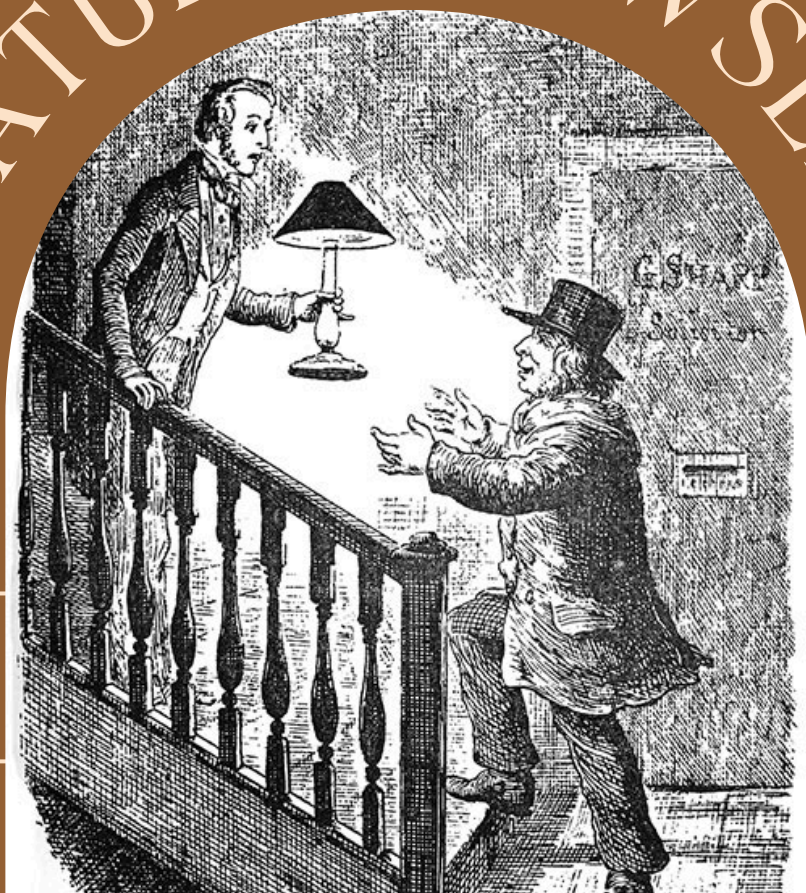


# DRAMATURGY NEWSLETTER

VOL

7



## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Join us in exploring the life and times of Charles Dickens and the world and history of his classic novel.

### READ ALONG WITH US

*Great Expectations* was originally published in weekly installments in the magazine *All the Year Round* from December 1860 - August 1861. We will likewise send portions of the novel to you in our biweekly summer newsletters.

**CHAPTERS 40-46**

# TRANSPORTATION: MAGWITCH'S STORY

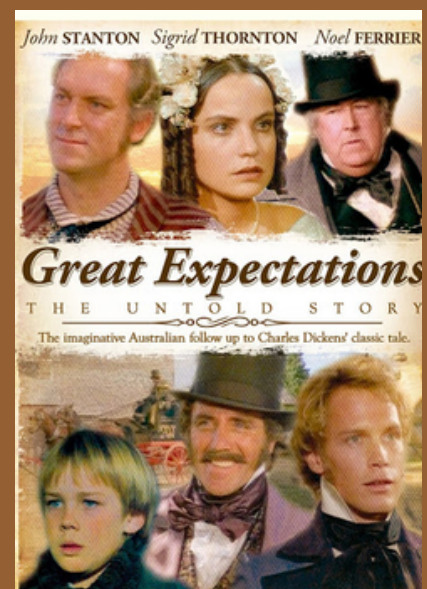
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Between 1770 and 1868 Britain sent more than 162,000 convicts to penal colonies in Australia. Transported criminals were usually repeat offenders, and sentences could be anywhere from 7 years to life. Once in Australia, violent criminals were usually assigned to hard labor on chain gangs, while others were assigned to work for residents in a sort of indentured servitude. This latter path was Abel Magwitch's experience. He was assigned to work for a sheep rancher, and was able to move from unpaid work to paid employment after several years of good behavior. Magwitch's employer had also been a convict, and chose to leave his estate to Abel. Through years of obsessively disciplined living, Magwitch accumulated the resources to "make a gentleman" of the boy who had helped him so many years ago while he was held on the hulks, awaiting transportation. His wealth is honestly gotten, but Pip cannot touch it.

## ART RESPONDING TO ART

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*Great Expectations: The Untold Story* is a 1987 film directed by Tim Burstall for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation about Magwitch's time in Australia. What character's backstory would you write?



# FAMOUS FACES

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*Great Expectations* has been adapted over and over again. Here are some actors you may recognize from various productions.



## **PIP - IOAN GRUFFUDD**

In the 1999 BBC miniseries. Best known for Mr. Fantastic in *Fantastic Four* (2005) and its sequel, he also played Harold Lowe in *Titanic* (1997).



## **ESTELLA - GWYNETH PALTROW**

In the 1998 film adaptation. Best known for Pepper Potts in the Marvel films, she also starred in *Shakespeare in Love* (1998), and *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001).



## **MISS HAVISHAM - OLIVIA COLMAN**

In the 2023 BBC miniseries. She won Best Actress for her role in *The Favorite* (2018), and was nominated for *The Father* (2020), and *The Lost Daughter* (2021).



## **MAGWITCH - RALPH FIENNES**

In the 2012 film adaptation. Best known for Voldemort in the *Harry Potter* films, other roles include *Grand Budapest Hotel*, *The Prince of Egypt*, *Schindler's List*, and *The Lego Batman Movie*.



### **JOE GARGERY - JOHN RHYS-DAVIES**

In the 1989 Disney Channel miniseries. Best known as Gimli in *The Lord of the Rings* films, or as Sallah in the *Indiana Jones* films.



### **HERBERT POCKET - ALEC GUINNESS**

In the 1946 film adaptation. Best known as Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Star Wars* (1977), he won Best Actor for his role in *Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957).



### **MRS. JOE - SALLY HAWKINS**

In the 2012 film adaptation. Known as Mrs. Brown in *Paddington* (2014) and its sequel, Elisa in *The Shape of Water* (2017), and Mrs. Wonka in *Wonka* (2023).



### **MR. PUMBLECHOOK - MATT BERRY**

In the 2023 BBC Miniseries. Known for the TV shows *What We Do in the Shadows*, *The IT Crowd*, and *Garth Merenghi's Dark Place*, as well as the film *The Wild Robot* (2024).

...and many more, including Ethan Hawke (Pip), Helena Bonham Carter (Miss Havisham), Robbie Coltrane (Jaggers), Vanessa Kirby (Estella), Anthony Hopkins (Magwitch), and, of course, you all.