



Natasha Kaplinsky

Natasha Kaplinsky joined Five News in January 2008.

Before her role at Five she was at the BBC for five years. She started there in November 2002 co-presenting **Breakfast** and became one of the Corporation's best-known faces. Her job on the Breakfast sofa teamed her up with **Dermot Murnaghan** in a daily three-hour live show combining news, current affairs and softer items, where she developed a reputation for incisive interviewing with a gentle touch where necessary. She then moved on to co-present the **Six O'clock News** for two years finishing in October 2007.

Natasha was the subject of one of the programmes in the popular BBC1 television series, **Who Do You Think You Are?** in September 2007.

While news remains her first love, Natasha enjoys the chance to host the occasional entertainment programme. Whilst at the BBC she has hosted **New Year Live**, and joined Terry Wogan to co-present **Making Your Mind Up**, (the show which decided the UK's contestant for the Eurovision Song Contest) and **Children In Need**, all for BBC1. She presented one of the **Proms** in the 2006 season for the BBC. In 2005 she hosted the BBC's **Bafta** red carpet coverage, **The VE Day Celebrations** with Eamonn Holmes, live from Trafalgar Square. Other appearances have included the

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Royal Variety Show, co-presenting the final of BBC-2's **Restoration** with Griff Rhys-Jones and has also appeared as a guest on **Have I Got News For You**, **The Kumars at No 42**, **Ready Steady Cook** and several episodes of the BBC comedy **My Hero** - in which she plays a newsreader.

In Spring 2004 she discovered a hidden talent when she took part in a new peak-time Saturday night programme called **Strictly Come Dancing** she went on to win it. She took part again in most of the second series - though this time as co-presenter with Bruce Forsyth and in Summer 2005 hosted a one-off special, **Strictly African Dancing**, as part of the BBC's Africa Lives season. As part of the same season, Natasha also returned to her African roots, to present Breakfast from Kenya, her childhood home, and film a special report in South Africa.

Natasha grew up in Kenya and was six when she first saw a television set. Her family moved to Sussex where she went to school before studying English at **Oxford University**.

She worked in the press offices of Neil Kinnock and John Smith before spotting an advertisement for a news presenter with **Meridian** in the South East. She was taken on to present early-morning bulletins but soon found herself anchoring the station's evening news magazine. She moved to **Carlton** in London to host news and current affairs programmes including their flagship nightly news show.

In 2000 she joined **Sky News** and

was a leading member of the presenting team when the channel won a **Bafta** for **Best News Channel**.

She was delighted to be named the Variety Club's **TV Personality of the Year 2004** and surprised when her victory in the **Strictly Come Dancing** was named as **Top Entertainment Moment 2004** while the **2004 Tric Awards** honoured her as **Newscaster of the Year**.

She now combines her news commitments with a busy schedule of corporate work and guest appearances. She is a patron of the medical relief agency **Merlin** and **The Willow Foundation**, which organises special days for seriously ill young adults.