

FEATURE

DIANA-MANIA SPREADS FROM BRITAIN AS DEATH ANNIVERSARY LOOMS 'DIANA-FOREVER AND EVER'



In this July 29, 1981 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer are shown at their wedding at St Paul's Cathedral in London. — AP/AFP photos



This Nov 7, 1985 file photo shows Britain's Prince Charles with his wife Princess Diana in front of Lodge Canberra, Australia.



In this Aug 4, 1987 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, left, and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II smile to well-wishers outside Clarence House in London.

The 20th anniversary of Princess Diana's death has filled magazines, newspapers and television screens in Britain for weeks, but not only there: across Europe, media groups are marking the occasion, underlining her international appeal. Britain's celebrity press have offered special editions, supplements and reams of news articles picking over the impact of her tragic life and death as well as her relationships with her sons and Prince Charles. The popularity of Charles, the heir to the British throne, has plunged as a result of the renewed attention on his former wife and their apparently loveless marriage.



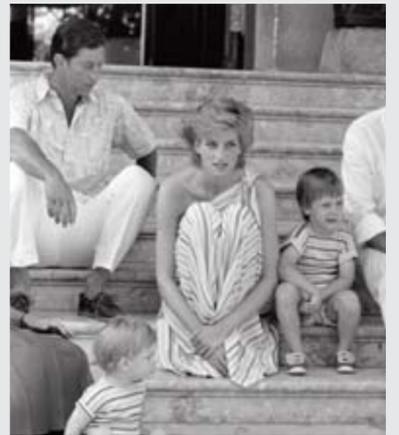
In this 1980 file photo, Lady Diana Spencer, 21, Prince Charles's girlfriend, is pictured at the Kindergarten in St Georges Square, Pimlico, London, where she works as a teacher.



In this Feb 24, 1981 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer pose following the announcement of their engagement.



In this June 22, 1982 file photo Britain's Prince Charles, and his wife Princess Diana look at their newborn son Prince William, as they leave St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London.



In this July 9, 1986 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, with his wife Diana, the Princess of Wales, and their sons Prince Harry, lower left and Prince William, are seated on the steps during a photo call at the Marivent Palace, in Palma de Mallorca.



In this Wednesday, June 18, 1997 file photo, Mother Teresa, left, says goodbye to Britain's Princess.

In Europe, many media groups have commissioned documentaries, special reports or their own investigations two decades after her death in a Paris car crash on August 31, 1997. In Austria, public broadcaster ORF will screen several documentaries about the princess this week, including one entitled "Diana-Forever and Ever", a retrospective of her life inside Buckingham Palace. "It shows a life inside a golden cage, imprisoned by traditions, and Diana's repeated attempts to break out of this golden cage," ORF's royal expert Lisbeth Bischoff said in a statement to AFP.

On August 31, the anniversary of her death, Radio Vienna will dedicate its entire programming to the princess, led by Austrian journalist and Diana fan Ewald Wurzinger who raised a monument to her in a Vienna park in 2013. In France, the public channel France 2 will offer a day of programming about her on Sunday which is to include several documentaries and an investigation. "Twenty years after, it's time to look

again at what she brought to the monarchy in spirit and who she was really," said one of the channel's royal experts, Stephane Bern.

He said her enduring appeal was her "tragic destiny" which put her among stars whose early deaths have immortalized them, such as American actresses Grace Kelly or Marilyn Monroe. Matthias Gurtler, director of the celebrity weekly Gala, said the magazine had published a special edition on Diana in response to French interest in the British princess. The attraction for her was linked to her image as a rebel and someone who "broke the rules in a stiff and uptight world," he said.

In this Thursday July 17, 1997 file photo, Britain's Princess Diana rides a personal watercraft with her son Prince Harry, steering, in Saint Tropez, on the French Riviera, where she is spending a few days holidaying.

