

david webb

David Webb was born in 1931 in Luton, Bedfordshire. His father was the son of a local baker for whom he worked until developing baker's asthma, after which he first worked for a local brewery and then, until retirement, for the Vauxhall Motors Car Company. David's mother was the daughter of a local tailor and later hat manufacturer.

From local primary school, David won a scholarship to the Luton Grammar School in 1942 where he became Head Boy, before leaving for National Service in 1950. For his two years in the army, David served as an instructor in the Royal Army Educational Corps.

David was originally set to train for the stage at the Old Vic Theatre School, having successfully auditioned for its director, Glen Byam Shaw, and been accepted for admission on release from the army. Unfortunately, as the result of a staff dispute and their mass resignation, the school closed down before he could do so and David therefore auditioned for and won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. He spent two years there, graduating in 1954, and began his professional acting career with York Repertory Theatre that same year.

After more repertory in Scarborough and Bromley, David toured in Emile Littler's musical "Love From Judy" and then did more 'rep' at Richmond and Worthing. He then successfully auditioned for BBC Television, as a result of which was summoned by Michael Barry, the then Head of Drama, and consequently launched into TV, a medium in which he has mostly worked ever since, having made more than seven hundred television appearances, in a wide variety of roles, for all the major companies. His last TV appearance was as Inspector Rouse in P.D. James's serial "The Black Tower" for Anglia Television Ltd.

He has also played in other musicals, like "The Water Gipsies" and "Salad Days" and in the West End in John Schlesinger's production of "I and Albert" at the Piccadilly Theatre.

He has appeared in a number of feature films including "Tunes of Glory", "The Battle of Britain", "Villain", "Diamonds for Breakfast", "Witchfinder General" and "His and Hers".

An ardent opponent of censorship, David founded the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) in April 1976, which he has run as its Honorary Director ever since. In June 1983 he stood as an Anti-Censorship/Reform of Obscene Publications Acts candidate in the Prime Minister's constituency of Finchley at the General Election. He is a past member of the Council of the British Actors' Equity Association and a member of both the National Secular Society and the British Humanist Association. David has participated in numerous TV and radio debates, interviews and 'phone-ins' on censorship and often contributes articles to various publications and undertakes speaking engagements on the issue.

For a number of years he has edited the "Health Education Index", a reference book, for medical and para-medical publishers and friends B. Edsall & Co. Ltd., and his hobbies include painting and classical organ music. He is a bachelor and lives in Chelsea, London.

DAVID WEBB

Films:

VILLAIN
SUNDAY, BLOODY SUNDAY
DIAMONDS FOR BREAKFAST
BATTLE OF BRITAIN
WITCHFINDER GENERAL
TUNES OF GLORY, etc.

Television:

THE ROAD TO 1984
TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED
(‘Clerical Error’)
MUCK AND BRASS
BERGERAC
THE WINKLER
SUEZ, 1956
A TALE OF TWO CITIES
STRANGERS
RAIN ON THE ROOF
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
BLAKE’S SEVEN
THE LIVER BIRDS
PENNIES FROM HEAVEN
RUMPOLE OF THE BAILEY
THE NEW AVENGERS
HAZLITT IN LOVE
ROGUE MALE
THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY
WHAT DO THEY KNOW OF ENGLAND

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London W1

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