

Polis – Madonna Kebabbed?

ISE blogs.lse.ac.uk/polis/2006/11/02/madonna-kebabbed/

2006-11-2



Newsnight is that tough news analysis programme where feisty presenters take controversial figures apart in searing interviews – right? er..on the evidence of last night's interview by Kirsty Wark with Madonna – not at all. The fearless Kirsty Wark usually does not shirk from battering cabinet ministers, religious fundamentalists or neo-conservatives. So surely she was going to give Madonna a tougher ride than Oprah Winfrey did over the Malawi adoption row? Er...again, not at all.

Judge for yourself just how soft [Kirsty](#) was and judge for yourself what the Madonna [critics](#) say.

It was good that Newsnight did not bully Madonna and it was good that they were not snobbish about the fact that she is a celeb. But this was a patronisingly weak piece of interrogation. And the reason is that it was actually recorded as part of a soft feminist celebrity series on famous women. Newsnight extracted the Malawi bit for their own show. Unfortunately, despite the fact that Kirsty is a Newsnight stalwart, it both looked and sounded anything but journalistic.

I love Newsnight under its Editor Peter Barron. He's brought freshness and style alongside incisive journalism. So this item stood out even more as a false move and a terrific example of hardened news people falling under the celebrity spell.

- Copyright © 2014 London School of Economics and Political Science