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# TV LEGEND DAVID JASON TALKS TO **THE Sun**

ONE DEL OF A GUY . . . Sir David Jason

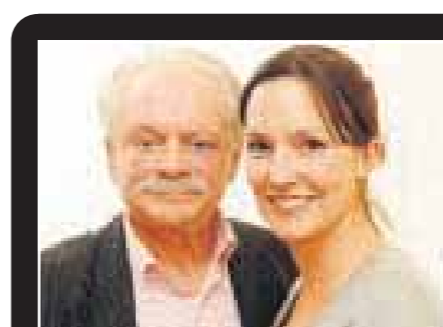
## My daughter sort of knows I'm famous. It doesn't mean much to her which is lovely



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**FOR A fiercely private star such as Sir David Jason, walking up the red carpet with flashbulbs popping all around is not an event to relish.**

But at the premiere of his latest drama, an adaptation of Terry Pratchett's novel *The Colour Of Magic*, he could not help beaming with pride. For by his side was beloved seven-year-old daughter Sophie Mae, and in a rare interview David says: "She is a little darling and it's lovely that



By **EMMA COX**  
TV Features Editor

she's getting to the age where my wife and I can take her out with us and is becoming a proper little lady.

"We took her to the premiere of *The Colour Of Magic* because we wanted to teach her about coming out and behaving, and she certainly did behave beautifully.

"She doesn't like the red carpet, mind you. We've only been down one together once before, when we went to the first night of *Cirque Du Soleil*.

"It was a great show but we hadn't really warned her about the red carpet - we just didn't think about it.

"There were tons of photographers, all shouting for me to pose, and she'd never seen that before.

"By the time we got half-way along, what with everyone shouting and the flashes of the cameras, she got really quite upset.

"She thought it was angry shouting, which she isn't used to at all, rather than shouting for my attention. She sort of

knows I'm famous, but it doesn't worry her - she doesn't boast about it, or try to get any perks out of it. It doesn't really mean much to her, which is lovely."

David, 68, is famously publicity-shy and is reluctant to talk too much about his private life with wife Gill Hinchliffe. But his eyes light up when we discuss Sophie, and his relationship with Gill is obviously secure and close. She rings during our interview and he jokes: "I'll just tell the journalist to put her clothes on then we'll come down and meet you."

David is fiercely protective of Sophie, especially when it comes to keeping an eye on what she watches on the box.

He says: "She loves things like *Doctor Who*, *Robin Hood* and *Primeval* - proper family entertainment, which I'm happy for her to watch.

**"The first time we saw *Doctor Who* I thought she'd go potty and I was ready with the remote to turn it off. But she really enjoyed it.**

"When I was a boy those monsters seemed terrifying but even though they're much more realistic these days she seems to take it all in her stride."

If anybody should know about what makes good family viewing it's David - star of *Only Fools And Horses*, *A Touch Of Frost*, *Darling Buds Of May* and *Open All Hours*, to name but a few.

I suggest it must be Derek "Del Boy" Trotter, the wheeler dealer from *Only Fools*, which gets him recognised most by fans.

David says: "Actually, these days it's equal between two, Del and Frost. I'm quite happy to be recognised as either, as I'm proud of both those characters."

"The thing about *Fools And Horses*, which I wasn't aware of until recently, is that it's constantly on. It's on UKTV Gold all the time. What have we spawned? No wonder I can't get away from it!"

"But it's reaching new generations, which is rather wonderful. "People come up and say, 'My eight-year-old loves *Del Boy*,' and they weren't even

alive when I was doing it, so that's a really good thing."

The hardy star amazingly agreed to do nearly all his own stunts as wizard Rincewind in Sky One's *The Colour Of Magic* - although he confesses there were moments when he wondered why he wasn't taking it easy like other actors of his age.

He says: "I must admit, there were times when I was hanging upside down for the tenth time that day with a harness digging into my crotch and I thought, 'What the bloody hell am I doing up here? Where's my contract? Get me a stuntman!'"

"In another scene I spent the day in a water tank at Pinewood Studios, in freezing bloody water straight out the tap, getting more and more depressed. It was just so uncomfortable and miserable."

"Unfortunately British TV is not the same as a Tom Cruise film where they have millions of dollars and can afford to stop for a few days while he goes for a wash down with a wet lettuce or something."

"But I'm very pleased with the end product and you can't pick and choose - you can't have all the champagne and caviar and not do any of the hard work."

"I suppose there must come a time, and I hope someone will tell me, when enough is enough and you think you shouldn't do it any more. At the moment I'm not there yet."

"So long as I can keep up the standard I'll carry on. But once I stop getting decent scripts or my age beats me, then, well, you've got to give up."

So down to the million-dollar question - will we ever see him reunited with *Only Fools* writer John Sullivan to reprise his role as Del Boy?

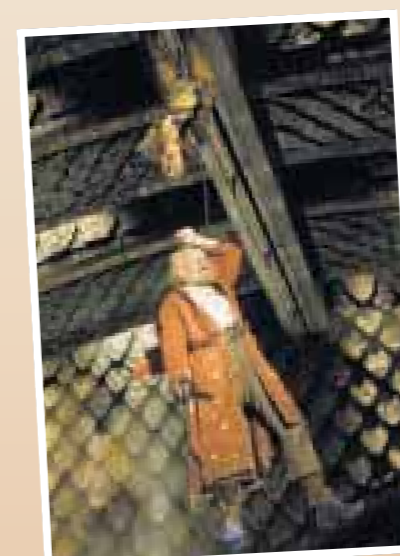
David says: "Christ, that's difficult. Where could we go with it? I don't know."

"I've fallen out of touch with John a bit recently, mainly because I've been working all year and I get very little opportunity to catch up with old friends."

"I've got some down time soon so I must try to see him and maybe we'll talk about it. Never say never, that's all I can say."

● *The Colour Of Magic* is on Sky One on Easter Sunday and Monday at 6pm.

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A TOUCH OF MAGIC . . . Sir David as wizard Rincewind in Terry Pratchett's *The Colour Of Magic*

Picture: ROGER CRUMP

DARLING BUD . . . Sir David's daughter Sophie Mae