

SHIFT

PRESENTATION OF The Daily Star



80'S BTV SHOW STARS

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Back when satellite television was not around, entertainment meant BTV. Everyone watched the channel in the 80's and early 90's. The national channel used to air western TV series and that too, not dubbed in Bengali. We used to love it, more so, because of the car culture that those TV series featured. This week, we at SHIFT got all nostalgic and are bringing you the best of classic BTV cars from those series we all used to cherish. Check online for a full list.

KNIGHT RIDER K.I.T.T. 1982 Pontiac Trans Am

Design consultant Michael Scheffe sculpted the modified extended nose and dash of a 1982 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am to create KITT - Knight Industries Two Thousand. It took US \$100,000 to customize in 1982, which in today's valuation would be around US \$245,000. The vehicle was a heavily modified, technologically advanced unit with an extremely durable shell with plentiful artificial intelligence. A feature known as "Turbo Boost" allowed it and David Hasselhoff to attain impossible speeds and jump over obstacles. It seemed like a combat ready, indestructible vehicle in which you would not want to hassle the Hoff.



MACGYVER - SOFT TOP JEEP WRANGLER

Even today, the MacGyver jingle runs through our minds - it has got to be one of the most favourite TV shows of all, regardless of age. MacGyver had four main vehicles that he drove throughout the series - Jeep Cherokee Chief, soft top Jeep Wrangler, two toned 1946 Chevy pick-up and a 1957 Chevy Nomad estate that he inherited from his grandfather. If MacGyver is known for driving one vehicle, that would be the Jeep Wrangler.



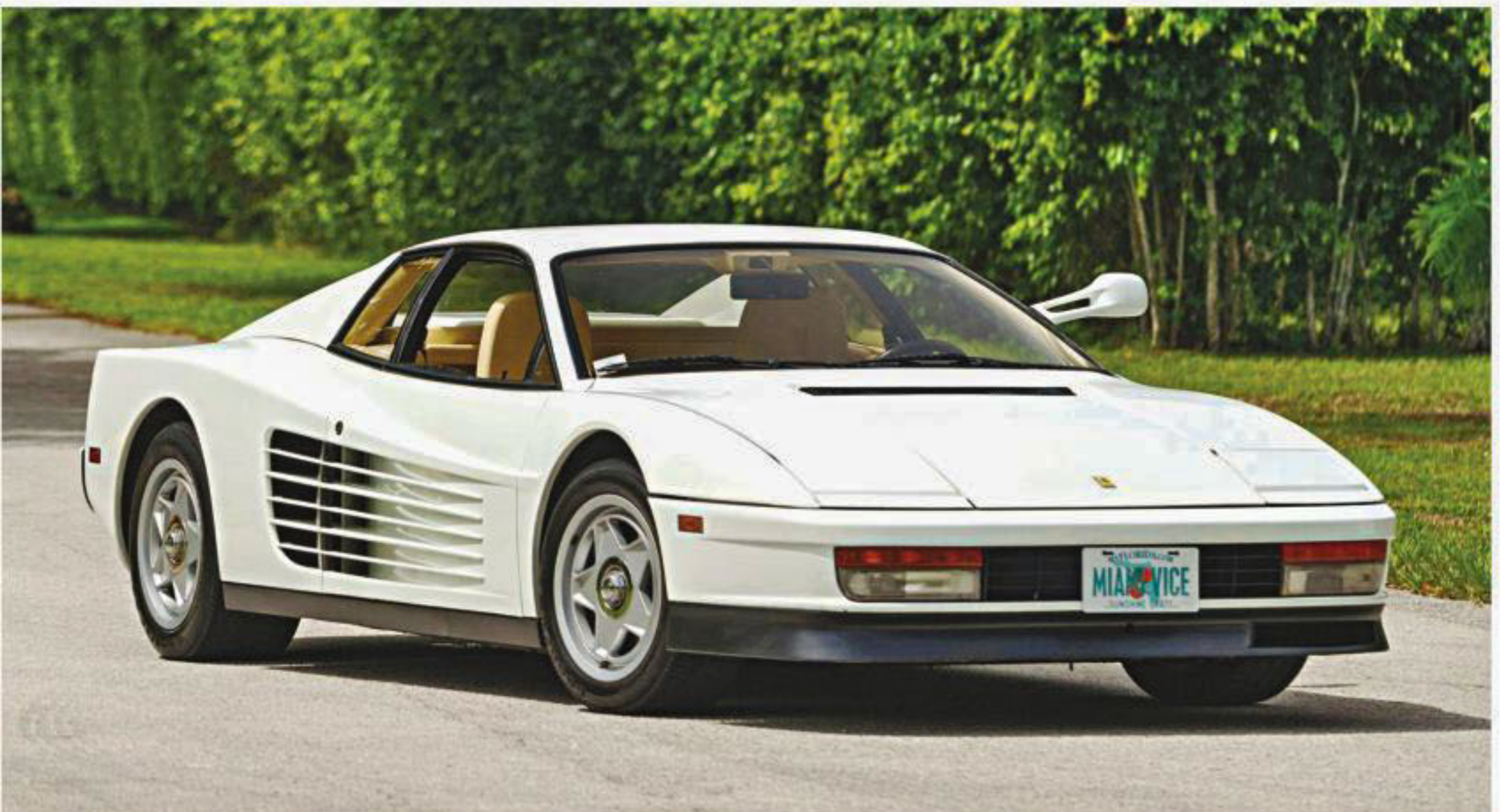
MR. BEAN - BRITISH LEYLAND MINI 1000

Many do not know- the first car Mr. Bean had was a 1976 British Leyland Mini 1000, in which he did quirky mods such as pad locks, roof mount arm chair and more. Eventually it crashed and got replaced with a MK II model which had the iconic matte black hood. The car is known by many, and is perhaps more popular than Rowan Atkinson himself. Apparently the car got sold off afterwards and is somewhere in America.



THE A-TEAM - GMC VANDURA

It is a common error that the van is said to be all-black, whereas in fact the section above the red stripe is metallic gray; this error was even continued on most toy models of the van. You want to own one, go get yourself a Hot Wheels 1:64. Or just make one out of a Toyota Hiace.



MIAMI VICE - FERRARI 512 TESTAROSSA/DAYTONA SPYDER

James Sonny Crockett drove a black pre 1971 Ferrari Daytona Spyder, in the early seasons of Miami Vice, before it was replaced with a

Testarossa in Season 3. Either ways, they were stunners, and boy did we love playing with the 1:64 of those Ferraris during the late eighties. We still do.



STREET HAWK - HONDA XR500

TV show with a bike in a 'hyperthrust' mode. It was a typical undercover cop chasing bad guys show, but was a refreshing break from all the cars.

AUTOMAN- LAMBORGHINI COUNTACH LP400

Glowing in neon blue LED, the Autocar was a Lamborghini Countach LP400, which was could make 90 degree turns without losing control and overtake merely by strafing,

rather than turning. Back at that time it had to be the coolest thing to ogle at. Now, it's just a joke. The Japanese refuse to think so, as they have a rad culture of doing similar things to their Lamborghinis.



CHINESE ELECTRICITY

If you can't beat 'em, copy 'em. Tesla, the Californian electric car giant is facing serious competition in China. That too, from hilarious clones. And genuine innovators.

With the world going after greener electric cars, China has joined in the rat race too. A lot of automotive startups have realized that electric cars are the future of everything and they are going berserk in making their electric vehicles, which are mere knock offs of Teslas. To make things worse for Tesla, the Chinese government offers generous subsidies to people who buy electric cars, but only if they are built in China; which Teslas obviously are not.



Chinese innovation: LeEco's LeSEE electric autonomous Tesla contender. Stupid name, but it looks like a four door electric Aston.

rectangular touch panel, everything seems taken off the Model S. Except, they're all ridiculously shaped and has to be the ugliest clone of Tesla. Using three electric motors, the Ibis has a disappointing 180 HP and 250 lb-ft of torque, allowing for a top speed of 150 km/hr. The Ibis' range at a constant speed of 60 km/h (37 mph) stands at 520 km (323 miles), while a Model S can go over 700 km (450 miles). The car is as disappointing as it looks.

LeEco has an advantage over Tesla in terms of innovation. While Tesla engineers have been gradually adding autonomous capabilities to its stable mates, LeEco has

gone one step further and announced a car that can do it right from the beginning. The LeSEE managed to drive itself out of a shipping container and on to the stage with little more than a few voice commands spoken into a smart phone by CEO Jia Yueting.

Tesla's response to all this? Xiyuan expects to bring the Youxia Ranger X to the market by 2017 with a starting price between \$32,000 and \$48,000- that's pretty far off from the \$70,000 starting price of a Tesla Model S. The progressive LeSEE will also take the market by storm. This is where Tesla CEO Elon Musk is struggling in the Chinese market as the clone competitors and local innovators are so much cheaper. However, Musk has the smaller, more affordable Model III development brewing, which he plans to launch in 2017 and expects the \$35,000 price tag should be a Chinese clone demolisher.

Yet the tax structure might scare the customers away from Model III, when it does come out. Elon Musk has now taken a forward step into considering investing in China so that Model IIIs can be manufactured locally. Where will the carbon copiers run off then?

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AUTO NEWS

Nissan taking control of Mitsubishi



Nissan has bought off 34% control stake of Mitsubishi Motors by investing 2.2 billion dollars, making it the largest shareholder of Mitsubishi.

This move came three weeks after Mitsubishi's foul play on two Japanese market kei cars (eK Wagon and eK Space) which were also re-badged as Nissans. That sent Mitsubishi into crisis mode, tanking their stock price by 43% a week. When things got really bad, it was Nissan who swooped in to save Mitsubishi - giving them access to a lucrative Southeast Asia market, a new manufacturing partner, and combined resources for new cars, platforms and electric technology.

Mitsubishi group of companies still hold more than 30% of share, that leaves them more or less even with Nissan.