

Bang Goes the Theory Series 1

Testing cutting edge science from
amateur space travel to artificial life.



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Programme running: 10 x 30 mins Production: BBC

An irreverent and fun magazine-style series looking at cutting edge science, with big stunts, team challenges and glimpses of the technology of the future. A small team of experts undertake hands on experiments relating to everything from amateur space travel to biology.

Episode One

Jem Stansfield builds a vortex cannon to try and achieve what the big bad wolf could not: blowing over a house of bricks. Dallas Campbell takes on the big brother technology that will track every one of us simply by the way we walk. Liz Bonnin confronts the controversial US scientist working to create the first generation of artificial life. Dr Yan Wong tackles unsuspecting shoppers with a simple question: how do you cook an egg with a piece of newspaper?

Episode Two

Engineer Jem builds and tests his own water jet pack. Zoologist Liz finds out if insects are the future of food, Dallas investigates NASA's latest attempts to prove there is life beyond Earth and roving reporter Yan challenges people to blow up a bin liner.

Episode Three

Dallas traces the incredible global journey of 30,000 indestructible plastic ducks, while Liz takes a submarine to the bottom of the Baltic Sea. Yan challenges the people of Cardiff to take on the might of friction and Jem uses two domestic vacuum cleaners to climb up the side of a building.

Episode Four

Liz investigates recent research into the magnetic qualities of cows; do they have an internal compass? Dallas puts psychological priming to the test. Yan demonstrates why rockets work in space with the help of an underwater firework and Jem sends a doll of Dallas to the edge of space using a helium balloon.

Episode Five

Jem attempts to defeat the US Navy's latest weapon with no more than some foam and a crash helmet. Zoologist Liz gets in contact with her frog brain, Dallas re-programmes his caveman brain to become a thrill-seeker and Dr Yan inhales sulphur hexafluoride.

Episode Six

Liz puts brain-training devices to the test; Dallas and Jem go head to head to prove whether brain training can give one of them the edge. Dallas investigates the new space entrepreneurs in California and Dr Yan Wong shows how to melt glass with a microwave.

Episode 7

Jem tests out new braking systems that won't burn money and Liz looks at the origins of speech by trying to wipe out someone's speech cortex. Dallas joins a sea race and Dr Yan explains an optical illusion.

Episode 8

Jem builds a microwave death ray to prove the existence of invisible untapped energy, Liz takes on the nature versus nurture debate with a troop of monkeys, Dr Yan explains how gyroscopes work and Dallas tries to find a missing bit of the universe.

Episode 9

Jem puts the strength of spider silk to the test, Liz joins the RAF's flight school to find out about multi-tasking, Dr Yan experiments with sodium acetate and Dallas reveals the secret science of magic.

Episode 10

Jem builds a rocket powered by toffee, Liz investigates whether our sense of smell can make us smarter and Dallas Campbell explains nuclear fusion by going to the circus.

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