



Karen David

⚠ This is an **old revision** of this page, as edited by **NihlusBOT** (talk | contribs) at 03:20, 12 October 2017 (→*top*: removing deprecated {{Infobox musical artist}} parameters (Task 4)). The present address (URL) is a **permanent link** to this revision, which may differ significantly from the **current revision**.

Karen Shenaz David^[1] (born 15 April 1979^{[2][3]} or 1980)^[4] (sources differ) is an Indian-Canadian actress, singer and songwriter, who is best known for portraying Princess Isabella Maria Lucia Elizabetta of Valencia in ABC's fairytale-themed musical-comedy television series, *Galavant*, as well as Francesca "Cesca" Montoya in the BBC television series *Waterloo Road*, and Layla in the American action film *The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior*. She starred as Angela in the ITV television series *Cold Feet* and plays Princess Jasmine (from *Aladdin*) in the American television series *Once Upon a Time*.

David also starred in *Pixelface*, a CBBC children's television series, where she plays Alexia, the glamorous legend hunter.

Early life

David was born in Shillong, Meghalaya, India,^[5] of what she calls "Chinese, Khasi and a sliver of Jewish heritage".^[6] Her father is Indian Jewish and her mother is Khasi and half Chinese.^[7] She was raised in Canada and then at age 17, David moved to London to study at the Guildford School of Acting.^[6]

Career

Acting

Upon finishing drama school, David joined the original cast of the West End musical *Mamma Mia!*. She made her professional acting debut as part of the ensemble and as understudy of Ali and Lisa. A. R. Rahman, who had been invited to see the show by the director Shekhar Kapur, asked David to assist him and Don Black in the

Karen David



Background information

Birth name	Karen Shenaz David
Born	April 15, 1979 or April 15, 1980 <div>Shillong, Meghalaya, India</div>
Genres	Pop
Occupation(s)	Actress, singer, songwriter
Instrument(s)	Vocals
Years active	1999–present
Labels	AWAL
Website	karendavid.com (http://karendavid.com)

development of the material for the Bollywood-themed musical *Bombay Dreams*. She performed songs on the show's US and Canada tour, and continued collaborating with Rahman at his *Panchathan Record Inn* and *AM Studios* in *Chennai*, India.^[8]

She appeared in two short television videos, *Dancers: The Trailer* (2002), playing the role of Jenny, and *The Paper Round* (2002), playing the role of a policewoman. She then landed a role in the musical *Bollywood Queen* (2003), as a member of the R&B band at the story's center.^{[9][10]} Through 2004 and 2005, she played Scarlet in *MTV's Top Buzzer*.

David played Lyla, a main character in the London-based film *Take 3 Girls* (2006). Other work during this time includes *Steven Seagal's Flight of Fury* (2007) as Barnes' Operational Soldier Flanders, *The Colour of Magic* (2008) as Liessa, the Dragonlady, and *The Legend of Dick and Dom* (2009) as Fairy Frampton. David appeared as the female lead, Layla, in *The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior* (2008), filmed in Cape Town, South Africa.^{[11][12][13][14]}



David at the 2017 *Phoenix Comicon* to promote *Once Upon a Time*

In September 2010, David played the Spanish teacher, Francesca "Cesca" Montoya, in series six of *BBC One's* drama, *Waterloo Road*. While *Waterloo Road* was still airing, David landed the role of legend hunter Alexia Alderton in *Pixelface*, a *CBBC* children's comedy series about six video game characters and what they do when they are not inside their games. The second series aired on 3 January 2012.^[15]

David appeared on American television with a guest role on the *Fox* series *Touch* in 2012, playing Kayla Graham. On the episode she performed the song "Three Little Birds", which was then released as a soundtrack single with *Wendy & Lisa* by 20th Century Fox TV Records on 28 February 2012.^[16]

In February 2013, David appeared in the two-part episode "Target" of the *ABC* TV series *Castle*, in the USA. David played Sara El-Masri, daughter of Egyptian tycoon, Anwar El-Masri.^[17] Whilst filming these episodes, David and a stuntman were injured when the door to the moving van they were in failed to close properly. David was placed in a neck brace, while the stuntman sustained serious head injuries.^{[18][19]}

David has reappeared on US televisions, as "*Princess Isabella Maria Lucia Elizabetta of Valencia*", in the *ABC* television series *Galavant*, which premiered on 4 January 2015, for a four-week extravaganza.^[17]

Music

David released her first single, "It's Me (You're Talking To)", in 2003, when she was signed to *BMG Music*. This single was a top 10 *airplay* hit in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.^[20]

She collaborated with *A. R. Rahman* on the main theme song for the film *Provoked* in 2006. After working alongside Rahman to produce the soundtrack for this movie, she found herself back with him in his Chennai studio, in 2007, to write and record the song, "Alive".^[21] The following year she released her first EP, *The Live Sessions EP*.^[22] In 2009 she released her next EP, *Magic Carpet Ride*.^[23]

In May 2010, David released the single "Hypnotize", along with three mixes and a *Hypnotize Desi Mix* EP.^[24] The following year she released the album *The Girl in the Pink Glasses*. 20th Century Fox TV Records released "Three Little Birds", as sung by Kayla Graham (David), on *Touch*, on 28 February 2012.

In 2013 David released the EP *Dust to Stars*, on which she collaborated with songwriter-producers, Stefan Skarbek, Carl Ryden, Boots Ottestad, Adam Argyle and Martin Brammer.^[25]

Charity work

David is active in Designers Against Aids,^[26] the SOS Children's Villages Foundation,^[27] and Breast cancer awareness, for which she did a fundraiser fashion show for London Fashion Week at The Dorchester Hotel.

She produced a T-shirt to raise money for ActionAid's PoverTee Day, which was auctioned off on 18 June 2010.^[28] In December 2010, David released a charity Christmas EP, *My Christmas List*, to raise money for the housing and homelessness charity Shelter.^[29]

Along with others, David painted a self-portrait to help raise funds for *Face Britain*, a project of The Prince's Trust Foundation.^[30]

Personal life

In mid-2013, she married Swedish songwriter and music producer Carl Ryden at La Venta Inn in Palos Verdes, California.^[31]

Filmography

Film^[32]

Year	Title	Role
2016	<i><u>The Tiger Hunter</u></i>	Ruby Iqbal
2015	<i><u>Amar, Akbar & Tony</u></i>	Meera
2014	<i><u>Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit</u></i>	Penn
2012	<i><u>Red Lights</u></i>	Dana
2009	<i><u>Couples Retreat</u></i>	Spa Attendant
2008	<i><u>The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior</u></i>	Layla
	<i><u>The Colour of Magic</u></i>	Liessa
2007	<i><u>Flight of Fury</u></i>	Barnes's Operational Soldier Flanders
2006	<i><u>Take 3 Girls</u></i>	Lyla
	<i><u>Provoked</u></i>	Asha
2005	<i><u>Batman Begins</u></i>	Courthouse Reporter No. 1
2003	<i><u>Bollywood Queen</u></i>	Neeta

Television^[32]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2016	<i><u>Cold Feet</u></i>	Angela Zubayr	
2016-17	<i><u>Once Upon a Time</u></i>	Princess Jasmine ^[33]	Recurring (9 episodes)
2015-16	<i><u>Galavant</u></i>	Princess Isabella	Series regular
2013	<i><u>Castle</u></i>	Sara El-Masri	2 episodes: "Target" (season 5: episode 15) "Hunt" (season 5: episode 16)
2012	<i><u>Touch</u></i>	Kayla Graham	1 episode
2011–12	<i><u>Pixelface</u></i>	Alexia	Main role, 26 episodes
2011	<i><u>Strike Back: Project Dawn</u></i>	Barmaid	2 episodes: "Project Dawn #1" (season 2: episode 1) "Project Dawn #2" (season 2: episode 2)
2010–11	<i><u>Waterloo Road</u></i>	Francesca "Cesca" Montoya	Regular role, 20 episodes
2009	<i><u>The Legend of Dick and Dom</u></i>	Fairy Frampton	1 episode
2004	<i><u>Top Buzzer</u></i>	Scarlet	1 episode
2003	<i><u>Holby City</u></i>	Eve Hotton	1 episode

TV/Video shorts

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2002	<i><u>Dancers: The Trailer</u></i>	Jenny	
	<i><u>The Paper Round</u></i>	Police Woman	

Other

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2008	<i>The Making of The Scorpion King 2: The Rise of a Warrior (video documentary short)</i>	Herself	
2005	<i>Eureka (commercial)</i>	Police Woman	
2003	<i>The Making of Bollywood Queen (video documentary)</i>	Herself	

Music videos and live performances

Music videos

Date	Song Title
Aug 2013	Dust to Stars (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MPSaSRwkFk) on YouTube
July 2013	Daydreamer (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrDy9JE55Zw) on YouTube
Jun 2011	Superheroes (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWHvJPqpsLM) on YouTube
Apr 2010	Hypnotize (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2pRdQatzSI) on YouTube
Jun 2009	Magic Carpet Ride (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W29VvYBNnc4) on YouTube
Jun 2007	Alive (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChhMsDxDUck) on YouTube
2003	It's Me (You're Talking To) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_XSJNuxs5Y) on YouTube
2000	Higher and Higher (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imbjqcyG6ok) on YouTube

Remixes/radio edits

Year	Song Title
Sep 2010	Hypnotize : The Almighty Mix (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiqIU0U2VzQ) on YouTube
Sep 2010	Hypnotize : The Definitive Radio Mix (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Omfb_rMGyk) on YouTube
Jul 2009	Magic Carpet Ride : Flavasia Desi Mix (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv_7ovkLN-M) on YouTube
Jul 2009	Magic Carpet Ride : Radio edit (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2DkMuGmYtg) on YouTube

Live performances

Date	Song Title	Location
23 August 2013	Superheroes (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJPURVNpUfg) on YouTube	St Pancras Old Church
23 August 2013	Kaleidoscope (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqlzm03b_j0) on YouTube	St Pancras Old Church
23 August 2013	Heartstrings (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQGBILLIXRg) on YouTube	St Pancras Old Church

23 August 2013	Connected (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q57D6JFwTz8) on YouTube	St Pancras Old Church
23 August 2013	Dust to Stars (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKC-xY8ZwZo) on YouTube	St Pancras Old Church
7 June 2011	Superheroes (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjvI4uAoyHA) on YouTube	Soho Theatre London
7 June 2011	Slow Motion (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmUeKfYaDDw) on YouTube	Soho Theatre London
7 June 2011	Pinky Square (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BLI-8uZtx8) on YouTube	Soho Theatre London
7 June 2011	Tom, Dick or Harry (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw1adW7IMfA) on YouTube	Soho Theatre London
7 June 2011	Chinese Whispers (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLaa6KbsRCK) on YouTube	Soho Theatre London
31 March 2011	Superheroes	The London Canal Cafe
30 November 2010	Pink Glasses (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSOSOHR7K50) on YouTube	Rich Mix London
30 November 2010	Hypnotize (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2fEMSbPZBc) on YouTube	Rich Mix London
30 May 2010	Hypnotize	Indig02 Arena
1 June 2008	Pink Glasses (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meH5xS_NFWw) on YouTube	Wychwood Festival
Jan 2008	Magic Carpet Ride (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2EX0cEMaJw) on YouTube	Royal Festival Hall

Behind-the-scenes

Date	Song Title
Feb 2012	Touch – "Three Little Birds" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yz2HFwRJt_Y) on YouTube
Dec 2010	Silent Night (ft. Navin Kundra) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72o5qQ664Ng) on YouTube
Dec 2010	Baby It's Cold Outside (ft. Philip Martin Brown) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftk5BgBqn94) on YouTube
Apr 2010	Hypnotize (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiTQTt4A5yE) on YouTube
May 2009	Magic Carpet Ride (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjd62KC_tiY) on YouTube
Mar 2009	The Chennai Sessions (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WQoeRnJ3Ow) on YouTube

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.karendavid.com>)
- Karen David (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1314042/>) at IMDb
- Etobicoke Guardian Interview (<http://www.insidetoronto.com/news/local/article/53263--etobicoke-actress-singer-karen-david-adds-to-accomplishments>)

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