

Life On Air BBC ONE, Sunday 1 December



David Attenborough occupies a unique place in our lives. For 50 years, ever since he joined the BBC in 1952, he has entertained viewers about the natural world. In *Life On Air*, Michael Palin meets David for a light-hearted look back over an extraordinary life. This is a celebration of David's career in broadcasting, a lifetime in front of the camera, travelling the world and bringing it into our living rooms. David was actually the BBC's Director of Programmes when Michael Palin and the young *Monty Python* team were first commissioned in 1969.

Life On Air delves into the treasure trove of an illustrious career, distilling highlights and sometimes hilarious anecdotes from over 250 television programmes and appearances. Where did his passion for nature first come from? What are his most memorable moments? David Attenborough is probably the most widely travelled person on Earth – and sometimes it seems as if he engineered his entire career simply to travel to all those exciting places ...

But David's career has involved a great deal more than just wildlife. He was Controller of BBC2 (1965–68) and BBC Director of Programmes (1968–72). He is also an international best-selling author, a Trustee of

the British Museum and a Companion of Honour. He is active in various charities and a figurehead of the conservation movement. David has presented programmes about pottery and anthropology, fossils and African art. He is a passionate collector and music-lover. David Attenborough is about as close as you get to Renaissance Man.



Alongside magic moments from David's career, there are interviews with some of the people who've helped make it all happen – the cameramen, sound recordists and producers who have shared his adventures. David's brother, Richard, shares some irreverent family secrets, and there are a few privileged glimpses behind the scenes in the making of David's latest series, *The Life Of Mammals*.

For the first time, there's also a glimpse of what David is like when the camera is switched off.

Producer – Brian Leith