

# Sunday June 14

## David Chater's choices

### Wife Swap

Channel 4, 8pm

This series looks likely to go on for ever. At the end of tonight's episode, it asks for volunteers to apply for the next series, suggesting there is an endless supply of people out there who want to appear on television. Certainly it allows the programme makers to have their pick of oddballs. One couple tonight are born again Christians who live in chaos on a 200-acre farm in Wales. She has been married four times, and her husband — a pleasant enough chap who nobody takes seriously — sees himself “a divine love gift” to her. The wife she swaps with lives in a loveless marriage in suburbia and suffers from obsessive-cleaning disorder. Nothing much happens apart from a great deal of odd behaviour. As the saying goes: “The whole world's queer except thee and me, and thee is barking mad.”

### Casualty 1909

BBC Two, 9pm

Cherie Lunghi and Sarah Smart star in another outing for the pre-First World War edition of *Casualty*, at a time when the average life expectancy was 45 and one in seven children died by the age of 10. Within this period setting — all green tiles and starched white uniforms — the programme follows the standard *Casualty* format, with an explosion filling up the “receiving room”, the compassionate nurses caring for girls forced into prostitution and a surgeon addicted to cocaine. The highlight is David Troughton's performance as a bluff, kindly surgeon who insists on the need for specially trained anaesthetists when one of his young patients dies on the operating table from too much ether. How much you enjoy it will depend on what you feel about history served up as a soap.

### Alan Carr: Chatty Man

Channel 4, 10pm

The comedian Alan Carr is certain to be a distinctive chat show host, each week offering what the programme-makers call “a good old natter with three celebrity guests from the showbiz world”. No surprise appearance from Barack Obama, then. His guests tonight are Bruce Forsyth, the US actress Heather Graham (*Scrubs*, *The Spy Who Shagged Me*) and Ross Kemp, whose documentary series *In Search of Pirates* on Sky1 has become one of the highlights of the week's viewing. The Pet Shop Boys will close the show with a performance of their latest single, *Did You See Me Coming?*

