

BREADLINE BRITAIN 1990

PROGRAMME 5

POST-FILMING SCRIPT

FINAL MASTER: 26.03.91

TITLES

SUB-TITLE: Out in the Cold

Kim begging in group

KIM, V/O, 532, P.5

You're sitting there, and you say, "Can you spare any change please?" And they say, "Go and get a job". And then you try and explain to them you can't get a job but they don't want to hear.

SYNC

You get them coming out of the pubs late at night and they chuck Coke over you, like they've just come out of MacDonalds; they just chuck Coke over you as you're sleeping in your sleeping bag, so you're soaked the whole night. Things like that.

V/O

Or spit at you. Like we've even had...my friend she was sitting

down there like on ground level,  
and some geezers come out of the  
pub and just steamed into her,  
beat her up and ran off.

COMM

Kim Stevens is 17. Her home is  
the streets of London. During  
the 1980s, the number of  
youngsters sleeping rough has  
soared from just a few hundred to  
several thousands.

KIM, V/O, 534, p.18

It's pretty scary like,  
because...for a start I don't  
like breaking the law, and when  
I'm begging there, you always  
have to look out for the  
police...

TO POLICE?: No, we're not, we're  
not. We're allowed out today  
man. We're not juveniles.  
I don't want to have to go to  
court for breaking the law and  
things like that, because it

ruins your chances of getting a job.

SYNC

And they're just forcing you to do that; Society or whatever it is is forcing you to have to do something.

Playing pool at  
unemployment club

JOHN MALONE, SYNC, SL.99, p.4

Sometimes I just crack up in here. I get so depressed. I mean, just drives you round the bend the money situation now like. You have to pay this, you have to pay that, and all that, and the government just don't realise. They have no idea as far as I'm concerned, they're not bothered, they don't care.

COMM

John Malone is 23. Like many of these young people at his local unemployment club, he hasn't had a real job since he left school.

Over the last decade, youth

unemployment has risen by nearly a third.

Today around a hundred thousand young people under 25 have been out of work for more than a year.

John has to live off £28.00 a week State benefit.

NEW

JOHN, V/O, W/T, NEW, PP.34/35

The level of benefit is absolutely atrocious, it really is. £28 a week to live on. You're not living, you're surviving. It's absolutely ridiculous it is. It just goes like drinking a cup of water, it really goes that fast.

NEW

JOHN, SYNC, NEW, 100/2, PP.11/12

Well, it's like...bloody hard; it's not easy, not one bit. No, it's...it's just...day in day out, just the same things.

In park on own with

Ricky on swings

ALISON, SYNC, NEW, 766/2, p.7

I don't think society are giving a single - especially single parents - a fair deal to the society at the moment.

ALISON, V/O, 658/1, p.25

My living standards are low. But

I don't like the way I live, but there's no other way I can live, at this precise moment in time.

ALISON, V/O, 765/1, p.1?

I'm not doing nothing - I'm just wasting my life.

COMM

Alison Childs is 21. She lives with her 2½ year old son Ricky in a bed and breakfast hotel in London.

The number of single mothers in Britain has risen during the decade from 130,000 to 230,000. Like most of them, Alison lives

off Social Security.

ALISON, SYNC, 657/1, p.19 - NEW

I can't survive on the money that...I get from...from my benefits each week. By the time I've paid out bits and pieces I'm left with about say £20 a week, to buy Ricky's nappies and to buy food with. Tell me, where does...where does £20 go? It doesn't go nowhere.

Compilation (re-time)

COMM

John  
Kim  
Alison  
These are among the very poorest of the 11 million people found to be in poverty by a special survey commissioned for Breadline Britain.

They all fall well below the minimum living standard laid down by society at large.

This is a rise of 3½ million since the first Breadline Britain survey in 1983.

Ten years ago there was little poverty among the young. These are the new poor, a group that has emerged out of the 1980s.

So who among the young end up like this, and why are their numbers growing?

ACTUALITY

[John struggling at class]

JOHN, V/O, SYNC, 101, P.15

When I was at school, I always found when they were doing their work, that they were way ahead, and I was just so far behind, you know; I was trying to catch up, and I just never seemed to...you know, got anywhere because the teacher never really had the time to, you know, like a one-to-one basis. And I just fell further and further behind. And later on, it was diagnosed that I've got word blindness.

COMM

John left school with no qualifications and unable to read.

Seven years later he still has difficulty reading and attends this special class once a week.

John is dyslexic, but the problem is much wider.

One in four 16-20 year olds have difficulty reading.

MARGOT, V/O, 79/1, P.4

Well certainly in Stockton we have a hundred and fifty in classes, mostly on one-to-one tuition with volunteers, but not all of them that way. But there must be far more; if you talk to officials from the DSS, they are aware that a lot more people need help but are reluctant to seek it.



COMM

Across Britain, many young people are still leaving school without the most basic skills.

Our education system is failing them badly.

MARGOT, V/O, 79/1, pp.1/2

A lot of people at school have failed. You get various problems; a lot of illnesses like asthma, bronchitis, which means missing school. A number of people are kept at home from school to look after relatives who are ill.

SYNC

Some people whose parents haven't been happy at school don't feel it's important to send the children to school. So a lot of it is absence. And if you are a slow learner in the first place, which a lot of these people are, genuine slow learners, it's very difficult for them to get back into school and pick it up again.

JOHN, V/O, 101/1

I would like to have done qualifications, I really would. To know that I was qualified, you know, in some area, that would be useful for me and for other people. But I haven't got them things.

Buying chips

KIM, SYNC, 533/1, p.11 - NEW

Well I had an attitude problem at school really basically right! No, I went to my little school and I managed to get kicked out of my little school, and then they let me back, and when I went to the big school, the junior school, they thought...all the teachers thought I was going to be bad, so therefore I really was.

COMM

Brought up in care, Kim rarely attended school.

KIM, SYNC, 533/1, p.11

The only class I went to was GE and art, that's basically it, because that's the things I was interested in, and that's the only things I knew that I wanted to do. But I went to a few basic English and Maths things to learn to read and write, but all the other things like Science and...that's just wasting my time. So school was a bit boring anyway, and I didn't really go much basically, and I haven't got any exams and that.

Owen & Alison in park

COMM

Owen is Ricky's father. He too has ended up with no qualifications. Work has been hard to come by.

OWEN, V/O, SYNC, 687/1, p.2

If I could get a job now, I'd take one. But there's none around for my like... 'cos I've got no qualifications or anything

like that. And so the only thing I could do is try. I can't read and write properly, can't spell properly, just about read. So really there ain't much left for me to do.

Alison & Owen in park

COMM

The Breadline Britain survey shows that three-quarters of the poor have none or only minimal qualifications.

In the past this was much less of a handicap. Industry needed a large pool of unskilled labour.

But in today's industrial climate, a poor education means unemployment or, at best, short term, low paid jobs with no future.

OWEN, V/O, 687/1, pp.1/2

I have done a bit of work, like tyre fitting in a...did work in a breaker's yard. But they wasn't

jobs as...like you'd call a proper job. You know, I mean, where you go out and get a proper wage at the end of the day.

Take out darts  
& add Television

COMM

Over the 1980s, John has not only ended up with a lower and lower chance of a job. The income he's left to live off has also dropped sharply.

In 1988, the Government cut benefits for the under 25s. He now lives off £28.00 a week. Without the cut, he'd be £8.00 a week better off.

From top

JOHN, V/O, SYNC, 101, p.12

To manage off so little money is just so ridiculous. I mean, I would really like to do more things in my life. It really would be nice to, but you know I just never seem to get that way...get the things I would like to do. It really would be nice.

Just coping day to day at home.

More John

COMM

One of the Government's aims was to encourage the young to take work. But John is unemployed not because of a lack of incentive, but a lack of opportunity.

JOHN, W/T I/V, p.39

I want a job, I really do.

JOHN, 101/1, p.13

Go to sign on once a fortnight, go down the Job Centre about three times a week.

JOHN, V/O, 101/1, p.18

99 per cent of the time it's, you know, it's not really suitable because I can't read. And, when I find it is suitable, I apply for it, but I don't get anywhere.

JOHN, SYNC, 101/1, p.17

I mean, I would like to be an electrician, but I can't be an electrician, because of qualifications. I'd like to fix tellies and videos, but you have to follow diagrams and what have you, and I can't do that.

COMM

Last year John undertook the latest Government training scheme for the long-term unemployed - Employment Training.

It paid an extra £10.00 a week on top of his benefit.

JOHN, V/O, 102/1, p.23

And like, you do the same hours that you do, you know, like a full week, and be getting ten pound a week.

JOHN, V/O, SYNC, pp.24/25

You're not really getting

anything out of it. It's going to cost you more. And in the long run, like packed lunches and bus fare and all that, because ten pound doesn't really cover nothing. I mean, go out and buy ten pounds' worth of food and it goes just like that.

Kim & Keisha at night

COMM

The biggest cut in benefit has been among 16 and 17 year olds. It was withdrawn from most of this group in 1988. Kim and her friend Keisha have been left with no money at all.

KIM, 534/1, p.15

Better than staying around (Neeside??). Because basically like, living with no money, because I can't sign on and things like that, it's very difficult, so the only thing I've got to do...well I mean, there's several things I could do, but the only sort of safeish thing



I've got to do is beg. I mean, I could get into prostitution, all sorts of things; and mugging people and things like that. But I'm not into that. Don't really want to get into that because it's bad anyway.

Over New Horizon?

COMM

The Government's aim was to encourage young people to undertake a Youth Training Scheme, which pays a small allowance of £30.00 a week. But Youth Training is not a serious option if you're living on the streets.

JAYNE, SYNC, 531, p.11

I mean, you know, you walk around here, there's always people asleep because they haven't been able to sleep at night. And this place is open in the day, and it's warm, so it's a convenient

place to sleep.

V/O

Employers have got standards: they expect somebody to come in clean, they expect them to come in awake, which is very difficult if you're sleeping on the street.

JAYNE, V/O I/V, p.12

The difficulty with YTS is that they would have to do at least a 35-hour week, which would be virtually impossible under the circumstances that they're living in.

JAYNE, V/O, p.13

It's very difficult to get her clothes washed. Just basic things like that, keep herself clean.

KIM, 466/1, p.32

It's not being lazy, it's like...you're really tired; when you go in the centre you're tired

and you just want to crash out and go to sleep. Most people think, 'Oh, those lazy people, all they do is sleep all the time' like. I mean you sleep...you don't sleep at night. If they'd offer you the job at night I'd be glad to take it; it's out of the cold, you've got nothing to do at night you know, and I'd take it. And even if it was for a pound an hour.

## NEW SECTION:

OWEN

COMM

Underlying all the cuts in benefits for the young has been an attempt to encourage parents to take more responsibility for their offspring. But for most, this is not an option. Owen was brought up in care.

OWEN, V/O, P.11

I didn't leave, I got booted out due to circumstances with me step-dad. And...they put me in care. I was about 12, 13, till I

was about 16, 17. I was all...all in different children's homes all over the place.

COMM

After leaving care, Owen found himself penniless.

OWEN, V/O, p.12

Due to all the circumstances and that, since I couldn't read and write, I ended up with nothing.

OWEN, SYNC, 689/1, p.10

I had no money at all. The Social wasn't giving me none. I had no family really to fall back on to ask for some. I ain't got no fam...like no dad or no mum around me to help me.

COMM

Owen too, ended up on the streets.

Night-time shots

OWEN, V/O, p.12

I decided to come back to London,  
to the big city and make me mark.

OWEN, V/O, p.13

'Cos I was sleeping, roughing it  
here and there in a few places.

Anywhere I could find to I was  
sleeping.

COMM

During the day, Kim often comes  
to the London Connection, a day  
centre for the homeless.

Playing piano

KIM, V/O, SYNC, 529, p.1

I've liked music since like I was  
really little, probably about  
seven, because one of my mates  
had a piano and that, and I got  
bored and that so I started  
messing around on it. And like,  
they heard me playing and they  
said that I should go to music  
lessons and all that. So I went  
to that, but I didn't like the

music lessons, they were pretty boring and I had to go and all that.

SYNC

But then I went, and did some grades and that, and it was all right. But like, the piece I've just been playing, I did that myself, composed it myself.

Jayne Alston,  
youth worker

JAYNE, SYNC, V/O, 531, p.9

I think it's very difficult for people to remain motivated about something like playing the piano, or being artistic, when you've got huge problems in your life, like you can't claim benefit or you've got nowhere to live; you know, you haven't got food, you haven't got cigarettes, you haven't got this, that and the other. Then playing the piano is not something that's incredibly important. So people's talents can just be washed aside.

COMM

And being on the street makes work out of the question.

JAYNE, V/O, p.15

A job just becomes a more and more difficult thing for them to comprehend doing. The longer they spend on the street, the more into the sort of street scene they get, the more the idea of a job is just ridiculous.

V/O, p.14

A lot of people who, when they first get to London and are quite new to the sort of scene are looking for jobs; they don't realise how difficult it is.

EDIT V/O

They may get a job but that doesn't mean they'll find somewhere to live. And by the time...it would take them so long to get a deposit together, by then they probably would have lost the job.

Subway

COMM

Young people on the streets are caught in a vicious cycle. With no money, they can't get anywhere to live. And with nowhere to live they can't get work. They're trapped.

KIM-KEISHA, SYNC, 467/1, p.40

KIM:

It's difficult getting a job like, because you come there, you're all scruffy, you know what I mean; you're tired because you haven't had no sleep and that the night before following; and they won't accept you because you've got to have somewhere to live as well. Remember that time we saw that thing in the Post Office?

KEISHA:

Yeah.

KIM:

Saw this thing in the Post Office, this job thing, typing and that. And like I can't type



very well, but, you know what I mean. But we went down there, and like walked in, it was like all these girls standing there with long hair, nice skirts, and all that wasn't it? And we walked in, like we thought no, it's rubbish, we don't really want to know. And the people, because they're too stuck up. And like they looked at us, and like, 'What are you doing here' sort of like. So in the end we just left because, we knew that we wouldn't get it, it was just a waste of time. They just looked at like, to say like, 'you're scum, you're not even allowed to stand on our carpet', like that you know. So once that's happened you're just not really interested. I suppose we could work as a dustbin lady, isn't it? Like that would be all right!

COMM

Alison in B&B feeding  
Ricky (from )

Higher unemployment and declining  
benefit has also contributed to

the rise in the number of young single mothers.

When Alison became pregnant, her and Owen both wanted to settle down.

With neither in work, they turned to the local council for a flat. Three years later, there's still no flat, and Alison's ended up in a bed and breakfast hotel.

ALISON, V/O, SYNC, 766/2, p.5

I think if we had got our flat when I had Ricky, we would have been a settled family by now. But we just ain't.

ALISON, V/O, 766/2, p.4

Since I've been in bed and breakfast, our relationship has just gone down.

ALISON, SYNC, 766/2, p.4

It's just put a really bad strain

on it because...he comes to see Ricky quite a lot but...they've built up a relationship now but...we're just...if he's there too long he just gets on my nerves, especially if he's in my room. There isn't just the room for him there.

Owen & Alison in park

OWEN, W/T I/V, p.18

If we had a...if she had a flat and that now, right, we'd be settled down, it'd be nice. It'd be...it'd be everything that I want and that she wants. 'Cos way I see it, I want all of us together, you know what I mean? Mum, Dad and son all in one house.

More park

COMM

The stress has made it increasingly unlikely that they will now settle down as a family.

Although they live apart, Owen sees Ricky as much as he can.

OWEN, W/T V/O I/V, p.16

I come down, take Ricky out, take him to the park, take him MacDonalds and that, and I like it. But I wish I was there more of the time to watch him, you know, play with him, bath him, dress him, feed him. That's the things that you miss out on.

ALISON:

(INDECIPHERABLE)...don't you?

ACTUALITY KIM

Spare any change please?

Kim begging

COMM

Over the 1980s, a small but increasing group of the young has been denied a full place in society. A new underclass of young people has emerged, much poorer than the rest and much poorer than in the past.

Living on the streets has made Kim feel more and more isolated from the rest of society.

KIM, V/O, 786/1, p.3

It makes you feel like you're just nothing, you're useless and things like that. And I think it tends...and when you see people walking by and everything like that, I think you tend to just...that tends to lower you, you know, your self image. You think no, I'm no good at anything. Everyone's sort of in a...sort of a big gang, all the homeless people, and it's like we're us and they're them sort of thing. It's really difficult to sort of mingle with anyone that isn't sort of homeless.

COMM

Feeling rejected and shunned by others, the temptation is to reject society's values altogether.

KIM, 465, p.16

Sometimes you're sitting there and you just don't make anything

like; or you do, people, like you say, 'Can you spare any change?' like; even if they give you 10p it's something. But sometimes people chuck you 1p just to, you know, take the piss you know. And sometimes that's happened to us, we're sitting there and we haven't made anything.

CAM RUNS OUT

And women walk by with their handbags, with the money hanging out of their handbags. And like I saw someone rob someone, and you know, some of our mates had robbed someone, and I was sitting there and I didn't know what to do, whether to help the people, because I felt sorry for them because they were scared right, or to get in there and rob them as well and get some money for something to eat. But in the end like, I just sat there.

New Horizon

JAYNE, W/T V/O, pp.4/5

Well they become totally divorced from society. They become like a sub-culture, and society doesn't care about them, and then they don't care about society either.

JAYNE, W/T I/V, pp.61+

Quite a lot of drugs are taken; alcohol, general sort of drink and alcohol abuse. I'm not saying that's everybody, but there is quite a large section of the sort of homeless sub-culture that does do that. And that's when it becomes a very vicious sort of circle that people get into. You know, they beg up the money and they spend it on drugs or drink, and get out of their heads. Then the next day they start again. Come in here, sleep, go out, beg, get money. And they never get out of that.

COMM

Living on the streets, Owen ended up with a criminal record.

OWEN, V/O, 689/1, p.10

I've been in jail for about...five times now. And it's all due to like burglaries, breaking and entering, shop lifting, things like that - to make money.

Over Owen walking

OWEN, V/O, SYNC, 687/2, p.4

But the only reason why I go out nicking things is so I can have money to buy food, to buy fags, to buy...to go out.

John walking

COMM

Take out coming out of house.

Over the 1980s, the odds have been increasingly stacked against unqualified young people. It's become more and more difficult for them to get a foothold on life.

Take in Prog.6 walking



But despite this apparent rejection by society, most continue to crave for the very things they are being denied.

JOHN, V/O, 103/1, P.26

I mean, sometimes life is just now pretty unbearable, and you really get fed up of the things.

BIRDS

JOHN, V/O, 103/1, P.26

That's why I'm going for the walk for, you know like, to clear my head, really not to think of anything, just...get a bit of fresh air. Sometimes, you know, I just say, I wish I could have this, I wish I could have that. And you just...know you just can't have them. You know, it's just like, one really is saying, you can have, you can have, you can have, you can have. You know, it's wrong. What gives anyone the right to say what people can have?

JOHN, V/O, SYNC, 101, pp.18/19

I would like the things in life  
what everyone else...what the  
rich have. Well, I wouldn't need  
that much money, but I would like  
to certainly have...go out and  
buy myself plenty of clothes and  
what have you; maybe...well, nice  
to get married and have a few  
kids, go on holiday a couple of  
times a year. That would be  
really lovely to do.

ALISON, 662/1, p.29

I can't...I don't think I can  
take much more of this. It's  
just really getting me down.

ALISON, 662/1, p.31

I never thought I'd be where I am  
now. I'm...I'm only 21 I know,  
I'm still young. But even at  
that age I never thought I would  
be in bed and breakfast, how I'm  
living now...in one room, with  
nothing to call my own. I've got  
nothing.

Owen walking

OWEN, V/O, 689/1, p.7

Settle down and just come home  
each night and just be happy.

Know what I mean? 'Cos that's  
the main thing, that's what I  
want - that's what I want for all  
of us, is to be happy.

OWEN, SYNC, 689/1, p.109

I've lost out on my family, I've  
lost out on the housing, I've  
lost out...friendship, happiness,  
everything that I want. Now I'm  
trying to get it, I can't get it.  
Before I didn't want it, now I  
want it I can't get it.

Kim on park bench

KIM, V/O, SYNC, 788/1, p.15

It is getting harder now.  
Sometimes I keep thinking, oh,  
I'm going to be an old bag lady  
and end up carrying loads of bags  
around you know, if I don't buck  
my ideas up or do something. I'd  
just like, you know, what  
everyone else would like. Maybe  
have a pet, a cat or something.

You know. I don't...I don't want  
to be a millionaire and I don't  
want, you know, anything that  
anyone else that walked by me  
every day hasn't got, you know.  
A job and a flat. That's all I  
want really.

END OF PROGRAMME 5