

Interview with David Suchet

Emmy Award-Winning Narrator of The Jesus Storybook Bible Deluxe Edition

1. Why did you decide to narrate the *The Jesus Storybook Bible Deluxe Edition*?

"Being a Christian myself, having been through a conversion experience at the age of 40, my only experience of any form of faith prior to that was at school and I always considered that religion was for examination!

Hence, I was never really introduced to the Bible in an inspiring, exciting or understandable way which is exactly what the *The Jesus Storybook Bible Deluxe Edition* provides."

2. Did you do anything special to prepare for this project?

"By praying a lot and meticulous text book preparation as I would do for classical book on tape to make sure I do the best I possibly can. How I read it was how I prepared it."

3. Did Sally Lloyd-Jones' writing and Jago's illustrations inspire your narration of *The Jesus Storybook Bible Deluxe Edition*?

"Sally's writing obviously [did inspire me] as it was her adaptation which drew me to the project. Jago's illustrations were really helpful; it's so lovely to see pictures of the characters, it makes them so accessible."

4. How was the recording of this *Storybook Bible* for children different from other narration projects you have been involved with?

"In the past, I have recorded various books of the Bible for different literary companies. This was different in that *The Jesus Storybook Bible Deluxe Edition* is aimed at all age groups. I suppose because it wasn't the actual text of the Bible it allowed me to have a lot more fun; made me feel freer while still delivering the true meaning."

5. Did the recording of *The Jesus Storybook Bible Deluxe Edition* inspire you in any way?

"I was inspired by the book; that's what made me want to narrate it. Reading it only enhanced that inspiration."

6. How do you hope your narration of *The Jesus Storybook Bible Deluxe Edition* inspires children and grown-ups alike?

"My real hope is that children and adults of all ages listen to this recording; listen and become inspired as I was. I haven't recorded this just with children in mind."

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7. What makes narration projects unique compared to roles on stage or on screen?

"Sitting in front of a microphone is a very different thing indeed from being in front of a camera lens or a big audience. I imagine I am speaking to one particular person at any one time. It is a unique challenge."

8. What role has had the biggest impact on your life and career?

"It has to be Hercule Poirot. That part has had the biggest influence on both my career and my life as it made me a household name worldwide. Although I was already quite well known in the UK, hand on heart I mean this modestly, Poirot gave me fame worldwide. This was not hard to deal with, I think because my background is theatre based.

Larry Olivier once said to me over dinner, 'never forget your past and where you came from.' I had humble beginnings in the theater and because of that I have always had two feet on the ground.

Poirot came to me in 1986 and, having been a professional actor since 1969, it is fair to say that I was old enough to be able to handle it."

9. What projects are you involved with right now, and what is your next big project?

"My next big project is filming out in Hungary when I appear as a real baddie in the adaptation of Terry Pratchett's novel *Going Postal*. I play Reacher Gilt; a real shocker in every sense of the word. He is very materialistic and commits murder but because of the genre of Pratchett's work, this character is not offensive.

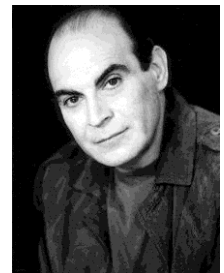
Being an actor and a Christian in today's secular society is not easy. But I try not to appear in programmes or play characters that would cause undue offence. The media does have an influence on the public and I feel a real strong moral responsibility in that respect."

About David Suchet:

David Suchet is an award-winning British actor with several theatre, television, and film roles to his credit. The London-born actor is best known for his ongoing role as Hercule Poirot in Agatha Christie's *Poirot*, a hugely popular series featuring the adventures of a beloved Belgian detective. When the first series was shown in 1989, the *Sunday Telegraph* wrote, "David Suchet's *Poirot* has eclipsed performances by Peter Ustinov and Albert Finney!"

Suchet's television credits include roles in the BBC's series *Oppenheimer*, Freud in *The Life of Freud*, Blott in *Blott on the Landscape*, and John Borne in the BBC's *The NCS (National Crime Squad)*. David starred as Baron Stockmar in the epic drama *Victoria & Albert*, as Edward Palmer in *Murder in Mind* BBC and *Melmotte*, and in Anthony Trollope's *The Way We Live Now*. In 2006, he also played Van Helsing in *Dracula*-a 90 minute single screenplay for the BBC.

His film credits include *The In-Laws* with Michael Douglas, *Executive Decision* with Kurt Russell, *A Perfect Murder* with Michael Douglas, and the independent film *Sunday*, which won the Best Film award at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. David has lent his talented vocal skills as a narrator in the well-known animation *Arthur & The Invisibles* and the DreamWorks smash hit *Flushed Away*.



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About David Suchet, cont.:

Suchet began his acting career in theatre at the young age of 17. Throughout his career, he has performed numerous award-winning roles on stage including George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Achilles in *Troilus and Cressida*, Caliban in *The Tempest*, Mercutio and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, Orlando in *As You Like It*, Iago in *Othello*, The Professor in *Oleanna*, Timon in *Timon of Athens*, Jo Green in *Separation*, and most recently Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus* and Cardinal Benelli in *The Last Confession*.

Suchet has won and been nominated for numerous film, television, and theatre awards. He has been honored with Best Actor awards from the International Emmy Awards, Variety Club Awards, Royal Television Society, Critics' Circle Award, and the Marseilles Film Festival. He has been nominated for a TONY Award, BAFTA Television Awards, Olivier Awards, Evening Standard Awards, a Television & Radio Industries Club (TRIC) Award, an Ace Award, and a Broadcasting Press Guild Award. David has a great interest in the arts-he enjoys music, theatre, and nature. He is a proud supporter of restoring the canals of Great Britain. David lives in England with his wife, Sheila.

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