

Career Details



Peter Purves

**Freelance TV Presenter
Writer, Producer, Director
and
Presentation Consultant**

Career to Early 2006

Peter is one of Britain's most experienced TV presenters of "live" magazine programmes, with literally hundreds of credits to his name. He is probably best known for his work on the BBC TV children's programme, **Blue Peter**, which he presented for ten and a half years from 1967 to 1978. As part of what is affectionately known as the "Dream Team" (together with Valerie Singleton and John Noakes) he appeared in more than 850 episodes of what has become the longest continuously running children's TV programme of all-time.

His career began in the theatre, in what was known as weekly rep., with the Renaissance Theatre Company, at Her Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness. It was a time he remembers with great affection, as the best training, the worst paid, the hardest work and the happiest two working years he has ever known. From the early 1960's he appeared in many of the then current and popular television series for both the BBC and ITV, and in 1965 he joined the original **Doctor Who**, William Hartnell for a year as his sidekick in the still popular series. He occasionally attends the conventions held around the world for the show's aficionados. Though he does limit these to one convention every three or four years!! He left the show in the summer of 1966. 2003 is the 40th Doctor Who anniversary and Peter will be attending the main convention in November and appearing on several BBC programmes including the BBC 1 Doctor Who Documentary Special which will be screened over the Christmas period.

He auditioned for Blue Peter programme in the autumn of 1967 and first presented the show on November 11th of that year. After ten and a half years he felt it was time to move on and he left the show at Easter 1978 to go to present three other series for the BBC, **Stopwatch** (a children's sports programme), **We're Going Places** (a forerunner of Holiday) and a series of **Blue Peter Special Assignments**. Many other guest appearances followed in various shows, and he has remained in great demand ever since. He has regularly presented the BBC coverage of the world's greatest dog show, **Cruft's** since 1976 and in 1999 - 2005 the coverage also went to the USA for Animal Planet. Interestingly, the American producers are also the producers of **Breed All About It**, which Peter voices for the European Discovery Channel market. A chronological CV follows on later pages, with details of every programme in which Peter has appeared (though there will be some omissions, which the memory has forgotten). Amongst his most recent projects is **Teen Trials** a series for Granada Television. He was also the host of **Pet's Go Public** series for Channel 5's **Good Afternoon**. In the autumn of 2005 he was navigator for his old Blue Peter colleague, John Noakes in Channel 5's **Britain's Worst Celebrity Driver** which took the pair on a tour of Britain ending at Lands End, after starting in one of the few places Peter had never been to before, John O'Groats.

He regularly commentates at major national events such as the **Royal Show**, **Discover Dogs**, **All About Dogs** and the fast-growing **Wag and Bone Show**.

Peter was Managing Director of a video production company, Purves Wickes, which produced a hundred or more corporate videos for clients as varied as BT and Boots, and several TV commercials. Peter occasionally presented these programmes, but more often worked as director, writer or producer. He left the company in 1997. He also has spent several years as specialist trainer of presenters, for the BBC, at its training centre at Elstree studios as well as The London Academy of Radio, Film & Television. This has involved elaborate and definitive training in the use of studio talkback, interview techniques, single camera and multi-camera presentation, and general reporting skills.

Peter currently writes a monthly column, Purves Unleashed, for Our Dogs newspaper, which is also syndicated, and has written feature articles for several National and local newspapers, and has, on many occasions, been the subject of such articles. He is the author (in collaboration with the late celebrated photographer, Fay Godwin) of *Tess – The Story of a Guide Dog*. The book was written in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Guide Dog for the Blind Association, and

made the Best Sellers list in 1981.

Peter has directed many of Britain's top variety and TV stars in pantomime, including The Chuckle Brothers, Hale and Pace, Ross Kemp, Bobby Davro, Linda Robson, Dennis Waterman, Rolf Harris, John Inman, Anita Harris, Cheryl Baker, Cannon and Ball, Colin Baker, John Noakes, Lance Percival, Basil Brush, Harry Worth, Sylvester McCoy, Lesley Joseph, Tom O'Connor, Robin Askwith, Rula Lenska, Ben Warris, Matthew Kelly, Sarah Kennedy, Paul Daniels, Norman Bowler, Jean Ferguson and many others. He has devised a number of TV programme formats, two of which are currently under discussion with a view to producing pilots for broadcast. Due to his successful involvement with *Crufts*'s dog show, and *Superdogs* for the BBC, he regularly hosts awards events for a number of the major dog-food manufacturers. And he spent 12 months to July 1998 as the editor of *Peter Purves' Mad About Dogs Magazine* monthly.

Chronology - Major Credits

Television, Radio & Events

** Denotes ongoing

2006**	<i>Crufts Dog Show</i> principal presenter/commentator BBC2
2005	<i>TV's favourite Xmas moments</i> UK Gold
2005	<i>Television's favourite animals</i> C4
2005	<i>Britain's Worst Celebrity Driver</i> -Navigator – C 5
2005	<i>Breakfast of Champions</i> pilot Mentorn for C 4
2005**	<i>Crufts Dog Show</i> principal presenter/Commentator BBC2
2005	<i>Vitalin Pick of the Litter</i>
2005	<i>The Wag and Bone Show</i> Main arena commentator
2005	<i>All About Dogs</i> Main Arena Commentator (5 years)
2005	<i>Discover Dogs</i> Arena Commentator (2 years)
2005	<i>The Royal Show, Stoneleigh</i> – Official commentator (12 years)
2005	<i>Royal Bath and West Show</i> – Official commentator (8 years)
2005	<i>Predictions for 2000 –The Tomorrow People</i> presenter - BBC Radio Documentary
2004	<i>Project Mayhem</i> pilot – C5
2003	<i>The Way We Travelled</i> - BBC
2003	<i>Dom Joly</i> guest - BBC
2003/4**	<i>Crufts Dog Show</i> principal presenter/commentator.
2003/4**	<i>Seven Seas Pick of the Litter</i>
2003	<i>Britain in a Box</i> guest – BBC Radio 4.
2003	<i>Rise</i> guest – Channel Four.
2003	<i>Pet Rescue</i> – Guest presenter - BBC
2002-03	<i>Goodfellows Pizza</i> Network Commercial.
2002	<i>Blue Peter Documentary</i> – BBC.
2002	<i>Teen Trials</i> series for Granada Television.
2002	<i>Crufts Dog Show</i> – principal presenter
2001	<i>The Channel Challenge</i> presenter BBC Radio 4
2001	<i>The Priory</i> guest – Channel 4
2001	<i>Burgess Dog Food</i> - Host NEC
2001	<i>Doctor Who 'Daleks Masterplan</i> – Voiced – BBC
2001	<i>Narrator "The Noonday Witch"</i> - North Downs Music Group
2001	<i>Stupid Puns</i> Vox pops Challenge – BBC Television
2001	<i>Recommended Daily Allowance</i> – BBC Choice
2001	<i>Crufts Dog Show</i> – Principle presenter
2001	<i>Vetzyme Puppy Presentation</i>
2001	Narrator – City of London Sinfonia
2001	<i>The Office</i> – Featured part – BBC 1

2001 **Fame Show** guest – Anglia Television
 2001 **Doctor Who 'Celestial Toys – Voiced – BBC**
 2001 **Banzai** Guest – E4 Digital
 2001 **I Love a 70s Christmas – Presenter BBC 1**
 2000 **Cornhill Direct Insurance – TV Commercial**
 2000** **Cruft's Dog Show – Principal presenter BBC-2**
 2000 **Esther – Guest BBC-2**
 2000 **Blue Peter – Guest BBC-1**
 1999/00 **BBC International 2000 – English Language commentator**
 1999 **The Club – Consultant BBC-1**
 1999 **Breed All About It – 13 programmes Discovery Channel**
 1999 **The Royal Show, Stoneleigh – Official commentator**
 1999 **Royal Bath and West Show – Official commentator**
 1999 **The Swansea Show – Official commentator**
 1999 **The Jack Docherty Show – Channel 5**
 1999** **Cornhill Direct Insurance – TV commercials @ 2**
 1999** **Cruft's – Principle presenter BBC-2 (5 programmes)**
 1999 **Cruft' s- 3 @ Specials Discovery Channel USA.**
 1999 **Backstage – Guest presenter BBC-Choice**
 1998 **Backstage – Guest BBC-Choice**
 1998 **Blue Peter 40th Anniversary – BBC-2 Theme Night**
 1998 **Blue Peter Documentary – BBC-2**
 1998 **Pet's Go Public – Host. 65 programmes Channel 5**
 1998 **The Royal Show , Stoneleigh – Official Commentator**
 1998 **Royal Bath and West Show – Official Commentator**
 1998 **The Swansea Show – Official Commentator**
 1998** **Cruft's – Principle Presenter – BBC-2 (5 programmes)**
 1998 **Collector's Corner – Channel 4**
 1998** **Breed All About it – Discovery Channel (13 programmes)**
 1998** **Cornhill Direct Insurance – TV commercials @ 2**
 1997 **The Royal Show, Stoneleigh – Official Commentator**
 1997 **Through the Keyhole – BBC-1**
 1997 **18.30 Club – BBC-Radio 5**
 1997 **Record Breakers– Guest presenter – BBC-1**
 1997 **Looking Forward to the Past – BBC-Radio 4**
 1997 **Light Lunch – Channel 4**
 1997 **Five's Company – Channel**
 1997 **The Brentwood Show – Official Commentator**
 1997** **Cruft's – Principle Presenter – BBC-2 (5 programmes)**
 1997 **Live and Kicking BBC-1**
 1997 **Noel's House Party – BBC-1**
 1997 **Noel's Telly Years - BBC-1**
 1997 **Pull the Other One – Action Time for Carlton Select**
 1996** **Peter Purves Meets.....BBC-Radio Northampton (series)**
 1996 **TV60 - Featured artist – BBC-1**
 1996** **Brentwood Show – Official Commentator**
 1996** **The Royal Show, Stonleigh – Official Commentator**
 1996 **Tellystak – Zenith for UK Gold (5 programmes)**
 1996** **Cornhill Direct Insurance TV Commercials @ 3**
 1996 **The Time, The Place – ITV**
 1996 **Children's BBC – Guest – BBC-1**
 1996 **Through the Keyhole – Yorkshire TV - Mentorn/Sky**
 1996 **Hot Gossip – Anglia TV**
 1995/96 **The Saturday Show – BBC-Radio Northampton**
 1995/96 **The Sunday Show – BBC-Radio Northampton**
 1976/96 **Cruft's Dog Show BBC-2 (5 programmes per year)**

1994 **Film Review** – Mentorn for ITV – Guest reviewer
 1994 **The Day Today** – Anglia Television– guest
 1994 **The Myth Makers** – Reeltime Pictures
 1993 **This Morning** – Granada Television
 1993 **Happy Families** – Mentorn for BBC – guest presenter
 1993 **TV Heroes** – Featured subject – BBC-1
 1998/9/93 **Superdogs** – Presenter 3 @ series – BBC-1
 1992 **National Power** – TV Commercial – Wembly
 1992 **Dr. Who Special** – B SKY B
 1987/91 **Crimewatch Midlands** – B'ham, 5 series, Anchorman – BBC-2
 1990 **Inside Story** – presenter – BBC-2 B'ham
 1990 **Crimewatch Debates** – Anchorman – BBC-2 B'ham @ 3
 1983-90 Numerous guest appearances. LWT, Channel 4, TVS, BBC
 1989 **Ten Glorious Years** – Noel Gay TV for BBC-1
 1988 **Eastenders** – BBC-1 3 episodes
 1981/87 **BBC Darts Presenter** – BBC-1 & BBC-2 – 195 programmes
 1982/86 **Bullseye** – Presenter – BBC Sport – 5 series
 1982/86 **Babble** – Host – LWT for Channel 4 – 3 series @ 13
 1985 **Food/Drink Correspondent** – Video Doctor
 1984 **Motoring Correspondent** – Video Doctor
 1984 **Woolworth Xmas TV Commercial**
 1984 **Work Out** – Presenter – HTV – 6 programmes
 1982/83 **The Acting Game** – Host – BBC-1 NW – 2 series
 1982-84 **Makers** – Presenter – HTV – 3 series @ 6 programmes
 1982 **Here Today** – Guest presenter – HTV – 3 programmes
 1981/82 **As It Happens** – BBC– Radio 4 – 12 programmes
 1981 **King Size Bed** – Plays – BBC– Radio 4
 1979-91 **Teen Trials** series – 13years - Presenter
 1978 **Blue Peter Special Assignment** – BBC-1 – Rivers @ 3
 1978 **Stopwatch** – Presenter – BBC-1 – 5 series @ 8
 1978/81 **We're Going Places** – Presenter – BBC-1 – 3 series @ 8
 1978 **Blue Peter Special Assignment** – Presenter BBC-1 @ - 3
 1976-78 **Driver of the Year** - Presenter – BBC-1 – 3 series @ 4
 1978 **Blue Peter Special Assignment** – Twin Towns @ 3
 1976 **Sunday Live** – Presenter – BBC-1 OB events @ 3
 1971-80 **Record Breakers Xmas Special** – BBC-1 @ 10 programmes
 1967-78 **Blue Peter** – Presenter – BBC-1 – 860 programmes
 1966-67 **Colour Training courses** – Various – BBC Drama
 1965-66 **Doctor Who** (Steven) - BBC-1 – 44 episodes
 1965 **Doctor Who** (Morton Dill) - BBC-1
 1965 **The Girl in the Black Bikini** – Leading Role – BBC-1 serial
 1965 **The Villains** – Leading role – Granada Television
 1964 **The Girl in the Picture** – Lead – Armchair Theatre (ABC)
 1963 **Luther** – Supporting role – Play for Today – BBC-1
 1963-5 Various supporting roles:- **Z-Cars, Gideon's Way, The Saint, Court Martial, Dixon of Dock Green, World of Wooster,** etc.

Theatre Credits

2005/6 **Jack & the Beanstalk** Theatre Royal, Plymouth. **Director**
 2004/5 **Dick Whittington** Opera House, Manchester **Director**
 2003/4 **Cinderella** Southend on Sea - **Director**
 2002/3 **Aladdin** Stoke on Trent - **Director**
 2001/2 **Dick Whittington** Southend on Sea - **Director**
 2000/1 **Cinderella** Llandudno – **Director.**

1999/0 **Jack and the Beanstalk** Southend on Sea – **Director**
 1998/9 **Jack and the Beanstalk** Sheffield - **Director**
 1996/7 **Dick Whittington** Bournemouth - **Director**
 1995/6 **Cinderella** Reading - **Director**
 1994/5 **Dick Whittington** Southend - **Director**
 1993/4 **Dick Whittington** Croydon - **Director**
 1992/3 **Cinderella** Bath **Director**
 1992/3 **Babes in the Wood** Darlington - **Director**
 1991/2 **Aladdin** Bath - **Director**
 1991/2 **Dick Whittington** Hull - **Director**
 1988/9 **Cinderella** Aberdeen - **Director**
 1987/8 **Jack and the Beanstalk** Wimbledon - **Director**
 1985/6 **Cinderella** Hayes - **Director/Baron**
 1984/5 **Aladdin** Hayes - **Director**
 1983/4 **Aladdin** Torquay - **Director**
 1983/4 **Jack and the Beanstalk** Guildford - **Director**
 1982/3 **Robinson Crusoe** Guildford **Dir./Cpt Babble**
 1981/2 **Jack and the Beanstalk** Torquay - **Dir./Baron**
 1980/1 **Jack and the Beanstalk** Bath - **Bath - Baron**
 1979/80 **Cinderella** Wilmslow - *Baron*
 1978/9 **Cinderella** Guildford – *Baron*

1964 **Tour Wimbledon, Westcliff**
 1963/4 **Chorus, London Palladium**
 1963 **Tour, Wimbledon, Bath, Coventry, Westcliff, Hull**
 1961/3 **Younger leading Man, Repertory (2 Years)**
Renaissance Theatre Company, Barrow.
 1957/58 **Three plays in Rep. Barrow**

Hobbies

All **sports** especially **Golf**, he regularly plays in charity events.

Cars especially classics - has owned 1938 Austin 16, 1938 Wolseley 16, 1938 Morris 10, 1955 Ford Popular, 1960 Mini Minor, 1951 Bentley Mark VI (one of his favourites), 1963 Ford Anglia, 1967 Citroen DS21 (another favourite), 1969 Bond Equipe 2-litre Sports, 1972 Ford Zodiac, 1975 & 1978 Citroen 2CV, 1978 Citroen CX, 1982 Citroen CX, 1982 Rover 3500, 1984 Daimler Sovereign (certainly a favourite), 1985 Jaguar Sovereign (the best of all), 1988 Volvo 740 estate, 1992 Volvo 240 estate (the estates for the dogs!!) 1998 Volvo 940 Turbo, 2005 Volvo V70 estate.

Dogs owns 4. Kent (Newfoundland); Holly and Tilly (Pekingese); Hattie (Wire Haired Dachshund). Enjoys **animals** in general.

Cooking - will spend hours in the kitchen and also enjoys eating out!

Cinema - enjoys seeing the latest films!

Theatre. Enjoys his 'flight simulator' on his computer!

Antiques which he enjoys buying and owning.