

Channel 4 to screen 'Dyke TV' series

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 4 is to screen a season of programmes on lesbian issues.

The "Dyke TV" season, which will run on Saturday nights in September, will include a programme on the direct action pressure group the Lesbian Avengers and a documentary about lesbian mothers who have conceived by artificial insemination.

A spokeswoman for Channel 4 said that the season was not intended to be sensational. "It's quite serious in its intent to serve and reflect a minority. It is late-night, people can switch on or off as they like."

Television critics and commentators last week accused Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, of lowering standards of taste and decency on television after a warning from the Independent Television Commission about a number of stunts on the youth programme, *The Word*.

□ Dr Who, one of the most popular television programmes ever produced, is to be turned into a £3.5 million film made jointly by the BBC and Universal Television in America. The film, which has taken 18 months to negotiate and is expected to be screened by the BBC in about two years' time, will also be shown on Fox Network television in America.

Dr John Thomas, managing director of BBC Worldwide, said no decisions about who would take the lead role, or where the film will be shot, would be made until the script had been completed. It is being written by Matthew Jacobs, an American whose credits include *Young Indiana Jones*.