

Bang Goes the Theory

Fizzing, bubbling and exploding experiments test cutting edge science from space rockets to brain training.



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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.

The presenters try out the latest brain training games to discover whether they really improve your brain power, find out why thinking about money makes you feel hungry and follow the quests for artificial life on earth and unknown life out in space.

The series also explores whether cows have an internal compass, how anyone can take part in the space race and whether the human brain can really cope with multitasking.

Episode One

Jem Stansfield builds a vortex cannon to try and achieve what the big bad wolf could not: blowing over a house of brick. 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 designs, builds and then puts his life in his hands by tying himself to a water jet pack. Zoologist Liz finds out if insects are the future of food, science-mad Dallas investigates NASA's latest attempts to prove there is life beyond Earth, and roving reporter Yan challenges the people of Cambridge to blow up a bin liner.

Episode Three

Dallas traces the incredible global journey of 30,000 indestructible plastic ducks, while Liz goes on manoeuvres at the bottom of the Baltic Sea in the Royal Navy's latest search and rescue submarine. 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, exploring why thinking about money can make you hungry and even affect how much pain you can tolerate. Yan demonstrates why rockets work in space with the help of an underwater firework, and Jem tries to put the programme in the space race, sending 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 gets his thrills from inhaling sulphur hexafluoride.

Episode Six

Jem takes to the air with the Royal Navy to explain how helicopters work. 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.

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