

Victoria Wood

National treasure, comedienne, actress, musician and writer; entertaining us for more than 30 years, Victoria Wood graduated from Birmingham in 1974 with a BA in Drama.

Why she is outstanding

Victoria's career took off in 1974 when still a Drama student at Birmingham; she appeared on the TV talent show *New Faces* and won. Since then her career has centered around stand-up comedy, branching out into films, sit-com, directing and producing. She has worked with the brilliant Julie Walters on and off since 1978. and their latest project was the 2009 BBC One special, "Victoria Wood's Midlife Christmas".

The multi-talented creator of the sitcom *dinnerladies* and *Acorn Antiques* – the musical!, a spin off from the much loved spoof, has also written two serious dramas, *Pat and Margaret* in 1994, and *Housewife 49* in 2006. The latter was based on the *Mass Observation* diaries of Nella Last, and won 2 BAFTAs, one for best screenplay and one for Wood as Best Actress.

She was awarded an OBE in the 1997 Queen's Honours List and the CBE in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honors List for her services to drama. Her work has been laden with other awards including the 2005 British Comedy Award for Outstanding Contribution to Comedy.

She is one of the most popular entertainers in Britain.

Did you know?

In the early 1980s, she was one of the presenters of *Insight*, Yorkshire TV's schools programme for hearing-impaired children.