

Biographies

Griff Rhys Jones



Griff Rhys Jones is best known for his work with the BBC, most notably for *Book Worm* and the comedy sketch shows *Not The Nine O'Clock News* and *Alas Smith And Jones*. He is a prolific actor and writer and has recently been concentrating on radio work, with one of his shows, BBC Radio 4's *Do Go On*, picking up a Sony award.

Griff's other film work includes roles in *Puckoon* and *Wilt*, for which he won Top Comedy Actor at the British Comedy Awards in 1990. Griff has also scooped an Emmy Award for *Alas Smith And Jones*, and has been awarded two Olivier awards for his roles in *An Absolute Turkey* and *Charlie's Aunt*.

He was heavily involved in restoring the legendary Hackney Empire, which re-opened in January this year after a massive overhaul of the theatre by Tim Ronald's Architects. Griff led the Hackney Empire Appeal Campaign, which raised £17m and led to a major

programme of redevelopment and extensive restoration of the facilities, while preserving the original features that made it one of the most popular venues in London.

Griff has written a book called *To The Baltic With Bob*, about a sailing journey to Russia in a small boat, which was published by Penguin last year. The paperback edition will be released in November 2004.

He has recently finished filming *Mine All Mine*, a comedy-drama for ITV which will transmit in October 2004.

Ptolemy Dean

BSC (Hons) DipArch (Edin) RIBA, AABC



Ptolemy Dean is an architect who specialises in the repair of historic buildings and the design of new buildings in sensitive sites. Having worked since qualification in 1992 for a number of specialist firms, Ptolemy plans to set up his own practice, Ptolemy Dean Architects, in 2004.

After leaving Edinburgh University, Ptolemy Dean won an ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) scholarship to document mud adobe structures in New Mexico and Arizona. He then worked for Peter Inskip and Peter Jenkins Architects on a variety of Grade I listed buildings, including Stowe, Chastleton and Waddesdon Manor.

In 1993 he was one of the SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) Lethaby Scholars, studying active repair methods on some of the country's most prestigious sites. The final three-month section of this was spent researching the country houses of Sir John Soane. A fellowship to research the "minor" country works of Sir John Soane followed, carried out concurrently with work for Whitfield Partners on the new Mappa Mundi entitled Soane Revisited and the publication of a book on Soane's country practice.

In 1997 he attended the Attingham Summer School for the study of the English Country House. He joined Richard Griffiths Architects in 1994 and was made an Associate in 1997. He has been responsible for the £5m Millennium project at Southwark Cathedral, involving the building's cleaning and floodlighting. This project has won eight awards, including those from the RIBA and Civic Trust.

At present, Ptolemy enjoys a mix of projects including repairs and alterations at Malmesbury Abbey, St James's Piccadilly and the Parish Churches of Devizes and Farnham. On the secular side, he is working on a number of country houses in Kent, Sussex, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. He is the design consultant for the First Citizens Bank in North Carolina.

He currently serves on the Salisbury Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee, The London Advisory Committee of English Heritage and is a Trustee of the Borough Market in Southwark.

Marianne Suhr



Marianne's interest in historic buildings started early in life and in 1993 she attained a First Class Honours Degree in Building Surveying. Her first job was as a Clerk of Works for the National Trust, overseeing a large repair project to an historic house in South Wales.

In 1995, Marianne spent a year following a scholarship with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), gaining practical experience for the repair of historic structures. She used this knowledge to tour universities, lecturing to undergraduate building surveyors. Following the scholarship, she spent a year working on site to consolidate her knowledge and gain further practical experience. This included stone conservation work to Salisbury Cathedral and a six-month stint as a "mud mason", repairing earth buildings in the East Midlands.

Marianne finally took a desk job as a Chartered Building Surveyor, first with Ferguson Mann Architects, then with Architecton (both Bristol-based), surveying historic buildings and designing repair schemes.



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Over recent years she has worked on many churches and several English Heritage sites. Marianne has also written conservation plans for sites such as Avebury and Cardiff Castle.

In 2002, Marianne returned to hands-on work and is currently repairing a derelict farmhouse in Leicestershire. She continues to work part-time for the SPAB, running workshops around the country. She teaches builders, homeowners and architects how to repair old buildings properly, and campaigns against the use of cement on historic structures. Marianne is also involved in various campaigns to attract young people into the building trades and improve standards within the industry.

Marianne's love of mud and lime in repair and in new buildings continues unabated.