

1- Remembering Queen Elizabeth as the Pop Culture Icon She Was

On Sept. 8 2022 the world rose to the news that Queen Elizabeth II, Great Britain's longest-ruling monarch, had passed away at the age of 96. In being a ruler for 70 years, the Queen witnessed a monumental change in pop culture in the United Kingdom and otherwise. The Queen will be remembered for having audiences with some of the most inspirational leaders in our modern era and some of the brightest celebrities, from Marilyn Monroe to Sir Elton John.

Queen Elizabeth v. Counter Culture

"Her Majesty" by The Beatles was one of the first songs to speak of the Queen in a not-so-respectable tone. Although the song isn't an outright indictment of the crown, it was more tongue-in-cheek than any prior works written about the Queen. As British unrest grew more critical into the 1970s more artists took to their platforms to express their anger. "God Save The Queen" by the Sex Pistols caused national outrage upon its release during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1977.

From the early 80s into the 90s, Queen Elizabeth began to become an iconic figure who had reigned through some of the darkest parts of modern British history. Songs like "The Queen is Dead" by The Smiths and "Dreaming of the Queen" by the Pet Shop Boys referred to the Queen as now a matronly settled monarch who has been ingrained in the fabric of the globalized zeitgeist. Her persona began to reach television spoofs and skits on late-night shows like "Saturday Night Live," "The Simpsons" and "The Kids in the Hall." Although she was still respected as the regent she was, her fame and icon status seemed to surpass the significance of her role.

As the new millennium broke, interest in the Queen and the royal family started to grow, as fans' curiosity grew toward the inner machinations of this woman who at this point had been queen for over 50 years. Highly successful movies like "The Queen" and "A Royal Night Out" as well as TV shows like "The Crown" continued to launch the Queen into the public eye even as antimonarchist sympathies have grown in the past years. With the summer 2012 Olympics being held in London, England, the Queen again stole the show via an appearance with James Bond, played by Daniel Craig, featuring her sky diving out of a helicopter over the Olympic Stadium.

A Queen for 70 years, an Icon Forever

Throughout the 70 long years of her reign, Queen Elizabeth witnessed the radical and fundamental shift in popular culture, politics, art and social norms that altered society into its standing today. She led her country through many trials and tribulations with pose and grace and inspired a myriad of creative works. The head of state's historic reign may have ended, but her legacy and contribution to the world's pop culture as a modern monarch for not only the British commonwealth but the world will live on for decades to come.

By Evan Beesley, September 14, 2022, dailyutahchronicle.com

2- From James Bond to Paddington Bear: A look at the Queen's most memorable cultural moments

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, who came to the throne in 1952, became the UK's longest-serving monarch, after reigning for 70 years. But she will not only be remembered in the history books, but also for the impact she had in mainstream media as a pop culture icon. From being immortalised by some of the world's most famous artists, including Andy Warhol and Banksy, to featuring along side Paddington Bear in a sketch for her Platinum Jubilee concert, the Queen's image will be remembered for ever. Let's take a look at how Her Majesty became one of pop culture's most famous icons.

A muse for artists

The Queen's image has been captured countless times by some of the world's most celebrated artists and photographers, including Banksy, Lucian Freud, Chris Levine and Annie Leibovitz. For each of her more than 200 official Royal Collection portraits, the artist was handpicked and their style approved by Buckingham Palace.

Some of the most recognisable portraits of the Queen were created by the leading figure of the pop art movement, Andy Warhol. Warhol completed a series of four vibrant silk-screened portraits of Queen Elizabeth as part of his 'Reigning Queens' project. Four of Warhol's prints were eventually purchased by the Royal Collection for the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation, despite being the only portraits of the Queen in the collection that she did not sit for.

Meeting the stars

Throughout her life, Queen Elizabeth II rubbed shoulders with some of pop culture's biggest stars at countless public events, including Meryl Streep, Franke Sinatra, Madonna, Daniel Craig and Paul McCartney. In the summer of 1956, the Queen made one of her most starry encounters when she met face to face with Hollywood star Marilyn Monroe.

The two iconic women (who were both 30 at the time) met at the Royal Film Performance of 'The Battle of the River Plate' at the Empire Theatre in London's Leicester Square. They shook each other hands and chatted for several minutes about being neighbours and the town of Windsor.

Portrayals in film and TV

There are few people who have been portrayed on the big screen more than Queen. In 2006, Helen Mirren won an Academy Award for her portrayal of the British monarch in Stephen Frears' film, 'The Queen'. The movie is arguably one of the most successful films that the Queen has been fictionalised in - having received high praise from critics and even an Oscar nomination for Best Picture.

Her image has also made some rather unusual film cameos, such as in the animated movie 'Minions' (2015), where she fights off a minion trying to steal her crown.

There's in fact an entire animated film titled, 'The Queen's Corgi' (2019), which follows the adventures of Rex, voiced by Jack Whitehall, a corgi who gets lost outside the palace.

Numerous television series have also portrayed the Queen - from brief appearances in Doctor Who and the Simpsons, to Netflix's critical acclaimed and hugely successful 'The Crown', where she is played by Claire Foy, Olivia Colman, and Imelda Staunton.

By Theo Farrant, *Updated: 09/09/2022*, euronews.com

3- Queen Elizabeth II has died

Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, has died at Balmoral aged 96, after reigning for 70 years. She died peacefully on Thursday afternoon at her Scottish estate, where she had spent much of the summer. The Queen came to the throne in 1952 and witnessed enormous social change. Her son King Charles III said the death of his beloved mother was a "moment of great sadness" for him and his family and that her loss would be "deeply felt" around the world. He said: "We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign and a much-loved mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world." Prime Minister Liz Truss, who was appointed by the Queen on Tuesday, said the monarch was the rock on which modern Britain was built, who had "provided us with the stability and strength that we needed". Speaking about the new King, she said: "We offer him our loyalty and devotion, just as his mother devoted so much, to so many, for so long. And with the passing of the second Elizabethan age, we usher in a new era in the magnificent history of our great country, exactly as Her Majesty would have wished, by saying the words 'God save the King'." The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby - spiritual leader to the Church of England of which the monarch is supreme governor - expressed his "profound sadness". He said his "prayers are with the King and the Royal Family".

Queen Elizabeth II's tenure as head of state spanned post-war austerity, the transition from empire to Commonwealth, the end of the Cold War and the UK's entry into - and withdrawal from - the European Union. Her reign spanned 15 prime ministers starting with Winston Churchill, born in 1874, and including Ms Truss, born 101 years later in 1975.

The Queen was born Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, in Mayfair, London, on 21 April 1926. Few could have foreseen she would become monarch but in December 1936 her uncle, Edward VIII, abdicated from the throne to marry the twice-divorced American, Wallis Simpson. Elizabeth's father became King George VI and, at age 10, Lilibet, as she was known in the family, became heir to the throne. Within three years, Britain was at war with Nazi Germany. Elizabeth and her younger sister, Princess Margaret, spent much of wartime at Windsor Castle after their parents rejected suggestions they be evacuated to Canada.

Elizabeth was crowned at Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953, aged 27, in front of a then-record TV audience estimated at more than 20 million people. Subsequent decades would see great change, with the end of the British Empire overseas and the Swinging '60s sweeping away social norms at home. Elizabeth reformed the monarchy for this less deferential age, engaging with the public through walkabouts, royal visits and attendance at public events. Her commitment to the Commonwealth was a constant - she visited every Commonwealth country at least once. But there were periods of private and public pain.

In 1992, the Queen's "annus horribilis", fire devastated Windsor Castle - a private residence as well as working palace - and three of her children's marriages broke down. After the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car accident in Paris in 1997, the Queen drew criticism for appearing reluctant to respond publicly. There were questions about the monarchy's relevance in modern society. "No institution... should expect to be free from the scrutiny of those who give it their loyalty and support, not to mention those who don't," she acknowledged.

As a 21-year-old princess, Elizabeth had vowed to devote her life to service. Reflecting on those words decades later, during her Silver Jubilee in 1977, she declared: "Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgment, I do not regret nor retract one word of it." That same commitment to serving was made 45 years later in a thank you letter to the nation on the weekend of her Platinum Jubilee in June. Although the Queen's health kept her from some events, she said: "My heart has been with you all." In a moment met with cheers from huge crowds in the Mall, she was joined by three generations of her family on the Buckingham Palace balcony for the finale of a pageant. The Royal Family has now entered a period of mourning. In the coming days, much of national life will be put on hold.

Official engagements will be cancelled and union flags will be flown at half-mast on royal residences, government buildings, across the Armed Forces and on UK posts overseas. Members of Parliament will pay tribute to the Queen and take an oath to King Charles. A state funeral for the Queen is expected in the next two weeks. Foreign leaders have paid tribute to the Queen

4- Liz Truss becomes UK prime minister after meeting Queen at Balmoral

New leader to return to Downing Street and address nation at about 4pm, before appointing cabinet

Liz Truss has become the UK's new prime minister after meeting the Queen at Balmoral, where she was asked to form a government after the resignation of Boris Johnson. Truss, 47, is the UK's 56th prime minister and its third female leader. She is expected to return immediately to Downing Street and will give an address to the nation at about 4pm, before beginning to appoint her cabinet.

Truss's team has swiftly updated her Twitter profile to mark her new role. "Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Leader of the Conservative Party. MP for South West Norfolk," the description states. Key cabinet appointments are expected to be made later on Tuesday with junior roles following over the coming days. Truss is expected to appoint a cabinet of loyalists, including Kwasi Kwarteng as chancellor, James Cleverly as foreign secretary and Suella Braverman as home secretary. Other key appointments are expected to include Thérèse Coffey as health secretary, but there will be no role for her defeated leadership rival, Rishi Sunak.

Johnson and his wife, Carrie, spent almost 40 minutes with the Queen before leaving Balmoral a few minutes before midday. Earlier, Johnson had hinted at a hope to return to frontline politics as he compared himself to a Roman statesman who was called back for a final battle.

The outgoing prime minister said in remarks outside Downing Street that he would remain loyal and supportive to Truss after his departure. "Let me say that I am now like one of those booster rockets that has fulfilled its function and I will now be gently re-entering the atmosphere and splashing down invisibly in some remote and obscure corner of the Pacific.

He said he would be offering the new government nothing but "the most fervent support". But in a reference to the Roman statesman Cincinnatus, he said he was "returning to my plough" – although Johnson was likely to know the remark would raise eyebrows. Cincinnatus returned to Rome when called upon to be appointed temporary dictator and Johnson has used the reference before as London mayor.

Jessica Elgot , 6 Sep 2022, theguardian.com

5- Viewers in tears as Paddington and the late Queen win BAFTA for sweet Jubilee sketch

The adorable film was a 'farewell' to the longest-serving British monarch

Viewers were in tears as the Memorable Moment TV Bafta award was awarded to Paddington bear having tea with the late Queen during the Platinum Jubilee: Party At The Palace celebrations on the BBC. Queen Elizabeth II surprised the world when she appeared in a heart-warming sketch with the adorable bear to celebrate her 70 year reign on Saturday, June 4 last year.

The animated bear visited Buckingham Palace for afternoon tea and the Queen beamed as she produced a marmalade sandwich from her handbag. After her death in September, at the age of 96, mourners left teddy bears and marmalade sandwiches among the floral tributes outside her royal residences.

In a stunning moment at the awards, televised on BBC One, the camera panned to Paddington applauding in the audience as the winner was called out and gasps could be heard. Actor Simon Farnaby, who played a footman in the video, went on stage to accept the gong at the 2023 British Academy Television Award.

Simon called the segment a “lovingly handcrafted moment” that also served as a "farewell" to the longest-serving British monarch. He said: “She had a very joyful Jubilee tea that day. The person who most deserve this award is no longer with us. We can only accept it on her behalf and say 'thank you, ma'am, for everything.’”

Paddington is voiced by Ben Whishaw who also appeared on stage at the Baftas and went on to win the best leading actor for *This Is Going To Hurt*. The sweet moment beat the *The Good Friday Agreement* vote in the finale of comedy series *Derry Girls* and Nick and Charlie’s first kiss in *Heartstopper*.

Also nominated was the moment in *Stranger Things* where Max was rescued from the demonic Vecna through the playing of her favourite song Kate Bush’s *Running Up That Hill*, Mo Farah revealing he was illegally trafficked to the UK in *The Real Mo Farah* and *The Traitors* final roundtable.

By Katie Fitzpatrick, Showbiz and TV writer 23:30, 14 MAY 2023, [manchestereveningnews.co.uk](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk)