

Douglas Fairbanks Presents:

UK TV drama series : 1954-56 : dir. : 120 x 30 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Robin Wheeler](#).....
 Douglas Fairbanks Jr

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5184	1½	3	1	406	- - - - -	No	<i>unseen</i>



Fairbanks with Robin Wheeler in an unspecified instalment

Source: How Sweet it Was

Halliwell's **Television Companion** entry on Fairbanks:

"American leading light actor, son of Douglas Fairbanks. Between 1954 and 1956 he produced and occasionally starred in at least 120 half-hour dramas of very variable quality. Made in England, they glutted the world's TV sets..."

How Sweet it Was – Television: A Pictorial Commentary caption:

"Fairbanks was the show's host and he also performed in this production, which co-starred Robin Wheeler."

History of Television general comment:

“...One result of commercial television was an increasing use of US originated material. Little of this had been evident in the single-channel BBC days. Now, with increased transmission hours (and the abandoning of the silent interval between tea-time children’s viewing and evening family entertainment) there was more interest in acceptable US material.

This was not so surprising. During the war, American servicemen had been stationed in Britain, often generous with their magazines and paperbacks at a time of severe paper shortages in Britain. Hollywood’s influence in

British movie-going was impressive too, so that programmes with film stars in their cast or title had a good start in attracting viewer attention. Thus **"Douglas Fairbanks Presents:"** and **"The Errol Flynn Theater"** found a likely rapport with British audiences. Further, the more intelligent programmes, like **"The Dick Powell Theater"** attracted their own loyal clientele...”

[no listing in "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. These playhouse-style fixtures – **“Alfred Hitchcock Presents:”**, **“The Twilight Zone”**, **“Play for Today”**, **“Armchair Theatre”**, **“Tales of the Unexpected”** and very many others – seem to have fallen out of vogue with TV producers, but were a mainstay of the 1950s and 60s. Besides offering actors and writers a greater variety than today’s soap-dominated schedules, they often yielded some of television’s more memorable one-off dramas. Douglas Fairbanks Jr was a former boy actor himself, having made his cinema debut in **“PARTY GIRL”** at age 10. He then made **“STEPHEN STEPS OUT”** at 13, and four films at 15, among them **“STELLA DALLAS”**. Nothing else is known of Robin Wheeler.

See subject index under **TV SERIES**.