My old colleague Jon Snow is about to tour America in a very nice yellow convertible for Channel 4’s Dispatches. He will have to be careful not to bump into Stephen Fry who drove a London taxi around every state in the union for the BBC. What is about TV producers that they have to use the road movie as a vehicle to explore the USA?

I would have thought that the genre passed into pastiche following Borat’s adventures. At least Simon Schama managed to walk around a bit for his pieces to camera. But then his is more of a history programme (and very good TV it is, too – not a good book, however) so perhaps he should have employed a Wells Fargo Stagecoach.