
AGATHA CHRISTIE

CLOSE UP

Featuring Agatha Christie, Margaret Lockwood and Richard Attenborough

17th NOVEMBER 2016 • £13.25 • DOUBLE CD or available as download • 2 hour duration

A fascinating collection of archive radio programmes focusing on the life and work of crime fiction's grande dame and featuring Agatha Christie in her own words.



It is 100 years since Dame Agatha Christie published her first novel and created one of literature's greatest sleuths, Hercule Poirot. Christie published 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections in her lifetime, but to the public she remained an enigmatic figure. This quartet of BBC radio programmes looks at the woman behind the books, and explores the career of one of Britain's most famous mystery writers.

Agatha Christie in Close-Up (1955) tells the story of the celebrated author, with contributions from Richard Attenborough, Allen Lane, Margaret Lockwood and Peter Saunders; while in *The Mysterious Dame Agatha* (1975), Cliff Michelmore presents an 85th birthday tribute with Peter Saunders, Nigel Stock and Julian Symons.

Women of Mystery: Queen of Crime (1982) sees Jessica Mann investigating women crime writers and Christie in particular; and in *Agatha Christie: Speaking Her Own Words* (2015), we hear specially selected excerpts from the initial, dictated version of Christie's autobiography. Recorded in 1965, these unedited personal tapes were discovered by her grandson Matthew Prichard, who introduces the programme.

Featuring the voices of fellow writers, friends, family and the Queen of Crime herself, this wide-ranging collection sheds new light on the bestselling novelist of all time.

ABOUT AGATHA CHRISTIE:

Agatha Christie, the acknowledged 'Queen of Detective Fiction' (*Observer*), was born in Torquay in 1890. During the first world war she worked as a hospital dispenser and it was here that she gleaned the working knowledge of various poisons that was to prove so useful in her detective stories. The brilliance of Christie's plots, and her enduring appeal, have led to a number of dramatisations of her work on radio, television and film. Actors such as June Whitfield, John Moffat, Peter Ustinov, David Suchet, Margaret Rutherford, Joan Hickson, Geraldine McEwen and Julia McKenzie have all memorably played Agatha Christie's famous sleuths.

As her play, *The Mousetrap* (the longest-running play in the history of the theatre) testifies, Agatha Christie's detective stories are likely to appeal for many years to come. Agatha Christie was awarded a CBE in 1956 and was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1971. She died in 1976.

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