

K graphic

Start Here

UK TV pop science series : 1987 : dir. Chris Haws : Channel 4 / VATV : ? x ? min
prod: Michael Latham : scr: : dir.ph.:
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Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ≠ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Pained kids, naff robot. Good work, Channel 4

Source: TV Times

TV Times notes:

“ “The Fantastic Power of Air”
Scientific adventures for children of all ages.
Discover how to make an indoor rocket range;
how to crush a tin can without touching it; how

to use ordinary air to break wood; how to stay
dry under water; and lots more.”

“Konrad the Robot helps the children learn
about the power of air in “Start Here” ”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television" or "Television's Greatest Hits"]

No further information currently available. A pop science series in the "**How?**" vein. But what are we to make of this promotional still, eh? Do these children look to you like they're having a great time? Or perhaps a shade embarrassed by the pathetic apology for a "robot" in their midst? Are they perhaps placidly humouring some eager stills photographer who thinks they're all having a really terrific "adventure", or some such nonsense? Observe already the conspicuous workings of political correctness – four kids, thus 50% are female (and in the "dominant" posture), 25% ethnic minorities (one Asian boy). This crude template has long been an obsession with children's television makers, but has latterly found its way into TV advertising, politicians' "photo opportunities", and the appointment of scrutiny committees for new legislation. It is as phoney and unrepresentative as the white male dominated template it supplants, but satisfies the prejudices of a different constituency.

See subject index under **POPULAR SCIENCE** for television of the "Look and Learn" school, from "**How?**" and "**Blue Peter**" to the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures for children.