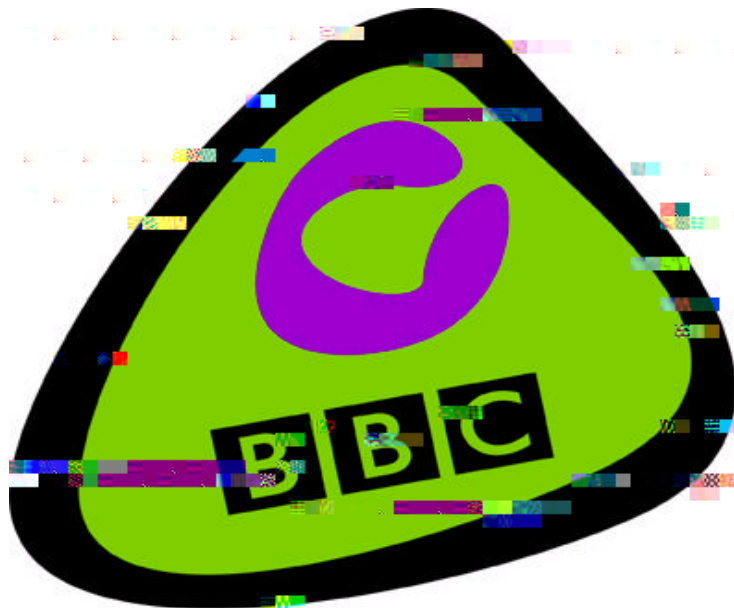


# **CBBC ROADSHOWS 2002**

**Mon 29th July**

**Beach, Skegness, England (Foreshore)**





Hold on tight - CBBC are gearing up for their biggest summer ever and are coming to a town near you! Following the massive success of the Blue Peter roadshows last year, CBBC have decided to make this summer even bigger and better by staging eight UK roadshows, hosted by the stars of favourites Blue Peter, Xchange and CBBC.

All eight live shows will bring the very best of CBBC to towns around the UK - a mix of top pop guests - your favourite CBBC stars - and some amazing competitions and giveaways.

CBBC is also on the look-out for the hot new dancing talent of the future and will be staging a top competition where you could be spotted by Popstars talent guru Nicki Chapman. At each roadshow, CBBC will be holding a dance competition, the winners from each show going through to the grand final at the last roadshow.

The lucky overall winners will get coaching from a team of choreographers, and the chance to perform with Gareth Gates on Blue Peter later on this year.

Xchange has a top talent-spotting competition and will be embarking on a UK-wide search to find the best young MC. Joining the Xchange team on the 8 CBBC Roadshow locations are top special guests DJ Le Rouge, MC Whizzard and MC Ranking (who MCs with the Dreem Teem), will be helping in the search, as well as the crowds at all the roadshows! The winning MC visits Radio 1 and gets to meet the Dreem Teem and hang out and watch them broadcast their Sunday morning radio show.

# **CBBC ROADSHOWS - THE PRESENTERS**

## **KONNIE HUQ**

Konnie became Blue Peter's 26<sup>th</sup> presenter on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1997.

She was the programme's first Asian presenter and before coming to Blue Peter was a presenter on Milkshake, and The Mag (Channel 5). She started her presenting career when she was 17, fronting a number of children's programmes on The Children's Channel and GMTV.

An Economics graduate from Cambridge, Konnie was no stranger to children's television when she joined the team - at the age of 14 she was a guest on Blue Peter when she appeared with the National Youth Orchestra. She also appeared on Newsround as a child, when she interviewed Neil Kinnock before the General Election in 1992.

Among Konnie's many Blue Peter highlights are learning to scuba dive, visiting Mozambique to open one of the schools paid for by money raised during the Blue Peter New Future Appeal in 1999, and a trip to the village in Bangladesh that her family originate from. She is currently learning the skills for rally driving, and is set to compete in the Karlstad Rally with young rally driver Ben Briant in Sweden in February.

## **SIMON THOMAS**

On January 8<sup>th</sup> 1999 Simon Thomas became Blue Peter's 27<sup>th</sup> presenter. Simon had already tried three times to join the team and was delighted!

Simon had previously been working as a runner for CBBC and a researcher for LBC radio. He also worked for the Oasis Trust.

Simon has a degree in history and whilst at Birmingham University he produced and presented a weekly programme for the University television station. Simon impressed the whole team with his dedication and stamina when he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania as a "buddy" to a group of partially sighted youngsters. Simon famously supports Norwich City Football Club...and has cooked them lunch with help from Delia Smith!

Simon has visited the Peruvian Andes to see the Quechua communities being helped by the Blue Peter Stamp Aid Appeal, San Francisco to see earthquake sites, and has done a spot of football commentating with Radio 5's Alan Green.

A keen sports and fitness fan, he has run the London Marathon twice, with a personal best time of 3 minutes 13 seconds.

## **MATT BAKER**

Matt Baker became the 28<sup>th</sup> Blue Peter presenter on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1999. He hails from Easington Village, in County Durham, where he was brought up on his family's farm along with his three pet dogs, four cats, hamsters, rabbits, horses, goats and guinea pigs! His showreel for the programme was made on the family farm.

As a member of the British Young Gymnastics Squad, one of Matt's earliest ambitions was to compete in an Olympic Games. His next ambition was to become a Blue Peter presenter!

At school in Durham, his favourite subjects were Art and PE, and his qualifications include 8 GCSEs, 3 A-levels and a Diploma in Acting.

Some of his Blue Peter assignments so far include his grueling time with the elite Royal Marines. He took part in their tough Potential Recruits' Course and did well enough to earn the chance to experience the world famous endurance course; he has also been on an expedition to Spain, trained as a solo hand-gliding pilot, and fulfilled another of his ambitions last year when he went to Florida to train to become a stuntman.

## **LIZ BARKER**

Liz Barker became the 29<sup>th</sup> Blue Peter presenter on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2000, replacing Katy Hill. Becoming a presenter on the programme was a childhood dream come true for Liz. At the time of getting her new job she said, "It's so exciting not knowing what I'll be doing next. One day I might be making bread and the next I could be jumping out of an aeroplane!"

Getting the job was quite a shock for Liz, and it still remains a mystery how her showreel appeared in the Blue Peter office. She says, "The first I knew of the job was when I had a call from the programme inviting me to audition, so someone must have sent the tape in for me".

Growing up in Cambridge in a family-owned bakery business, Liz decided early on that broadcasting was the career she wanted to pursue and made her television debut as a sports presenter on Backstage (BBC Choice). Before that, she had a variety of jobs behind the camera, including researching and production co-ordinator for BBC Choice, and runner at Lion Television.

A philosophy graduate from the University of Southampton, Liz's hobbies include music, yoga and gardening.

## **ADE ADEPITAN**

Roving reporter for the Xchange team, Ade has been on the programme since it's launch in February 2002. But he's not only a television presenter - he's an Olympian! Ade is a member of the British men's wheelchair basketball team and competed in the Sydney Games of 2001.

He has now also turned his hand to television presenting, appearing on Tiger, Tiger and Togs (Channel 5), Dream Ticket (LWT), and Grandstand for the BBC. He is now also a regular member of the Holiday presenting team.

The person Ade would most like to meet is Muhammad Ali, and the most Xtreme thing he's ever done is live in the jungle for seven days!

## **ANGELLICA BELL**

Angellica is one of CBBC's best-loved faces and is currently presenting on the interactive magazine show Xchange on CBBC digital that keeps kids up-to-date with the latest in entertainment, gossip, music and sport. She's also presenting an eighth series of kids consumer programme Short Change. Angellica hails from Ealing, West London, and was at school with Blue Peter's Konnie Huq.

After A-levels in Politics, History and English, she went on to study at Bristol University, and while studying her degree in Politics developed her interest in broadcasting by getting involved in student television and radio.

After temporary jobs at the BBC, she landed her first presenting role for Carlton Kids, then went on to present K Club on BBC Knowledge. Angellica went on to join the CBBC Studio team, and has also presented S Club Search and narrates S Club Juniors - The Story.

In her spare time Angellica is extremely sporty, and last year took part in The Great North Run for charity. This year she completed the London Marathon in an amazing 4 hrs 24 minutes! She enjoys travelling, reading (she's a big Harry Potter fan), music and football.

## **JOE CHALLANDS**

Joe Challands is one of the regular Xchange team on the CBBC channel.

Joe's presenting career has included T4, Trouble TV, Planet Pop for Channel 4, Replay for Play UK, MTV on Call, and talent show Next Big Thing with Abbie Eastwood for CBBC on BBC ONE.

Mad about Arsenal, he'd love to interview one of his heroes Ian Wright on Xchange. When he's not presenting Xchange, he loves plays football and golf - and claims that of all the Xchange presenters, he is the best at getting up on time!

## **FEARNE COTTON**

Fearne started TV presenting when she was 16 on ITV's *Disney Club* then moved onto Saturday morning show *DiggIt*. Multi-talented Fearne worked on CITV shows *Pump it up*, *Pet Swap*, and *Mouse* while studying for her Art 'A' level at the same time. The clever lass earned herself an A grade and in keeping with her painting passion went on to present art show *Finger Tips* for CITV. Recently she has recorded a new series of the science show *Eureka TV* for CBBC.

Fearne is now a one of the brightest stars on CBBC and presents regularly on BBC ONE. She's also enjoying presenting the new fresh 'n' funky Sunday breakfast show, *Smile*, on the CBBC digital channel.

Fearne's been trained in dance and drama since she was five but with her current hectic schedule doesn't get as much time to dance as she'd like. She loves street dancing and was also trained in ballet, tap, jazz, and contemporary. Fearne loves acting and like to appear in period drama one day, ideally opposite Jude Law!

## **TONY CRAIG**

Tony was born in Stockport, near Manchester and has always had a keen interest in sport, particularly football, playing at school for the local team in Cheshire.

His other sporting interests include skateboarding, and bmx bikes. He left school at 17 yrs and went into sales as a recruitment consultant until his modeling/acting career took over.

He also has a keen interest in cars, and music, having had singing lessons and presented on Rapture TV, on music and night clubbing. His presenting career took off

after presenting on MUTV, the football channel that covers Manchester United Football Club.



## **ADRIAN DICKSON**

Adrian Dickson was born on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1977 in Johannesburg, South Africa and joined the CBBC Studio 9 presenting team in November 1999.

He got his first live on-air experience on radio, presenting news bulletins for a regional radio station, whilst studying for a degree in Broadcast Journalism at Nottingham Trent University.

In 1998 Adrian presented a news and information programme for a national network of cable television stations. Combining his television and radio experience along with work for Sky and Nickelodeon, he blitzed top television producers with his showreel. After presenting a financial programme for teenagers at The Money Channel, he was auditioned for Children's BBC. Through his work with CBBC, Adrian has made a number of appearances. He has also been linked to various charities. These include the British Deaf Association and NCH Action for Children which has involved an exciting trip to Disneyland Paris with 100 children.

## **ABBIE EASTWOOD**

Abbie is one of the Xchange presenting team on the CBBC channel, where . She has tried her hand at a variety of professions - modelling, nannying and even a stint at working at Macdonalds!

She started her television presenting career on Raw TV for Carlton Kids, and has since fronted Date That (Channel 5), The Pepsi Chart (Channel 5), as well as CBBC talent show The Next Big Thing with her Xchange presenting pal Joe Challands.

Her favourite colour is blue, favourite food is cheese, and her fave holiday resort is South Africa. Her most Xtreme task has been feeding meat to lions and tigers!

## **JEZ EDWARDS**

Jez is currently one of *Xchange's* seven-strong presenting team, the live daily magazine show on CBBC Channel. He has also fronted the kids show for fitness freaks, *Freestyle*.

Previous work has included presenting *Exclusive*, Channel 5's weekly entertainment news programme as well as four series of BBC ONE's popular *Record Breakers* now in it's 30<sup>th</sup> year.

Other TV credits include: *Planet Pop* on Channel 4's T4 , BBC ONE's Sunday morning programme *Football Fever*, *K Club* for BBC Knowledge and *The Phonezone*, for UK

Play, two series of ITV's chaotic gameshow *Crazy Cottage* and hosted live summer Saturday morning programme, *Mashed*.

His first major TV work was as one of the main presenters on ITV's live children's magazine programme *Sticky*, and in his time at CITV he was nominated for Best Presenter in the CITV Awards.

Jez, who grew up in Knutsford, Cheshire, got the broadcasting bug whilst he was at school when he researched and conducted interviews for Piccadilly Radio's *Saturday Express* which was followed by a regular slot on hospital radio.

On stage Jez is also a panto regular. Stevenage saw him tread the boards in his fourth pantomime playing Muddles in *Snow White*. He has twice played Buttons in *Cinderella*, (Torquay and Gravesend) as well as Simple Simon in *Jack and the Beanstalk* (York).

## **LYNSEY FRANCE**

Lynsey is currently one of *Xchange's* seven-strong presenting team, the live daily magazine show on CBBC Channel. She also fronts *MTV On Call* every weekend, filmed live at Sound nightclub, Leicester Sq.

Lynsey fought out competition from 6,000 hopeful applicants to become the winner of the *Is She MTV?* presenter hunt in 2001 and went on to present alongside Richard Blackwood on MTV.

She is no stranger to the small screen, after successfully winning a part in the BBC series *Brothers & Sisters*. The script writer wrote her a big part, playing a character also called Lynsey. She had to do her first screen kiss, and huge emotional scenes where she was always crying!

Lynsey France was born and raised in Toxteth in Liverpool, as one of nine children. Her earliest memory is of excitedly packing her case for her ballet class when she was just four years old. She had a cute little red case with a ballerina on the front and inside were her little ballet shoes and a pink pair of tights! As well as ballet, Lynsey is trained in tap and disco.

## **ANNA KUMBLE**

Anna has been a regular member of the Xchange presenting team since the launch of the CBBC channel in February 2002. But clever viewers will have spotted that this is not Anna's first brush with fame, as she has already had a showbiz life as popstar Lolly!

No stranger to children's television, she has also guest presented on Nickelodeon, DiggIt and CITV. She has also appeared in many theatre productions, including Peter Pan, Starlight Express and Annie.

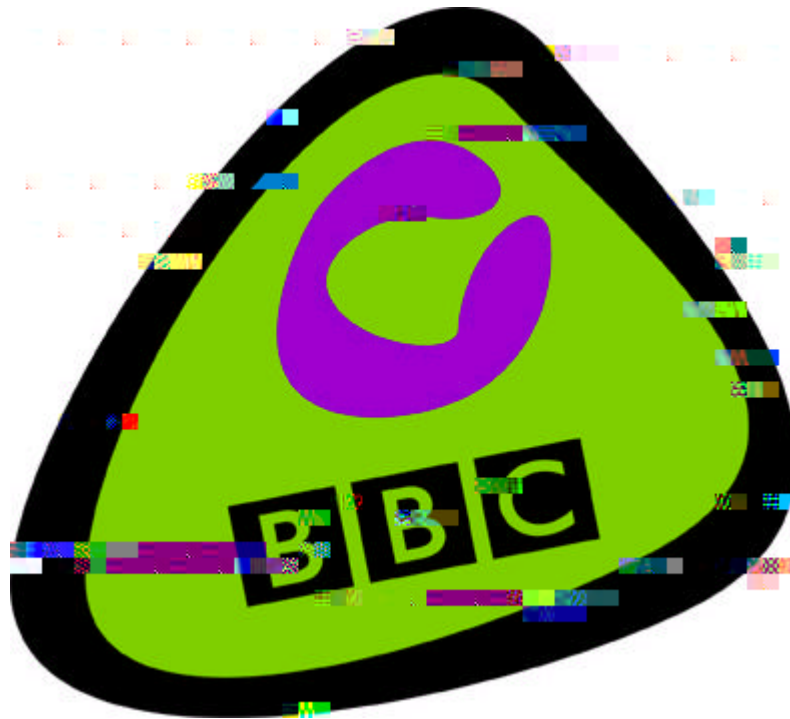
Anna describes her most Xtreme experiences as buying a scooter and eating raw squid, and she loves dancing!

## **RHODRI OWEN**

Rhodri was born and raised in Wales on the Gower coast, Swansea, South Wales, and is now based in both Cardiff and London.

Rhodri has been a regular CBBC face for some time, presenting UK:OK, and then going on to join the team of the award-winning kids show Short Change, investigating kids consumer problems. He has also presented on ITV's Wish You Were Here?, as well as Hard Cash and 4x4 for BBC ONE. He has also presented a series of films for the BBC's Holidays Out and Holiday, before being chosen to front a 12 part series called Holiday in Style for UK Style.

As well as the CBBC Roadshow, his most recent CBBC project is Making It, the search



## **DID YOU KNOW.....?**

Last year's Blue Peter Roadshows were the first time that CBBC had gone out on the road in such a grand scale. It was a big job - but we were up to it, and the roadshows were a fantastic success, with over 70,000 people turning out all around the UK to the four shows.

Here's some other riveting roadshow facts.....

- At last year's Blue Peter roadshows the Newquay event drew a staggering crowd of 20,000!
- there are over 100 crew backstage
- we hope to be playing to 200,000 people during the course of the roadshows
- The main CBBC roadshow stage takes 2 hours to build and weighs over 22 tonnes
- we use 300 metres of fencing at each roadshow site
- There are 108 lights on the CBBC roadshow stage
- Over 2200 children applied for our dance competition

- children will be dancing on stage as part of the dance competition
- lucky youngsters will win the chance to dance with Gareth Gates