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Top Skills

Audiobook Narration
Audio Recording
Interpreting

Languages

German
French
Spanish

Publications

Understand Another language
The Professional Interpreter in
Transitional Justice

Martyn Swain

Audiobook Narrator, APA, PANA Member, Former NATO
Simultaneous Interpreter
City of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Summary

Martyn is a former NATO simultaneous interpreter. For more than 30 years, he interpreted in French and English for the world's senior diplomats, including interpreting personally for Nelson Mandela, shortly after his release from prison in South Africa in 1990. He is a professional audiobook narrator (APA and PANA member) with home studio. He has significant titles (Christopher Hitchens, Graham Greene, Jung, Clausewitz, Heidegger, Popper, Thomas Aquinas, among others) to his credit. In the 1980's, he spent 4 years travelling the world by motorbike, summiting Kilimanjaro, and crossing the South Atlantic under sail. Martyn's French is native speaker level. He also speaks German and Spanish. He has acted on stage and screen, produced and voiced content for current affairs radio, and tutored in media and presentation skills.

Experience

Macmillan Audio

Audiobook Narrator
December 2023 - Present (5 months)
City of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Recorded Books

Audiobook Narrator
November 2023 - Present (6 months)
City of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Deyan Audio

Audiobook Narrator
March 2023 - Present (1 year 2 months)
City of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Tantor Media

Audiobook Narrator

March 2023 - Present (1 year 2 months)
City of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Dreamscape Media

Audiobook Narrator

October 2022 - Present (1 year 7 months)

Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Locution Magique

Audiobook Narrator, APA, PANA Member, Former NATO Simultaneous Interpreter

January 2000 - Present (24 years 4 months)

Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Voice work for Documentary, Audiobooks, e-learning, Corporate Video and Animations

AudioFile Narrator Profile: <https://www.audiofilemagazine.com/audiobookindustry/martyn-swain/>

Audible Titles: <https://www.audible.com/search?searchNarrator=Martyn+Swain>

Ahab Talent profile: <https://ahabtalent.com/talents/5272>

Personal Website: <http://martynswain.com/voice-over-narration/>

Ukemi Audiobooks: www.ukemiaudiobooks.com

Below are a number of extracts from audiobooks I have produced.

AIIC - The International Association of Conference Interpreters Member

January 1995 - March 2020 (25 years 3 months)

Cape Town Area, South Africa

I interpreted for Nelson Mandela shortly after his release in 1990. Since then, I have serviced countless meetings at high level for major international organisations, including the UN and its specialized agencies, the World Bank and IMF as well as regional groupings such as the African Union.

Calliope Interpreters

Member

December 2003 - November 2013 (10 years)

Le Cap, Afrique du Sud

I was the member of Calliope Interpreters responsible for the Southern Africa region. I organised teams of interpreters for international meetings taking place

in the region. I also devised the animation "Smart Speaking at International Meetings for Calliope Interpreters.

Freedom Trails Video Route Guides

Creator

October 1997 - October 2000 (3 years 1 month)

Cape Town Area, South Africa

Freedom Trails created video route guides to day walks on Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula, Cape Town. I scripted and presented the programme, which was used by South African Airways as part of the destination video on incoming international flights.

SHERINGHAM LITTLE THEATRE

Professional Actor

July 1993 - September 1996 (3 years 3 months)

Sheringham, Norfolk, UK

I joined Bridge Theatre to perform in 4 successive summer seasons of weekly repertory (a new play every week!) in Sheringham, Norfolk. Roles ranged from the Classics - Ibsen, Shakespeare - to modern drama and comedy, as well as new plays written by the company's artistic director, Freda Kelsall.

The Aziz Corporation

Senior Account Manager

November 1992 - September 1994 (1 year 11 months)

West Stratton, Hampshire, England

At the Aziz Corporation, I was responsible for expanding the client portfolio into continental Europe, and producing training resources. I obtained certification as a tutor in Presentation Skills.

SABC

Current affairs producer, news reader

September 1989 - July 1991 (1 year 11 months)

Johannesburg Area, South Africa

I was responsible for generating and presenting material for current affairs radio programmes, researching stories, carrying out interviews with senior political figures, voicing over in English, French, German, Spanish and Dutch.

Saddlesore

Chief Pilot

September 1985 - September 1989 (4 years 1 month)

Europe, Africa, the S Atlantic, S America, N America, Canada, the Pacific, etc

For 4 years from 1985 to 1989, I travelled large tracts of the world on my motorbike, including Africa, S America, N America, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and South East Asia. I sailed across the Atlantic by yacht and worked my passage as a supernumerary on a container ship between the States and N Zealand. It may not sound like a job to you, however there is no doubt that it was, and is, part of my life. You can see what things looked like if you click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPF5vc5qd2Y>

NATO

Conference Interpreter

September 1980 - February 1985 (4 years 6 months)

Brussels Area, Belgium

I was on the staff of interpreters at NATO Headquarters and responsible for servicing meetings up to the highest level, including Council and Ministerial summits, as well as highly technical specialist committees.

Education

University of Cape Town

Master's Degree, International Relations · (2008 - 2012)

Heriot-Watt University

BA Hons, Language Interpretation and Translation · (1976 - 1979)