



BBC
RADIO

88 – 91 FM



'Swinging At The Savoy' launches BBC Radio 2's Dance Season

TX – 10pm, Monday 5th December 2011

On Monday, 5th December at 10pm the documentary 'Swinging At The Savoy' launches BBC Radio 2's Dance season. In 'Swinging At The Savoy' Len Goodman explores the roots of swing dance, from the Savoy Ballroom in 1930s Harlem to the modern day renaissance.

The documentary was made by Rachel Essien for independent production company Folded Wing, who produce 'Gloria Estefan's Latin Beat' series and the Jamie Cullum show for BBC Radio 2 as well as recent BBC Radio 1 & 1Xtra documentaries on The Story of Aaliyah, Mixtapes and The Entourage.

'Swinging At The Savoy' begins with the roots of swing dance, starting on the dancefloor of the Savoy Ballroom in 1930s Harlem. Featuring anecdotes from pioneers such as Norma Miller, who danced at the Savoy and on the big screen in the 1930s and 1940s, through to the modern day evolution of 'no rules' Lindy Hop with its competitions and international communities. We learn about the culture, the music and the dance moves.

Len Goodman journeys back in time to explore swing dance's origins in African American music & dance and discovers how swing made it onto the streets and into the nightclubs, contests and movies. These days the dynamic Lindy Hop dance remains the most popular of the swing dances and it is arguably more popular than in its heyday. From the Herrang Dance Camp in Sweden, to vintage tea dances all over the UK, Len finds out exactly why swing's appeal endures to this day.

Featuring The Puppini Sisters, Ray Gelato, Norma Miller, Frankie Manning and Paul Mercer Ellington.

<http://www.foldedwing.co.uk>