National I Love Lucy Day is celebrated on October 15 this year, and who doesn’t love this iconic comedy? At this very minute, somewhere in the world, Lucy and Ricky are arguing in 44 countries. On I Love Lucy Day we recall a simpler time, when the family gathered around one (we repeat one) rabbit-eared, black and white TV set with only three channels. CBS was the only channel to watch on Monday nights at 9 p.m. So throw on your gal’s and barbies slippers to walk down memory lane.

History of I Love Lucy / I Love Lucy Day, which takes place on October 15, celebrates the tremendous sitcom of the same name. I Love Lucy. Premiering on this day in 1951 and lasting until May of 1957, the hilarious comedy spearheaded by Lucille Ball as the bubbly, aspiring-star Lucy, and her real-life husband Desi Arnaz as singer and bandleader Ricky Ricardo took America by storm. Shot in Hollywood, the show was innovative and fresh. It was the first sitcom to be shot in 35mm film in front of a live audience, those were real laughs we were hearing, not canned laughter. Three cameras were used simultaneously to shoot the show, adjusting three different angles for each scene. After Lucy’s pregnancy, the reruns that were shown as a way to let her rest were so popular that it effectively started the rerun concept as a way to give Ball maternity leave. The image: 10 million households.

I Love Lucy was the most-watched television show in the country for most of its sixteen seasons, even becoming the first show to ever top the top of the Nielsen ratings. It won five Emmy awards and has consistently been ranked one of the greatest comedies of all-time. Following the end of the original run of the series, one-hour episodes rebranded as The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour were broadcast from 1952 to 1960. Starting in 1962, Ball starred in The Lucy Show, which ran until 1968, when Here’s Lucy started and broadcasted until 1974. Today reruns of I Love Lucy are broadcast on several late-night networks, such as the Hallmark Channel, TBS, Nick and Nite, and TV Land, as well as many streaming services. It’s said to be the longest-broadcasted TV show of all-time.

1. It was ahead of its time. The show was cutting-edge even in the style of older sketches masters like Charlie Chaplin, Roscoe Arbuckle, or even the Three Stooges.
2. Ricky Ricardo almost was Larry Lopez - But the alliteration of Larry and Lucy wasn’t the magic ten million - Producers thought of the innovative rerun concept as a way to give Ball maternity leave. The image: 10 million households.
3. One of the first Hollywood-filmed shows - Most shows were taped live in New York City at the time but this was taped in Los Angeles since the Arnazes didn’t want to move away. The image: 10 million households.
4. Episodes were filmed almost seamlessly - Scenes very rarely had to be re-taped; it was the first show to allow three cameras. Producers thought of the innovative rerun concept as a way to give Ball maternity leave.
5. It was a real love story. One of the reasons why we all love I Love Lucy is that Lucy Ball and Desi Arnaz were a real, married couple. They met on the set of a Drama Series and got married. The image: 10 million households.
6. One of the first Hollywood-filmed shows - Most shows were taped live in New York City at the time but this was taped in Los Angeles since the Arnazes didn’t want to move away. The image: 10 million households.
7. It was a real love story. One of the reasons why we all love I Love Lucy is that Lucy Ball and Desi Arnaz were a real, married couple. They met on the set of a Drama Series and got married. The image: 10 million households.
8. Why We Love I Love Lucy - The show was actually taped live in Hollywood, the show was innovative and fresh. It was the first sitcom to be shot in 35mm film in front of a live audience, those were real laughs we were hearing, not canned laughter. The image: 10 million households.
9. It was hilarious. Even today, scholarly types go back and forth over the show’s actual working process. Producer and director Desi Arnaz would go into simple — the show was filmed Instantly! By 1953, the image: 10 million households.
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