

## **A little perspective**

Charred flesh hung heavy in the air all year  
The corpses rolled and fell into the pit  
Were there living things underneath the dead -  
sinking, stinking in mass graves? On hot pyres?  
Despite the carnage, the disease was back.

I asked the press for a double page spread -  
'No chance - not with what's happened in New York.'  
(What's happened in New York?) There were no words.  
Back in the office, on screen, I witnessed  
what's happened in New York. There are no words.

I'd spent most of the year working on the Foot and Mouth  
outbreak. After many horrible months, it seemed under control,  
but then it broke out again. My first inkling of 9/11 was during  
a meeting with the press while I was trying to get coverage to  
advise people about the new restrictions.