

David Walliams



Introduction	David Walliams (August 1971 – present) is a well-known celebrity who has appeared on many TV shows and now has branched out in to writing his own children’s books. How did this quiet boy from London become a household name? Read on to find out more.
Early life	David Walliams was born in the London borough of Merton on the date of August 20 th 1971. He grew up in Surrey. His full name is David Edward Williams. His mum’s name is Kathleen Williams, who was a lab technician at a school, and his dad’s name is Peter Williams, who was a London transport engineer.
Schooling	Williams was educated at Collingswood Boy’s School in Wallington and Reigate Grammar School. Whilst he was at school, he joined the Navy cadets just because he liked the uniform. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Bristol (1989-1992) where he spent three years. During the holidays, he worked at the National Youth Theatre where he met his future comedy partner Matt Lucas. When Williams joined the National Youth Theatre, he changed his name to David Walliams as there was already another member of Equity, the actor’s union, going by his birth name.
Point 3 – First jobs and television	At the age of 24, David wrote for the Ant and Dec show from 1995 to 1997. He also performed in a Science fiction series called Phantasmagoria in 1999 but mainly rose to fame in a series of BBC shows. He is best known for his work alongside Matt Lucas in a show called Little Britain; a sketch show where they portrayed a number of different characters. He has since become known as a British actor, comedian, talent show judge, television presenter and author.
Point 4 – Life as an author	Walliams decided to write his first children’s book in 2008 which was called The Boy in The Dress. He gained inspiration for this as when he was a child, his sister used to dress him up in ‘girls clothes’. It was received very well and he became known as a successful children’s author. As he grew up, he credited Roald Dahl with being his inspiration. Since his first publication, he has also written Gangsta Granny (2010), The World’s Worst Children (2016), Grandpa’s great Escape (2016), Bad Dad (2017), The Ice monster (2018), and Fing (2019). He often draws inspiration from his own family and life for his books. Many people are saying he is one of the greatest children’s authors of all time; others say he is the new Roald Dahl. His books have since been translated in to 46 different languages. Even though people might assume writing comes easy to Walliams, he has a pathological fear of writing on his own.
Charity work	Walliams is also well known for his amazing charity work. In 2006 he swam across the English Channel to raise £1.5 million for Sports Relief. Then, in 2011, he swam 140 miles down the river Thames and raised over £2 million for the same charity. During his swim, Walliams rescued a Labrador who fell in to the river. After completing the swim, he suffered from ‘veils disease’ (symptoms include diarrhoea, muscle pain and fever).
Awards	<p>Throughout his career, he has gained many awards for his work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An award from the Writers Guild of Great Britain (2005) • An award for Best comedy programme/series for <i>Little Britain</i>. (2004, 2005) • A National Television Award (2006, 2012) • A What’s on stage award for best supporting actor. (2014) • Awards for Most popular TV judge (2015, 2018, 2019) • Awards for Children’s Book of the Year - National Book Awards (2012: Ratburger, 2013: Demon Dentist, 2014: Awful Auntie) • An OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list (2017)
Life now	<p>Walliams now lives in North London. In May 2010, he married Lara Stone, a Dutch model, at central London Claridges hotel and on May 6th 2013, their son Alfred was born. He would later dedicate the book Bad Dad to Alfred. Unfortunately, their marriage did not last, and on the 9th September 2015, David and Lara announced their divorce. It was widely reported that Lara was not a fan of Walliams’ camp behaviour and that the couple had drifted apart. After his Thames swim, it was also reported that Walliams suffers from bipolar disorder, experiencing anything from extreme happiness and extreme bouts of depression.</p>
Ending	Clearly, Walliams has made the most of all of the experiences he has been given throughout his life and to this day, he continues to entertain audiences far and wide with his great ideas and stories. To find out more, read his autobiography ‘Camp’, head to his website, or read the many articles about him online.



Walliams was presented with an OBE by the Princess Royal to recognise his services to charity and the arts at Buckingham Palace.