



The 1952 Show

5 x 45 mins programmes for BBC ONE transmitted Monday - Friday from March 26th 2012 at 9.15 am

In Diamond Jubilee year, BBC ONE Daytime celebrates one of the most exciting decades in our history, a time when modern Britain was born.

In 1952 a war weary country was climbing clear of bankruptcy and starting out on the great adventure of re-inventing itself. In magazine show format The 1952 Show charts the big British moments and themes of that special year.

The post-war baby boom was just peaking; pre-fab houses were going up in every town; we got the atom bomb and a peace movement CND, while average wages were £10 or less a week; an infant NHS was desperately battling the killer disease polio; crooners were giving way to rock 'n' roll, a new commercial TV channel ATV was launched and fashion and style was undergoing a seismic change - and there was still two years of rationing to go.

With five themed short films in each show, we capture the promise of the period and the challenge of change. In the studio, 'Strictly Come Dancing' judge Len Goodman and special guests including Pam Ayres, Marty Wilde, Arlene Phillips, Paul Daniels and Annette Crosbie recall the upheaval, renewal and fun the Fifties was ushering in. Laced with archive and personal testimony The 1952 Show chronicles the changes in our families, jobs, cities and countryside that would transform Britain forever. Without the Fifties we had, we wouldn't have had the Sixties we did.

Scored with the great hits of the year, popular music itself was a sure sign of the times. Yes, Nat King Cole was being 'Unforgettable' and Ruby Murray hadn't yet become a byword for an Indian takeaway but Little Richard and Bill Hailey were already belting out early rockers, and our own Cliff Richard wasn't far behind. The teenager had arrived and change was in the air....

The BBC One logo, featuring the letters 'BBC' in white inside three red squares, with the word 'one' in white lowercase letters below them, all on a red background.

Episode Breakdown

PROGRAMME 1 - PAM AYRES

TX March 26th 2012
9.15am BBC ONE

'Strictly' judge Len Goodman takes a gander at one of the most exciting decades in our history which began 60 years ago when Princess Elizabeth inherited the crown. Today Len is joined by Pam Ayres to reminisce about playing on bombsites and kiss chase in the playground as we see what it was really like to be a nipper in the 50's. And was Fifties marriage all it was cracked up to be? We reveal the secret ways disgruntled housewives let off steam. Fabulous stories, wonderful archive and some great guests on the 50's sofa.



PROGRAMME 2 - MARTY WILDE

TX March 27th 2012
9.15am BBC ONE

'Strictly' judge Len Goodman, our 'rocker on the rocker' as he takes us through that amazing decade – the 1950's - which kicked off 60 years ago when the new queen Elizabeth ushered in a new era. 50s pop star Marty Wilde joins Len to reminisce as we hear from Teddy Boys and Girls on what it was like to rock the night away in their blue suede shoes and all about those classic 50's household gadgets. Yes! You always remember the first don't you!! Some sweet three part harmony chat is provided by Beverley Sisters. See you later alligator!



CONTINUED....

PROGRAMME 3 - ARLENE PHILIPS

TX March 28th 2010
9.15am BBC ONE

'Strictly' judge Len Goodman welcomes us to The1952 show where every day this week we'll be hearing what you remember about some of the most exciting years in our history – the 1950's. Arlene Phillips joins Len in a quickstep down memory lane as they reminisce about steel drums and cool jazz, exploring how music was just one of the ways new immigrants added much needed colour and gaiety to the drab post war years. Not that you might be able to see much of it through the deadly SMOG which invaded the streets of London in the winter of '52. And was the 50's Bobby really like Dixon of Dock Green?



PROGRAMME 4 - PAUL DANIELS

TX March 29th 2012
9.15am BBC ONE

'Strictly' judge Len Goodman is magically joined by Paul Daniels to take a butchers at the decade that made us what we are today – the 1950's. We see how British food in the 50's went from ho hum to yum yum. Then 'Attention!' An ex- National Service squaddie remembers those endless days of square bashing and missing your mum while Roger Banister tells us what it was like to break the 4 minute mile. Wonderful archive and great stories – all told by you!



PROGRAMME 5 - ANNETTE CROSBIE

TX March 30th 2012
9.15 am BBC ONE

Len Goodman whizzes back 60 years to when the young Princess Elizabeth was proclaimed queen to celebrate the 1950's with your stories and your walk down memory lane. We were told 'we'd never had it so good' and two 50's 'petrol heads' certainly agree, with the British car industry in its heyday. The Debs were on their way out but the new Jet Set was on their way in with the launch of the Comet. And - we 'don't believe it' as Annette Crosbie joins Len on the sofa to reminisce about her dad's balsa wood caravan! Those were the days!





Len's Coronation Street Party, 1953

History Consultant

David Kynaston: acknowledged British expert on 1950's social history in the UK. Author - 'Austerity Britain', 'Family Britain',