haystacks at Wembley Arena was the biggest wrestling event of the eighties.	Big Daddy v Mighty John Quinn in 1979 had been much bigger, the peak of the super-heavyweight era, and a drastic turning point. Its fast and unsatisfactory ending caused all subsequent challenges to be shunned by the media at large.
54.00	No one's ever claimed it's the most sophisticated form of entertainment.	Well we do on this site. It's just that all too many high brow journalists are too low in analysis to understand the magnificent complexities of professional wrestling.

## Credits

Role	Contributor
Narrator	Christopher Eccleston
Producer	Linda Sands
Director	Linda Sands
Executive Producer	Michael Poole