**Swiss Spaghetti Harvest Podcast**

Audience: This podcast will target those who believed the hoax and those who possibly even called the BBC trying to buy a spaghetti bush. More specifically, it will target those Italian farmers who were skeptical, and those Americans who believed the hoax and probably tried to buy a spaghetti bush. Anyone who has access to Internet will be able to stream this podcast via TV5 Monde’s website or their mobile app.

Outline of Script:

**\*cue ‘50s music and TV5 Monde Intro\***

Me: In this day in history: April 1st, 1957, the BBC aired a spoof documentary broadcast about spaghetti crops in Switzerland.

* Introduce the story of the Swiss Spaghetti podcast:
* **April 1, 1957:** The respected BBC news show *Panorama* announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best." Even the director-general of the BBC later admitted that after seeing the show he checked in an encyclopedia to find out if that was how spaghetti actually grew (but the encyclopedia had no information on the topic). The broadcast remains, by far, the most popular and widely acclaimed April Fool's Day hoax ever, making it an easy pick for number one.
* Paraphrase details above taken from <http://hoaxes.org/aprilfool/P90>
* Introduce guests- Swiss Spaghetti farmer and distinguished broadcaster, Richard Dimbeley.

Richard Dimbeley (RD): Thank you for having us today.

Me: C’est mon plaisir, gentlemen. Now tell us, Richard, how did you first become involved in this story?

RD: Well, as you know it was April Fool’s day, and we had to think of something that was so ridiculous that our entire audience- people around the world- would be sure to understand that it was not true. Yet our intent, of course, was to make it as believeable as possible to entertain.

Me: Now, I myself have done some research on the orginins of April Fools Day. It says here that they are not clear, but it is known that the tradition of practical joking and mischief-making dates back to Ancient Roman times. It would appear that the festival is closely related to the coming of Spring. The Ancient Romans and Celts celebrated a festival of practical joking at about the time of the Vernal Equinox, as do millions of India's Hindus. And coincidentally, the French also mark 1 April but instead of April Fools they call it Poisson d'Avril (April Fish).

TO BE CONTINUED

Other information that I plan on including:

- The hoax Panorama programme, narrated by distinguished broadcaster Richard Dimbleby, featured a family from Ticino in Switzerland carrying out their annual spaghetti harvest.

- It showed women carefully plucking strands of spaghetti from a tree and laying them in the sun to dry.

-But some viewers failed to see the funny side of the broadcast and criticised the BBC for airing the item on what is supposed to be a serious factual programme.

-Others, however, were so intrigued they wanted to find out where they could purchase their very own spaghetti bush.

**Exotic delicacy?**

- Spaghetti is not a widely-eaten food in the UK and is considered by many as an exotic delicacy.

- Mr Dimbleby explained how each year the end of March is a very anxious time for Spaghetti harvesters all over Europe as severe frost can impair the flavour of the spaghetti.

- He also explained how each strand of spaghetti always grows to the same length thanks to years of hard work by generations of growers.

-This is believed to be one of the first times the medium of television has been used to stage an April Fools Day hoax.