Michael Sandel is probably the world’s most relevant living philosopher.

- NEWSWEEK

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ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT
The best Socratic dialogues since Socrates
- LORD PATTEN
OXFORD UNIVERSITY
About the Series

What Money Can’t Buy is a six-part documentary series exploring the role of money and morals in today’s world. Should you be able to sell your kidney? Should we auction off the right to immigrate? What about paying people to vote? Is there anything wrong with profiting from a stranger’s death? What about scalping tickets to a rock concert—or to a doctor’s appointment?

Harvard Professor Michael Sandel leads twelve exceptional students from around the world in asking where markets serve the public good, and where they don’t belong. What, if anything, is wrong with a world in which everything is for sale? Insights from experts like former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz pepper the emotional debates, which are alternately heated and humorous.

Join us as we look inside ourselves to see what kind of society we truly are, and begin to define what kind of society we hope to be.

Episode 1

Sex Sells, But Should It?

Are there legitimate grounds for discrimination in the business world? This episode explores the hiring practices of Abercrombie & Fitch, Hooters, and even OBGYNs. Is it okay to hire attractive sales clerks and flight attendants, or is “lookism” comparable to racism and sexism. Larry Summers thinks our workplace must reflect society’s commitment to civil rights, but has no problem with “the Boston Celtics hiring tall people.” Robert Barro goes further, suggesting that physical attractiveness, like intelligence, is a legitimate basis for discrimination.

Episode List

1. Sex Sells, But Should It?
2. The Body Market
3. The Walrus Quota
4. Supply Shock
5. The Golden Door
6. The Death Pool

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Michael Sandel
Ellie (King’s College London)
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Larry Summers
Abdul (Skidmore)
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What Money Can’t Buy

What Money Can’t Buy
Farrar, Straus and Giroux (2012)

Sandel is currently the most effective communicator of ideas in English

- THE GUARDIAN
Michael J. Sandel teaches political philosophy at Harvard University. He has been described as “the most relevant living philosopher,” a “rock-star moralist,” (Newsweek) and “currently the most popular professor in the world.” (Die Zeit)

His writings—on justice, ethics, democracy, and markets—have been translated into 27 languages. His legendary course “Justice” is the first Harvard course to be made freely available online and on television. It has been viewed by tens of millions of people, including in China, where Sandel was named the “most influential foreign figure of the year.” (China Newsweek)

Sandel’s recent books, What Money Can’t Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets and Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?, have sold millions of copies around the world and inspired public debate about the big moral and civic questions of our time.

Sandel’s lectures have been the subject of television series on PBS, the BBC, NHK (Japan), and NDTV (India). He has appeared on The Colbert Report, the Today Show, Morning Joe, and Charlie Rose, and currently hosts “The Public Philosopher,” a popular BBC series that explores the philosophical questions lying behind the headlines.

Described by the Guardian as “the man who is currently the most effective communicator of ideas in English,” Sandel’s lively, down-to-earth way of engaging audiences has brought him “the kind of popularity usually reserved for Hollywood movie stars and NBA players.” (China Daily)

Sandel’s lecture tours have taken him across five continents and packed venues such as St. Paul’s Cathedral (London), the Sydney Opera House (Australia), and an outdoor stadium in Seoul (S. Korea), where 14,000 people came to hear him speak.

Watch: Michael Sandel Global Tour