

## ***CARAVANS – A BRITISH LOVE AFFAIR***

**TX – BBC FOUR, WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AT 9.00 pm**

**as part of The Joy Of Motoring season**

### **PROGRAMME SYNOPSIS**

Loved and loathed in equal measure, caravans have captured the hearts of British holidaymakers for over fifty years.

Now a new documentary for BBC Four, *Caravans – A British Love Affair*, tells the story of our remarkable love affair with these ‘homes on wheels.’ One that saw Britain establish the largest caravan manufacturer in the world and which transformed the holiday habits of generations of British families.

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*“The caravan really pioneers this idea of the individual family carrying its house on its back, and having its own possessions with it.”*

Featuring the evocative memories and the unseen archive of generations of enthusiasts, *Caravans – A British Love Affair* tells the intriguing story of caravanning in Britain from the 1950s through to the present day.

The documentary reveals how caravans were once the plaything of a privileged minority but after the Second World War went on to become a firm favourite with almost a quarter of British holidaymakers.

The documentary also explores how changes in caravanning across the years reflect wider changes in British society, in particular the increased availability of cars during the 1950s and 60s but also the improved roads network and changing attitudes towards holidaymaking and leisure time.

“The story of caravanning in Britain is actually a revealing social history,” says the director of the documentary, Brian Henry Martin of DoubleBand Films. “These ‘homes on wheels’ tell us so much about how attitudes towards holidays and leisure time have evolved in Britain over the past sixty years.”

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As the documentary also reveals, for early enthusiasts caravans provided independence and the freedom of the open road - the chance to explore hidden corners of Britain and abroad while keeping their home comforts in tow.

“Of course today people like to joke about caravans clogging up the roads. But in the course of making this programme we met remarkable people for whom caravanning has provided freedom and a genuine sense of adventure. These are people who, even back in the 1950s, took their caravans round every corner of Europe and even into Russia and north Africa.”

Such enthusiasts and contributors to the programme include Dorrie van Lachterop from the West Midlands and Christine Fagg from Hertfordshire, remarkable and adventurous women who started touring alone in their caravans during the 1950s. As Christine Fagg explains in the programme, her caravan was a means of escape and even emancipation:

“There are more ways to women’s lib than burning your bra. My escape from the kitchen sink lay on the open road touring the caravan behind the family car.”

Ends

Narrated by  
**Alison Steadman**

Produced by  
**Michael Hewitt**

Directed by  
**Brian Henry Martin**

**A DoubleBand production for the BBC**

**DoubleBand**

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