

# **Dame Agatha Christie 1890-1976**



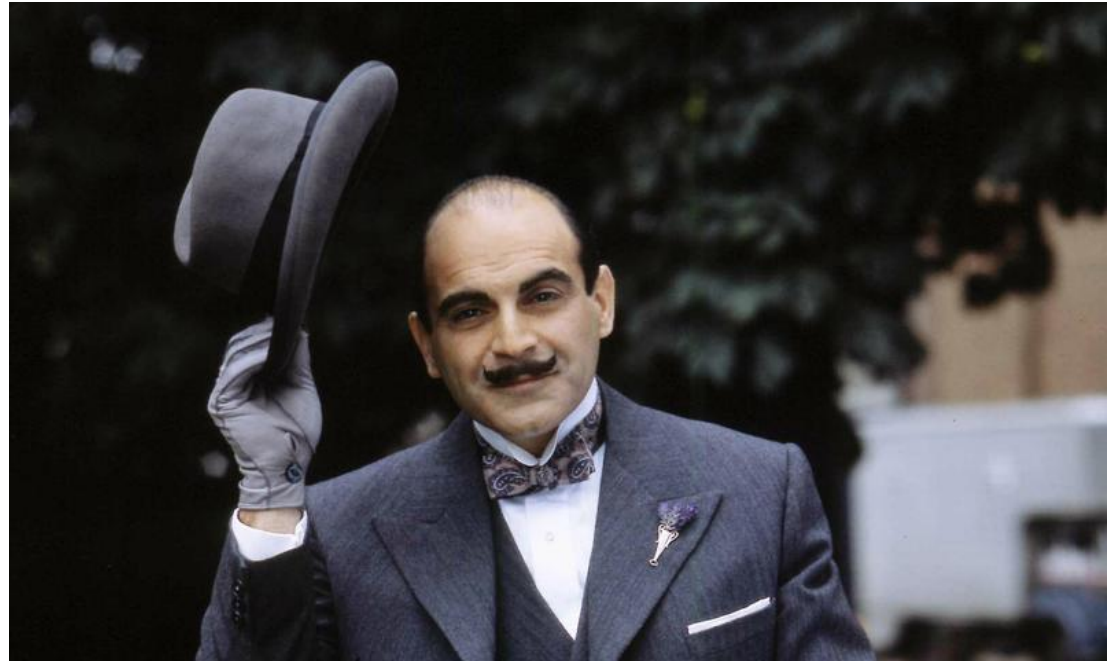
15 September 2020 marked 130 years since **Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie** (née Miller) was born.

Agatha  
Christie®

She was an English writer known for her sixty-six detective novels and fourteen short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*, which was performed in the West End from 1952 to 2020, as well as six novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. In 1971, she was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for her contributions to literature. *Guinness World Records* lists Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, her novels having sold more than two billion copies.

Many of us love Agatha Christie's murder mystery stories – if we haven't read her books then we are at least familiar with the film or TV adaptations of her novels.

Who wouldn't recognise David Suchet's interpretation of the famous Belgian? He is described in writing as having an egg-shaped head, often tilted to one side, and eyes that shine green when he's excited. He dresses very precisely, and takes the utmost pride in his appearance.



Many people imagine Agatha Christie as a sweet old lady writing books about people poisoning others at cocktail parties; but there is more to her than meets the eye.

**Agatha Christie was ahead of her time. She was:**

**A single mum.** Her first husband left her for someone else, leaving her with their daughter to raise and support.

**A girl who could surf!** On a round the world trip with her first husband Archie, she learned to surf in Hawaii, making her one of the first British women to stand on a surfboard.

**A record breaker.** She wrote the longest running show, of any kind, in the world. *The Mousetrap* has been running continuously since 1952.

**Not held back by social norms.** When Agatha was 40 she married 26-year-old Max Mallowan, a dashing archaeologist.

**Independent & strong-willed.** She went to work with her second husband Max on his archaeological digs in Syria and wrote a book about it. *Come Tell Me How You Live* is a brilliant, funny insight into a marriage of equals in the 1930s. Both her publisher and an expert from The British Museum told her not to publish the book. She ignored them.

*With her daughter Rosalind*



*With Max Mallowan*

