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## Drama Faces

Discover more about the stars of BBC Drama.



### Martin Shaw

Martin was born to act, making his first stage appearance alongside his parents at the age of 3. After drama school and a successful spell in theatre, he secured his first major TV role in *Coronation Street*, hit the big time in *The Professionals* and the rest, as they say, is history.

**[Are you a Martin Shaw professional? Find out!](#)**

#### What's he been in?

- After his 1967 TV debut as hippy student, Robert Croft, in *Coronation Street*, Martin secured a steady stream of parts before being catapulted to international stardom as Ray Doyle in *The Professionals* (below), working alongside Lewis Collins and Gordon Jackson. He has always disliked the violent police series and his role in it, despite the fame it brought him.



- In the 1980s, Martin spent most of his working time in the theatre. After drama school in the 60s, he took key roles in the first revival of *Look Back in Anger* and in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. His roles in the 80s included Elvis Presley in the critically-acclaimed *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* written by Alan Bleasdale which examined the final 24 hours of The King's life. He won a New York Drama Desk Critic's Award for his performance as Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband* on Broadway.



- He returned to TV in the 1990s, taking the title roles in police series *The Chief* and in the eight-hour *Rhodes* (above), one of the BBC's most ambitious series ever. He also starred as Robert Scott in *The Place on Earth* and as Chauvelin in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. He's recently been on our screens in ITV1's

#### BBCi Martin Shaw Links

[Judge John Deed](#) website

[The Professionals](#) on h2g2

#### More Martin Shaw Links

[Martin's biography on the Theatre, Musicals and Actors Web](#)

[Martin's biography on a website for The Professionals](#)

[Internet Movie Database: Martin Shaw filmography](#)

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medical drama, *A&E* and reprises his role of courtroom maverick *Judge John Deed* (below) in its second series.



- Martin took his first film role in 1966 as an Irish Communist in *Love on the Dole*. He's also appeared in Roman Polanski's version of *Macbeth* as Banquo, *Operation Daybreak*, *Facelift*, *Cassidy* and *Ladder of Swords*.

- Martin's narrated many audiobooks including Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and *The Silmarillion*, *Gulliver's Travels* and *Wuthering Heights*.

### Did you know?

- Martin's the son of an engineer and a champion ballroom-dancer. He hated school and only enjoyed English literature and drama lessons. He worked in the sales office of a chemical company before successfully auditioning for LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts).
- He lives in a Quaker House in Norfolk once owned by an ancestor of Abraham Lincoln. He also owns a crofter's cottage in Scotland.
- The scar on Martin's right cheek was the result of a vicious attack by muggers. His cheekbone had to be replaced by a plastic plate. He gave up alcohol after this attack and is also a strict vegetarian and a non-smoker.
- Martin has a private pilot's licence and owns a Boeing Stearman, a vintage bi-plane. He also has a motorbike licence and enjoys rock-climbing, playing football, horse-riding and yoga.

### Personal Details

- Martin was born on 21st January 1945 in Birmingham.
- Martin's been married and divorced twice and has three children by his first wife, Jill Allen, including son Joe who played a younger version of Martin's eponymous character in *Rhodes*. Sophie and Luke are also actors. Martin's now married to TV presenter, Vicky Kimm, who shares his love of flying.

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