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Home-grown TV is right up our street

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IT WAS the year the critics began to run out of abuse, and even the Government complained about the flood of US imports on TV.

Meanwhile the rest of us just got on with watching our usual British favourites - home-grown comedy and drama.

Coronation Street, already the most popular programme in the history of British television, was once again the nation's favourite in 1993, attracting a peak of **20.7** million viewers for one episode.

BBC situation comedy celebrated a vintage year, clinching second, third and fourth place, with *One Foot In The Algarve*, *Only Fools and Horses* and *Birds of a Feather*.

ITV drama remained dominant, with the makers of such hits as *Prime Suspect III*, *Heartbeat* and London's *Burning* apparently untroubled by the din of the City predators carving up their companies.

The only Hollywood films to make it into the 1993 Top 30 were *Ghost*, *Pretty Woman* and *Ghostbusters II*. American formats like the BBC's *999* and ITV's *Gladiators* failed to register.

Only one brand-new series figured in the chart - the disastrous adaptation of *A Year In Provence*, starring John Thaw. Yet of the 14.5 million viewers who tried it, only four million stayed to the end.

Many of last year's winners survive only on the drip-feed of Christmas specials (*Only Fools*, *One Foot In The Grave*); or have come to the end of their runs (*Morse*, *Darling Buds of May*); or cannibalise the medium itself (*Aunties Bloomers*, *It'll Be Alright on the Night*).

But Michael Barrymore almost single-handedly revived that faded old dowager, the *Royal Variety Performance*.

WHAT WE WERE WATCHING IN 1993

- 1 **Coronation Street** ITV 20.7m
- 2 *One Foot In The Algarve* BBC1 20.0m
- 3 *Only Fools And Horses* BBC1 19.6m
- 4 *Birds Of A Feather* BBC1 19.4m
- 5 *Inspector Morse* ITV 18.8m

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- 6 News and Weather BBC1 18.6m
- 7 Ghost BBC1 18.5m
- 8 One Foot In The Grave BBC1 18.4m
- 9 You've Been Framed ITV 18.3m
- 10 EastEnders BBC1 17.8m
- 11 Heartbeat ITV 17.8m
- 12 The Bill ITV 17.7m
- 13 Keeping Up Appearances BBC1 17.1m
- 14 Casualty BBC1 17.0m
- 15 This Is Your Life ITV 16.4m
- 16 Big Fight Live ITV 16.4m
- 17 London's Burning ITV 16.2m
- 18 Strike It Lucky ITV 15.6m
- 19 Wish You Were Here ITV 15.5m
- 20 Darling Buds Of May ITV 15.5m
- 21 Noel's House Party BBC1 15.4m
- 22 Barrymore ITV 15.2m
- 23 Grand National 1993 BBC1 15.2m
- 24 Pretty Woman ITV 15.2m
- 25 It'll Be Alright Night 5 ITV 15.1m
- 26 Royal Variety Perf. ITV 14.9m
- 27 Ghostbusters II ITV 14.8m
- 28 Aunties Bloomers BBC1 14.7m
- 29 Year In Provence BBC1 14.5m
- 30 Prime Suspect III ITV 14.3m

Repeat showings of programmes have been excluded. Only the top show in each long-running series has been allowed

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Grave and Year In Provence were less certain

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