

David Walliams



Who Is David Walliams?

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and author. He is also a judge on a TV talent show and writes for TV. David raises money for the charity, Sport Relief, which helps people all over the world.

David's Childhood

David was born on 20th August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the child of Peter and Kathleen Williams. From a young age, he loved dressing up and his older sister Julie would often dress him up in girls' clothes for fun.

David went to school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up grew and his love of acting began. He was also on the school swimming team. At age 11, he acted in his first school play wearing a dress and made everyone laugh. This was the moment he knew that what he wanted to do with his life was make people laugh.

David the Author

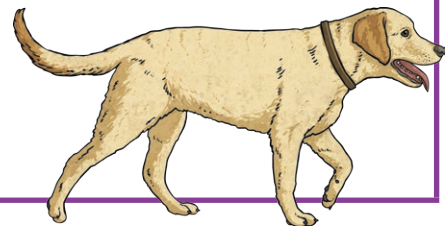
David had a successful TV career and his own TV show. But he wanted to write a book about how it's OK to be different. In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.

David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers. Some of his most famous books are 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy' and 'Gangsta Granny'. His books are often illustrated by Tony Ross, who also illustrates the 'Horrid Henry' books.



Did You Know...?

- David changed his name from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor called David Williams!
- When swimming in the river Thames, David rescued a Labrador dog that had fallen in the river!
- David has sold over eight million books all over the world.





Many of David's books have now been filmed for TV and you can sometimes spot him acting in them too!

Charity Work

David has raised a lot of money for charity. In 2006, David swam the English Channel (from England to France) to raise money for Sport Relief. He swam 22 miles and raised over one million pounds. In 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles) and raised more than two million pounds for Sport Relief. David was awarded an OBE by The Queen in 2017 for his charity work.

David Walliams

Who Is David Walliams?

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and children's author. He is also a judge on a television talent show and writes scripts for television. David raises money for the charity Sport Relief, which helps people worldwide.



David's Childhood

David was born on 20th August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the youngest child of Peter Williams, an **engineer**, and Kathleen Williams, a **lab technician**. From a young age he loved dressing up and his older sister Julie would often dress him up in girls' clothes.

David went to school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up continued and his love of acting began. He was also on the school swimming team. Aged 11, he performed in his first school play wearing a dress and made the audience laugh. This was the moment he realised that what he wanted to do with his life was entertain people.

David the Actor

After studying drama at the University of Bristol, David changed his surname from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor called David Williams! David finally got his "big break", co-writing and co-starring in a television show.

David the Author

David had a successful television career but he decided to try something new. He wanted to write a book with the message that it's OK to be different. In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.



David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers, which have sold over eight million copies worldwide. His most famous books include 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy', 'Gangsta Granny' and 'Ratburger'. He often works with the illustrator Quentin Blake, who also

illustrated Roald Dahl's books. Many of David's books have now been filmed for television and he sometimes appears in these films as an actor!



Amazing Charity Work

David has raised a lot of money for charity through swimming. In July 2006, David swam the **English Channel** to raise money for Sport Relief. He swam 22 miles, the same distance as 700 lengths of an Olympic-sized swimming pool! He raised over one million pounds.

In September 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles) and raised more than two million pounds for Sport Relief.

In 2017, he was awarded an **OBE** for his work in charity and the arts.

Glossary

engineer: A person who designs or builds machines, engines, equipment or bridges.

English Channel: The body of water between England and France.

lab technician: A person who assists or carries out work in a laboratory.

OBE: An award presented by The Queen, standing for Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

David Walliams

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and children's author. He is also a judge on a television talent show and writes scripts for television. David raises money for the charity Sport Relief, which helps people in the world's poorest countries.

Childhood

David was born on 20th August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the youngest child of Peter Williams, an engineer, and Kathleen Williams, a lab technician. From a young age he enjoyed dressing up; his older sister Julie loved dressing him up in girls' clothes.

David went to a boys' school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up continued and his love of acting was formed. He was also on the school swimming team. Although he never won a race, he loved the freedom of being in the water. Aged 11, he performed in his first school play wearing a dress and made the audience howl with laughter. This was the moment he realised what he wanted to do with his life.

Career Highlights

After studying drama at the University of Bristol, David changed his surname from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor with that name. David finally got his "big break" **collaborating** with his friend on a comedy sketch show. The show was extremely popular and David's name instantly became a household name.

David had a successful television career but he decided to try out a new **vocation**. He wanted to write a book with the important message that it's OK to be different. In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.



David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers. His most celebrated books include 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy', 'Gangsta Granny' and 'Ratburger'. He frequently works with the illustrator Quentin Blake, best known for illustrating Roald Dahl's books, or Tony



Ross, best known for illustrating the 'Horrid Henry' books. Many of David's books have now been **adapted** for television and he occasionally appears in these films as an actor!



Charitable Work

David has raised impressive sums for charity, using his passion for swimming. In July 2006, David swam the **English Channel**, raising over one million pounds for Sport Relief. It took him 10 hours and 34 minutes to swim 22 miles. This distance is equal to 700 lengths of an Olympic-sized swimming pool! In September 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles), raising more than two million pounds for Sport Relief.

David was awarded an **OBE** by The Queen in 2017 for his work in charity and the arts.

Glossary

adapted: To make a different version of something, for example making a book into a film.

collaborating: Working together on an activity or project.

English Channel: The body of water separating southern England and northern France.

vocation: A form of employment or job.

OBE: An award presented by The Queen, standing for Officer of the Order of the British Empire.