

## Denise Lewis OBE

Olympic Gold Medalist and BBC Sports' Correspondent

Denise Lewis OBE is an accomplished presenter, broadcaster, former athlete and President of Commonwealth Games England. The former Gold Medal winning heptathlete, who holds the second highest number of points scored by a British Heptathlete, has gone on to secure a successful broadcast career. Since her retirement from Athletics, Denise has undertaken an array of television work including commentating on high profile athletics events and fronting shows such as BBC's *Secret Britain* and *Right on the Money*.

### **"one of the BBC's most credible commentators."**

Denise is one of the "golden girls" of British athletics, winning gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and subsequently being inducted into the UK Athletics Hall of Fame in 2011. Denise has twice been runner-up in the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year awards (in 1998 and 2000) and was also honoured with an OBE in the 2000 New Year Honours.

Denise is considered one of the BBC's most credible commentators, which has seen her cover many key athletics events both at home and abroad. In 2012, Denise covered the Commonwealth Games and the London Olympics, reporting daily from the Olympic Park. And in 2014, she reported on the European Diamond League and the London Marathon. Since then, Denise has covered the European Team Championships, the 2015 World Athletics Championships, the Rio Olympics in 2016 and the IAAF Championships in 2017. In 2018, Denise flew to the Gold Coast where she commentated on the Commonwealth Games and represented England as the President of Commonwealth Games England.

In addition to delivering BBC Athletics coverage, Denise has been involved in presenting a range of successful shows and documentaries. This has ranged from presenting two series of *Camp Orange* for Nickelodeon to joining Dame Mary Peters for the BBC NI documentary, *The Run of Her Life*. Denise has also presented for BBC One's *Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth*, in which she travelled to Zambia to report on the spectacular sight of the Victoria Falls.

Furthermore, she had a successful stint co-presenting *The One Show* in 2015 and following on from the popularity of her episode of *Operation Meet the Street*, Denise featured as a Contributor for ITV's *Give a Pet a Home*. Other guest slots have included, Sky Sportswoman and Celebrity Squares. In 2018, Denise fronted her fourth series of *Right on the Money* for the BBC and also authored the documentary *Matron, Medicine and Me*, to celebrate the NHS 70th birthday.

### **"has used her platform to highlight projects that discuss and promote diversity. In 2012, she anchored the Woman of the Year Awards,"**

Denise has previously competed in and achieved runner up in the second series of *Strictly Come Dancing* and achieved the judges highest score in the *Strictly Come Dancing Champion of Champions Special*. Denise has also been involved in several sporting achievements including the challenge of rowing the channel with John Bishop, Davina McCall and Andrew Flintoff and also competed in the wheelchair basketball event at the 2014 Invictus Games, which was broadcast live on *The One Show*.

Throughout her career, Denise has used her platform to highlight projects that discuss and promote diversity. In 2012, she anchored the *Woman of the Year Awards* for ITV1's Lorraine. Then, in 2016, Denise presented *Winners* for BBC Two, *BBC World and News*, which saw her uncover the incredible stories of six female athletes from around the world and the challenges they face simply because they are female. She has also worked to promote Women in Work for International Women's day. Furthermore, Denise joined other exceptional figures in politics, business, sport and science to share her insights into being Black and British in the BBC Two Series *Black is the New Black* in 2016.

In addition to her broadcast commitments, Denise has taken on the role of ambassador and patron for several initiatives, events and charities. In 2014, Denise was announced as ambassador for the Investec Epsom Derby and QIPCO Champions Day at Ascot and in the same year, Denise took on a similar ambassador role for 2014's Telegraph Be: Fit event, a female health and fitness convention, which carried through to 2015. Charitable work is close to Denise's heart and she works closely with Breast Cancer Care and Sparks and she is the President of Commonwealth Games England.

Denise is based with her husband and 3 children in Buckinghamshire.

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