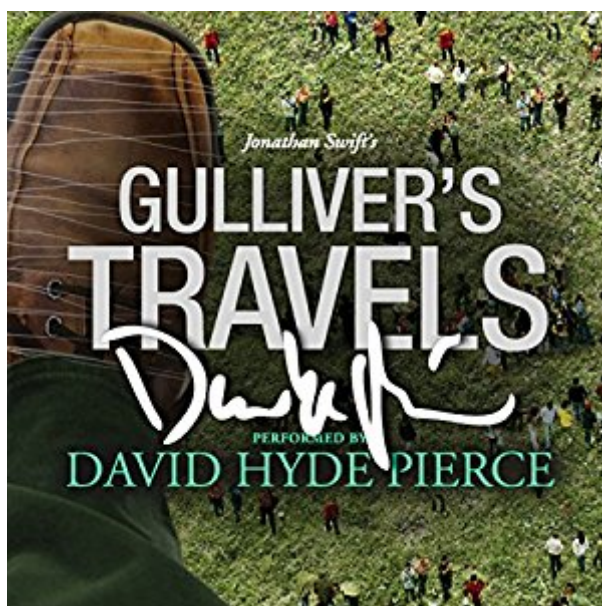


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Gulliver's Travels: A Signature Performance By David Hyde Pierce



Synopsis

Four-time Emmy Award winner David Hyde Pierce is famous for playing the lovably self-important Dr. Niles Crane in the hit TV series *Frasier*. Now, he brings the same wit and charming arrogance to his Signature Classics performance of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. More than just a mock travel book and fabulous adventure, *Gulliver's Travels* is a character study and social satire that skewers politics, science, religion, philosophy, and pretentiousness with a bite and resonance that remains as fresh today as the day it was published. Maybe that's why it hasn't been out of print in nearly 300 years. Set sail with David Hyde Pierce for a smart, fun, new *Gulliver's Travels* experience that's unlike any other. And stay tuned for more one-of-a-kind performances from actors Leelee Sobiesky, Casey Affleck, Tim Curry, and more, only from Audible Signature Classics.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours 52 minutes

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Audible.com Release Date: December 14, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Customer Reviews

It is said of certain classics that one should read them at least three times over the span of one's life. *GULLIVER'S TRAVELS* is certainly among these immortal works, and I was delighted to return to Swift's masterpiece after more than forty years. Lacking the time to re-read the work in its entirety, I was content merely to listen to an eloquent delivery by David Hyde Pierce -- one that definitely did justice to the text. I must confess that this marked my first exposure (ever) to an audiobook (in whatever format), and I still miss the tactile sensation of turning pages. However, I might submit the same reservation about the books I read on my Kindle, as opposed to those I take off the shelf. That much said, the initial experience has proven most satisfactory. While it took me a

short while to get accustomed to Pierce's voice, I soon made adjustment and found myself both enthralled and entranced as Gulliver worked his way through the four voyages. The process ran several weeks, in short installments, yet each left me anxious to hear the next. I suspect most of those reading this review have had much more experience than I with audiobooks, so I'll address concluding thoughts specifically to those unfamiliar with the medium. If GULLIVER'S TRAVELS can "work" as an aural literary experience, we may abandon any preconceived reservations. This is a splendid production. Kudos to Pierce and the sound engineers, and a richly-deserved five stars!

The title of this review is probably a good sum up. The imagination in this story is beyond par for any other author I know of from the same period. Period. The main problems I had to deal with were: 1. Lack for context to appreciate the satire when you recognize that something is clearly satire. Probably from my differing background (racially, culturally and so on) and the stupidly obvious fact that I was born more than 250 years since its publication. 2. The book being so subtle that a great many times, I couldn't differentiate satire from straight up writing. This was the most difficult part for me. The book takes a toll on the internet age readers (I read a lot for my generation but that is no point to be proud of) and the writing is monotonous. I will probably read a critical review with notes on this someday and come to appreciate it more.

Although Swift's novel is often read by children, its rough handling of social topics has gained him a reputation for cynicism. In some circles, the book is considered to represent the frustrations of a twisted misanthrope. However, The way Swift paints his angry satire into a child's fantasy shows his dexterity as a writer.

David Hyde Pierce is completely absorbed into the character and provides a nuanced and very listenable version. And the sound quality is excellent. Makes a classic sound fresh.

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