



John Rhys-Davies

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John Rhys-Davies (born 5 May 1944) is a Welsh actor and voice actor known for his portrayal of Gimli in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and the charismatic Arab excavator Sallah in the *Indiana Jones* films. He also played Agent Michael Malone in the 1993 remake of the 1950s television series *The Untouchables*, Pilot Vasco Rodrigues in the mini-series *Shōgun*, Professor Maximillian Arturo in *Sliders*, King Richard I in *Robin of Sherwood*, General Leonid Pushkin in the James Bond film *The Living Daylights*, and Macro in *I, Claudius*. Additionally, he provided the voices of Cassim in Disney's *Aladdin and the King of Thieves*, Macbeth in *Gargoyles*, Man Ray in *SpongeBob SquarePants*, Hades in *Justice League* and Tobias in the computer game *Freelancer*.

Early life

John Rhys-Davies was born on 5 May 1944 in Salisbury, England, and was raised in Ammanford, Wales.^[2] His mother, Mary Margaretta Phyllis Jones, was a nurse, and his father, Rhys Davies, was a mechanical engineer^[3] and Colonial Officer.^[4] In the early 1950s his family lived for several years in Kongwa, Dar es Salaam, Moshi and Mwanza Tanzania, while his father was serving there as a colonial Police officer. He was educated at Truro School and at the University of East Anglia where he was one of the first 87 students admitted, and where he founded the Dramatic Society. After teaching at Watton County Secondary School in Norfolk he won a place at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Career

He appeared sporadically on UK television in the early 1970s including his role as the gangster Laughing Spam Fritter opposite Adam Faith in *Budgie*. Later he played Praetorian officer Naevius Sutorius Macro in *I, Claudius*. He then began to appear more frequently, and not just in the UK, with roles as a Portuguese navigator Rodrigues in the 1980 television miniseries *Shogun*, based on the novel by James Clavell, and

John Rhys-Davies



Rhys-Davies at the 2014 Phoenix Comicon

Born	5 May 1944 <div>Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, United Kingdom</div>
Alma mater	Royal Academy of Dramatic Art
Occupation(s)	Actor, voice artist
Years active	1973–present
Spouse	Suzanne Wilkinson (m. 1966; died 2010)
Partner	Lisa Manning (2004–present) ^[1]
Children	3
Signature	

in the *Indiana Jones* films. In 1989, Rhys-Davies also starred in another James Clavell adaption, *Noble House*, set in Hong Kong, in which he plays Ian Dunross' corporate enemy, Quillian Gornt. He has since



appeared in numerous television shows and miniseries, including Agent Michael Malone in the 1993 remake of the 1950s television series *The Untouchables* as well as a leading role in the television series *Sliders* as Professor Maximillian Arturo from 1995 to 1997. He also appeared in *Reilly, Ace of Spies* in 1983, made several appearances on *Star Trek: Voyager* as a holodeck version of Leonardo da Vinci, starred as an ally of James Bond in *The Living Daylights* and appeared in the movie *One Night with the King*. Davies has played the character Porthos in two separate projects; a two-part episode of *The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne* and the Hallmark Channel movie *La Femme Musqueteer*. He appears in the full motion video cut scenes of computer games including *Ripper* (as Vigo Haman) (1996), *Dune 2000* (as Noree Moneo) (1998), and the *Wing Commander* series (as James Taggart, doubling as the voice of Thrakhath nar Kiranka in the third game of the series). He has also appeared in a number of Sci Fi Channel original movies.

In 2004, he starred in *The Privileged Planet*, a documentary that makes the case for intelligent design.^[5] In 2013 he appeared in the family history programme *Coming Home*, in which he discovered information about his grandfather's life in the Carmarthenshire coal mines.^[6]

In 2014, he joined the cast of the television show *Metal Hurlant Chronicles* to play Holgarth, an immortal alchemist.^[7]

In 2015 he had a role in the single player campaign of the PC game *Star Citizen* alongside Mark Hamill and Gary Oldman.^[8] The work consists of full body Motion capture, including facial expressions and his voice and was recorded primarily at The Imaginarium Studios in the UK.^[9]

***The Lord of the Rings* trilogy**

He is also known for his popular portrayal of the dwarf Gimli in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The cinematography of the films was aided in that Rhys-Davies is tall – 6 ft 1 in (1.85 m), compared to the actors playing hobbits at around 5 ft 6 in (1.68 m).^[10] Therefore, although his character was supposed to be short, he was properly in proportion compared to the hobbit actors. Had he been of more similar height, shots of the entire fellowship would have required three camera passes rather than two.^[11]

Rhys-Davies is the only one of the nine Fellowship of the Ring actors who did not receive a tattoo of the word "nine" written in the Tengwar script; his stunt double, Brett Beattie, got the tattoo instead as Rhys-Davies was disinclined to get one himself.^[12] The other members of the cast—Sean Astin, Sean Bean, Billy Boyd, Ian McKellen, Dominic Monaghan, Orlando Bloom, Viggo Mortensen, and Elijah Wood—got the same tattoo.

Rhys-Davies suffered severe allergic reactions to the prosthetics used during filming, and his eyes sometimes swelled shut. When an interviewer asked him whether he would consider returning to the role for the film version of *The Hobbit*, he said, "I've already been asked and to be honest with you, I wouldn't. I have already completely ruled it out. There's a sentimental part of me that would love to be involved again. Really I am not

sure my face can take that sort of punishment any more." He added that this time around "They've got a different set of problems... because you've got 13 dwarves, a whole band of them... You're trying to represent a whole race... You're trying to do for dwarves what 'The Lord of the Rings' did for hobbits."

Voice work

In addition to voicing the Ent Treebeard in *Lord of the Rings*, Rhys-Davies has also lent his distinctive deep voice to many video games and animated television series, including the role of Hades in *Justice League* and numerous times in *Gargoyles* (1994–1996), as the character Macbeth. He also lent his vocal talents to the games *Freelancer* (as Richard Winston Tobias) and *Lords of Everquest* (both in 2003) and the game *Quest for Glory IV: Shadows of Darkness*, which was released with his narration on a CD-ROM version in 1995. He also had a voice role on *Baldur's Gate: Dark Alliance* as the character Jherek, and narrated a documentary called *The Glory of Macedonia*.

John Rhys-Davies' voice can be heard on the 2009 documentary *Reclaiming The Blade*.^[13] In the narration, Rhys-Davies explores swords, historical European swordsmanship and fight choreography on film, a topic very familiar to him from his experiences in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, where his character Gimli wielded an axe in many scenes.

In 2004, he was the unknowing subject of an internet prank that spread false rumours in several mainstream media sources that he was scheduled to play the role of General Grievous in *Star Wars Episode III*.^[14]

Rhys-Davies is the narrator of *The Truth & Life Dramatized audio New Testament Bible*, a 22-hour, celebrity-voiced, fully dramatised audiobook version of the New Testament which uses the Revised Standard Version-Catholic Edition translation. In 2011, he presented *KJB: The Book That Changed The World*, which features him reading diverse snippets from the King James Version.

John Rhys-Davies' voice work also includes voice over work (or voice acting) with *Breathe Bible*.^[15]

In 2016, he provided spoken words for *Voices of Fire*, the sixth album by a cappella power metal band van Canto.^[16]

Personal life

Rhys-Davies married Suzanne A. D. Wilkinson in December 1966. They had two boys, Tom and Ben. Although they separated in 1985, they remained married until her death, in 2010, from Alzheimer's. He remained close to her and took care of her until she died.^[17]

In 2004 he began living with Lisa Manning, and they have a daughter, Maia.^[17]

Political views

Rhys-Davies holds politically conservative views. As a university student in the 1960s, he had been a radical leftist, but changed his views when he went to heckle a young local member of parliament, Margaret Thatcher. Rhys-Davies says that "she shot down the first two hecklers in such brilliant fashion that I decided I ought for once to shut up and listen".^[18]

In 2004, Rhys-Davies stated the following in a controversial interview with a Welsh news website about the Muslim population, stating:

There is a demographic catastrophe happening in Europe that nobody wants to talk about, that we daren't bring up because we are so cagey about not offending people racially. And rightly we should be. But there is a cultural thing as well. By 2020, 50 per cent of the children in Holland under the age of 18 will be of Muslim descent.^[19]



Rhys-Davies in an autograph session in Sweden

His comments were endorsed by the British National Party.^{[20][21]} Rhys-Davies commented that the BNP was so insignificant in numbers that it "could do no harm" yet stating it was "distressing to find yourself on a BNP leaflet".^[19] He was also endorsed in a National Vanguard editorial.^[22] In

an interview with the conservative journal *National Review*, he clarified that he is opposed to Islamic extremism precisely because he feels that it violates the "Western values" of equality, democracy, tolerance, and the abolition of slavery.^[23]

Filmography

Film

Year	Film	Role	Notes
1973	<i><u>Penny Gold</u></i>	Rugby Player	
1974	<i><u>The Black Windmill</u></i>	Fake Military Policeman	Uncredited
1975	<i><u>The Naked Civil Servant</u></i>	Barndoor	
1979	<i><u>A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square</u></i>	Solicitor	
1981	<i><u>Raiders of the Lost Ark</u></i>	<u>Sallah</u>	
1982	<i><u>Best Revenge</u></i>	Mustapha	
1982	<i><u>Ivanhoe</u></i>	Front de Bœuf	
1982	<i><u>Victor Victoria</u></i>	Andre Cassell	
1982	<i><u>The Island of Adventure</u></i>	Smith	
1983	<i><u>Sahara</u></i>	Rasoul	
1983	<i><u>Sadat</u></i>	Gamal Abdel Nasser	
1984	<i><u>Sword of the Valiant</u></i>	Baron Fortinbras	
1984	<i><u>Kim</u></i>	Babu	
1985	<i><u>King Solomon's Mines</u></i>	Dogati	
1986	<i><u>Firewalker</u></i>	Corky Taylor	
1987	<i><u>The Living Daylights</u></i>	General Leonid Pushkin	
1988	<i><u>Waxwork</u></i>	Werewolf	
1989	<i><u>Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade</u></i>	Sallah	
1991	<i><u>The Unnamable Returns</u></i>		
1992	<i><u>The Double 0 Kid</u></i>	Rudi Von Kseenbaum	
1992	<i><u>The Lost World</u></i>	Challenger	
1992	<i><u>Return to the Lost World</u></i>	Challenger	
1993	<i><u>Sunset Grill</u></i>	Stockton	
1993	<i><u>Cyborg Cop</u></i>	Kessel	
1993	<i><u>The Seventh Coin</u></i>	Captain Galil	
1993	<i><u>The Unnamable II: The Statement</u></i>	Professor Warren	

Year	Film	Role	Notes
	<u>of Randolph Carter</u>		
1994	<u>The High Crusade</u>	Bruder Parvus	
1996	<u>The Great White Hype</u>	Johnny Windsor	
1996	<u>Glory Daze</u>	Luther	
1996	<u>Aladdin and the King of Thieves</u>	Cassim	Voice
1996	<u>Marquis de Sade</u>	Inspector Marais	
1997	<u>Cats Don't Dance</u>	Woolie Mammoth	Voice
1997	<u>Bloodsport III</u>	Jacques Duvalier	
1999	<u>Secret of the Andes</u>	Father Claver	
2000	<u>Britannic</u>	Captain Barrett	
2001	<u>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</u>	<u>Gimli</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phoenix Film Critics Society Award for Best Cast ▪ Nominated—<u>Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture</u>
2001	<u>Never Say Never Mind: The Swedish Bikini Team</u>	Hakim	
2002	<u>Sabretooth</u>	Anthony Bricklin	
2002	<u>The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers</u>	Gimli / Voice of <u>Treebeard</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phoenix Film Critics Society Award for Best Cast ▪ Nominated—<u>Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture</u>
2002	<u>Endangered Species</u>	Police Lt. Wyznowski	
2002	<u>Scorcher</u>	Dr. Matthew Sallin	
2003	<u>Coronado</u>	Presidente Hugo Luis Ramos	
2003	<u>The Jungle Book 2</u>	Ranjan's father	Voice
2003	<u>The Medallion</u>	Cmdr. Hammerstock-Smythe	
2003	<u>The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King</u>	Gimli / Voice of Treebeard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Broadcast Film Critics Association Award for Best Cast</u> ▪ <u>National Board of Review Award for Best Cast</u> ▪ <u>Online Film Critics Society Award for Best Cast</u> ▪ <u>Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture</u> ▪ Nominated—Phoenix Film Critics Society Award for Best Cast

Year	Film	Role	Notes
2004	<i><u>12 Days of Terror</u></i>	Captain	
2004	<i><u>The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement</u></i>	Viscount Mabrey	
2004	<i><u>La Femme Musketeer</u></i>	Porthos	
2004	<i><u>The Lost Angel</u></i>	Father Kevin	
2004	<i><u>The Privileged Planet</u></i>	Narrator	
2005	<i><u>The Game of Their Lives</u></i>	Bill Jeffrey	
2005	<i><u>Chupacabra: Dark Seas</u></i>	Captain Randolph	
2005	<i><u>The King Maker</u></i>	Phillippe	
2006	<i><u>One Night with the King</u></i>	Mordecai	
2006	<i><u>The Legend of Sasquatch</u></i>	Ranger Steve	Voice
2007	<i><u>In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale</u></i>	Merick	
2007	<i><u>The Ferryman</u></i>	The Greek	
2007	<i><u>Catching Kringle</u></i>	Santa	Voice
2009	<i><u>Reclaiming the Blade</u></i>	Narrator	
2009	<i><u>31 North 62 East</u></i>	John Hammond	
2010	<i><u>Medium Raw: Night of the Wolf</u></i>	Elliot Carbon	
2011	<i><u>KJB: The Book That Changed the World</u></i>		
2011	<i><u>Sophie and Sheba</u></i>		
2011	<i><u>Ferocious Planet</u></i>	Senator Jackson Crenshaw	
2012	<i><u>Escape</u></i>	Malcolm Andrews	
2013	<i><u>100 Degrees Below Zero</u></i>	Ralph Dillard	
2013	<i><u>Prisoners of the Sun</u></i>	Prof. Hayden Masterton	
2014	<i><u>Apocalypse Pompeii</u></i>	Colonel Dillard	
2014	<i><u>Saul: The Journey to Damascus</u></i>	Caiphas	
2015	<i><u>Beyond the Mask</u></i> ^[24]	Charles Kemp	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1974	<i><u>Fall of Eagles</u></i>	Zinoviev	
1975	<i><u>The Sweeney</u></i>	Ron Brett	Poppy (Season 2, episode 8)
1976	<i><u>I, Claudius</u></i>	<u>Macro</u>	Episodes 8 and 9
1977	<i><u>1990</u></i>	Ivor Griffith	Season 1, episode 3

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1980	<i><u>BBC Television Shakespeare</u></i>	Salervio	<i><u>The Merchant of Venice</u></i>
1980	<i><u>Shōgun</u></i>	Vasco Rodrigues	Miniseries Nominated— <u>Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or a Movie</u>
1982	<i><u>CHiPs</u></i>	Nakura	Season 5, episode 27
1982	<i><u>Ivanhoe</u></i>	Front-de-Boeuf	
1983	<i><u>Reilly, Ace of Spies</u></i>	Tanyatos	
1984	<i><u>Robin of Sherwood</u></i>	<u>King Richard</u>	Series 1, episode 6 "The King's Fool" ^[25]
1984	<i><u>Scarecrow and Mrs. King</u></i>	Lord Bromfield	Season 2, episode 8 "Affair at Bromfield Hall"
1987	<i><u>Marjorie and the Preacher Man</u></i> ^[26]	Seymour	Television Drama
1988	<i><u>Noble House</u></i>	Quillan Gornt	Miniseries
1988	<i><u>War and Remembrance</u></i>	Sammy Mutterperl	Miniseries
1989	<i><u>The Trial of the Incredible Hulk</u></i>	Wilson Fisk	TV film
1991	<i><u>Great Expectations</u></i>	Joe Gargery	
1991	<i><u>The Mystery of the Black Jungle</u></i>	O'Connor	Miniseries
1991	<i><u>Tales from the Crypt</u></i>	Duval	Season 3, episode 6
1992	<i><u>Batman: The Animated Series</u></i>	'Baron' Wacław Jozek	Season 1, episode 25
1992	<i><u>Archaeology</u></i> ^{[27][28]}	Himself	Voyages of the Vikings
1993–1994	<i><u>The Untouchables</u></i>	Agent Michael Malone	15 episodes
1994	<i><u>A Flintstones Christmas Carol</u></i>	Charles Brickens (voice)	Television special
1995–1997	<i><u>Sliders</u></i>	Prof. Maximilian Arturo	40 episodes
1995	<i><u>Fantastic Four</u></i>	<u>Thor</u>	2 episodes; Season 2, episodes 6 and 8
1996	<i><u>The Incredible Hulk</u></i>	<u>Thor</u>	Season 1, episode 9
1995-1996	<i><u>Gargoyles</u></i>	Macbeth (voice)	13 episodes
1996	<i><u>Boo to You Too! Winnie the Pooh</u></i>	Narrator	Halloween television special
1996	<i><u>Mortal Kombat: Defenders of the Realm</u></i>	Asgarth	
1997	<i><u>You Wish</u></i>	Madman Mustapha	3 episodes
1997	<i><u>Star Trek: Voyager</u></i>	<u>Leonardo da Vinci</u>	2 episodes
1999	<i><u>Au Pair</u></i>	Nigel Kent	Television film
2002	<i><u>Justice League</u></i>	<u>Hades</u>	Season 1, episodes 8 and 9
2002	<i><u>Fillmore!</u></i>	Lenny	Season 1, episode 8
2003	<i><u>Helen of Troy</u></i>	King Priam	Miniseries

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2004	<i><u>Dragon Storm</u></i>	King Fastrad	Television film
2005	<i><u>Revelations (Omnium Finis Imminet)</u></i>	Professor Jonah Lampley	Miniseries
2008	<i><u>Anaconda 3: Offspring</u></i>	J.D. Murdoch	Television film
2008	<i><u>Fire & Ice: The Dragon Chronicles</u></i>	Sangimel	Television film
2009	<i><u>Dark Days in Monkey City</u></i>	Narrator	3 episodes
2009	<i><u>Anacondas: Trail of Blood</u></i>	J.D. Murdoch	Television film
2009	<i><u>Kröd Mändoon and the Flaming Sword of Fire</u></i>	Grimshank	3 episodes
2010	<i><u>Legend of the Seeker</u></i>	Horace	Season 2, episode 17
2010	<i><u>Three Wise Women</u></i>	Archangel Green	
2012	<i><u>Psych</u></i>	Museum Curator	Season 6, episode 10
2014	<i><u>Let The Season In</u></i>	Narrator	Mormon Tabernacle Choir Christmas Concert Special (filmed 2013)
2014	<i><u>Once Upon a Time</u></i>	Grand Pabbie	Voice / Season 4, Episodes 1, 6, 7
2015	<i><u>Killing Jesus</u></i>	<u>Annas</u>	
2015	<i><u>The Adventures of Puss in Boots</u></i>	Goodsword	Season 1, episode 10
2016	<i><u>The Shannara Chronicles</u></i>	Eventine Elesedil	Regular
2016	<i><u>The Lion Guard</u></i>	King Sokwe (voice)	Episode: "The Lost Gorillas"

Video games

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1993	<i><u>Quest for Glory: Shadows of Darkness</u></i>	Narrator	Voice
1994	<i><u>Wing Commander III: Heart of the Tiger</u></i>	Gen. James 'Paladin' Taggart / Prince Thrakhath nar Kiranka	Voice
1996	<i><u>Wing Commander IV: The Price of Freedom</u></i>	Senator James 'Paladin' Taggart	Voice
1996	<i><u>Ripper</u></i>	Vigo Haman	Actor
1998	<i><u>Dune 2000</u></i>	Noree Moneo	Actor
2003	<i><u>Freelancer</u></i>	Richard Winston Tobias	Voice
2015	<i><u>Lego Dimensions</u></i>	<u>Gimli</u>	Voice
2016	<i><u>Star Citizen</u></i>	Graves	Voice

Audio books

- *Sir Malcolm and the Missing Prince*
- *The Trials of Saint Patrick*

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External links

- [John Rhys-Davies \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0722636/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0722636/) at [IMDb](#)
- Article about controversial statements (http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=13830081%26method=full%26siteid=50082%26page=1%26headline=welsh%2dstar%2din%2drace%2drow-name_page.html) 18 January 2004
- Andrew Leigh, "No Sean Penn (<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/209781/no-sean-penn/andrew-leigh>)". *National Review*. 5 March 2004.

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