



# DAVID

## PENDLETON

Making You Believe Anything Can Talk!

## ABOUT: David Pendleton

As one of the nation's premiere ventriloquists, David will make you believe that anything can talk! A 20-year veteran entertainer, David's humor and stellar technique keeps audiences laughing from start to finish.

David brings to his show a wide range of comedic characters including lovable, but blunt Aunt Tilly, a 94 year-old spinster; quick-witted trouble-maker, Mack Elroy with his laid-back sidekick; Buford the Beagle; and rounding out the cast, Vern, a slightly misguided albino Vulture. Be prepared for a few surprise appearances from members of the audience!

Throughout all his high-energy entertainment, David mixes in humorous truths of God's plan for our lives. As comedy delights your heart, let the truths that are communicated change your life! Enjoy!

It is rare to find someone that is able to hold the attention of multiple age levels and make them all laugh hysterically. Aunt Tilly and all of the Company made our Fall Festival a fabulous success as many families in our community participated. Thank you, David!

- Donna Harris

Christ Community Church, IN



David Pendleton

8750 Harrison Parkway, Fishers IN 46038

[317] 915-0192 PH [317] 571-2078 FX

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- Dave & Charile, 1970

## HOW I GOT STARTED

A lot of people ask me how I got started in ventriloquism. Actually, my story is not unlike many of the professional ventriloquists that I know working in the business today. I was fascinated by puppets of all kinds as a youngster and loved television shows that featured them. One of my favorites was "Mr. Moose" on Captain Kangaroo, as well as all the creatures on Sesame Street. I also loved to do puppet shows where I'd take my collection of puppets behind the Lazyboy in the corner and do a show for anyone who would watch.

When I was 5 years old I went over for a visit to a friend's house. Sitting on his shelf was a toy ventriloquist dummy-- the kind with the string in the back of the neck to make his mouth open. I suppose vent dummies are a bit like clowns to young children. There is something both fun and intriguing and a little bit creepy about them.

When I saw my friend's toy dummy, I immediately wanted one and begin begging my parents. So on my sixth birthday it was my grandparents who bought me a toy "Charley McCarthy" dummy. My grandmother was clever enough to include with the gift a record made by ventriloquist Jimmy Nelson. Jimmy was well known in the 60's and 70's along with his puppet characters "Danny O'Day" and "Farfel." Jimmy Nelson's record is probably responsible for teaching a whole new generation of ventriloquists the craft. Most of the working ventriloquists that I know in my general age range learned ventriloquism from listening to that record called "Instant Ventriloquism."

Starting at age six, I remember listening to that record over and over and sitting in front of a mirror and practicing speaking without moving my lips. The record came with a little sample script which I memorized word for word. Before long I was ready to do a whole new kind of show for anyone I could rope into watching me. This time the show would be IN FRONT of the Lazyboy in the corner.

When I was eight I performed for the first time on a real stage for a real audience of cub scouts! I can still remember sitting on the stage waiting for the curtain to open--I thought having the curtain open in front of me was so cool!

From there it was on to bigger and better. It was my grandmother that helped me the most with writing material for "the act." I began to do shows for birthday parties, local service clubs, church functions, and you name it.

CONTINUED:

David Pendleton's  
creativity, clever  
style, and choice  
humor provide the  
ticket to an  
unforgettable  
evening!

- Chuck Swindoll

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- Dave & Otis, 1982





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## HOW I GOT STARTED, CONT.



- Dave & Aunt Tilly, 1985



- Dave & Aunt Tilly, 2004

In high school I made a real name for myself every year in the student talent show. By that time I had purchased a professional ventriloquist figure that I named "Otis." I crafted an act around Otis insulting the faculty and staff of the school and as you can imagine, my fellow students loved it! It is amazing how a puppet can get away with insulting people in ways that a stand-up comedian cannot.

By my senior year, the students looked forward to me getting up on stage and blasting the teachers and administration with insults and zingers, and totally getting away with it. The only teacher that I remember that didn't take to kindly to it was Mr. Connors who didn't appreciate the comments made about his toupee (something about Mr. Connors blowing his top).

During my college years at Ohio University I landed a job performing at the theme park where I began to expand my act and really hone my skills. There is something about doing your show every day, five or six times a day that really helps you to develop your craft. It was also during that time that I introduced Buford the Dog and Aunt Tilly into my act.

I was living with my grandparents at the time and Aunt Tilly's personality is influenced by my grandmother. It was actually my grandmother that taught me the song "Silver Threads Among the Gold" which is an appropriate little number for Aunt Tilly.

I never thought I would actually make a career out of doing ventriloquism. It was something that I always thought I would just do on the side. It has been a great adventure for me, though, as it has taken me to all sorts of places around the country and even around the world.

END

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## McELROY



Vent Haven Museum was founded by William S. Berger, a Cincinnati businessman and amateur ventriloquist. Berger is seen here with part of his vast collection.

**Thank you for  
creating the most  
memorable parts  
of our cruise!**

**- Clarence Ward  
Alaska Cruise Passenger, CA**

When I was 11 years old I heard about the Ventriloquist (“Vent Haven”) Museum near Cincinnati, OH. I had been doing ventriloquism since I was six years old so I had been at it for a whopping five years! My mother took me to the museum and we went on a private tour. Vent Haven is sort of the retirement home for dummies; and on display were more than 500 old ventriloquist dummies along with all sorts of “vent” memorabilia.

At that time, I did not own a professional vent dummy (actually they are called “figures”). One of the things I was hoping to find out at the museum was how to actually get one.

Almost immediately upon entering the museum I was drawn toward certain figures that captivated me. “Tell me about this one,” I asked the curator of the museum.

“Oh his name is Cecil Wigglenose. He was once owned by a ventriloquist named Valentine Vox and was made by two brothers right here in Cincinnati back in the 1930s. Their names are George and Glenn McElroy. Would you like to see how he works?”

Would I?! She let me operate the figure. You could make just about everything on his face move. The eyes rolled and went crossed, the ears wiggled, the nose wiggled, the upper lip moved up revealing a row of front teeth, the tongue stuck out, his eyebrows moved, he winked, and his hair even popped up as if he were frightened! I had never seen anything like it in my life. As an eleven year old I was awestruck!

“How could I get a figure like that one?” I asked, wondering if George and Glenn were still making them.

“The McElroys haven’t made any figures for years. They are still alive, but they are both retired. Their figures have now become rare collectors’ items and the Vent Haven museum has the largest collection of them in the world -- six of them,” the curator boasted. “And no one that I know of makes figures like they did.”

I’ve been told that the McElroys only made about 40 dummies, which makes them an incredibly rare find. The Vent Haven Museum now has nine figures made by the brothers. Apart from those nine, I’m only aware of about 15 or 16 others.

CONTINUED:

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## McELROY, CONT.

From that day on, I dreamed of owning a McElroy figure. In 1995 I met someone at the Ventriloquist Convention that had a McElroy figure that he was selling. I asked him how much he wanted and he said “thirteen.” I thought to myself, “Thirteen hundred dollars? Where’s my check book?” Then of course he clarified, “That’s thirteen THOUSAND dollars.”

“Oh... never mind.” I actually considered mortgaging the house, but my wife Lynda brought me back to reality. Instead, I bought a limited edition signed poster of “Johnny Smiles,” another McElroy creation on display at the museum. I had that poster matted and framed where it hangs above my desk at home. Frequently I would look at that poster and say to myself, “Well, maybe some day...”

On January 4, 2002 I did a program for the “Singles Ministry” of a church. After the program a woman came up to me and told me that her grandfather had been a ventriloquist and that she had inherited his dummy.

I began to ask her about the history of the inherited dummy. She said that she wasn’t sure, but that she thought that it was made by a couple of guys in Ohio. Needless-to-say, my heart skipped a few beats, but I was still skeptical. I asked her if it had a lot of interesting movements on it. She said, “Oh yes, it has wiggling ears, hair that pops up, a nose that wiggles.”

“So how old is this dummy?” I asked her.

“Oh, my grandfather performed with it for probably 60 years. He was a vent during WWII,” she said.

Trying to contain my excitement while not allowing my hopes to get too high I asked if she was interested in selling the figure.

“Yes,” she said, “That’s why I came up to talk to you. I enjoyed your show and was so touched by your message that I thought it would be neat to see my grandfather’s dummy back in the hands of a ventriloquist that could carry on his legacy.”

I then explained to her the history of George and Glenn McElroy, the figures they created that fit her description, as well as the rarity and value of these dummies.

I expressed to her that it had been a life-long dream to own a McElroy but I also warned her that if her figure was indeed a McElroy, I may just pee my pants!

CONTINUED:

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## McELROY, CONT.



- Mack Elroy with his current owner, David Pendleton.

She laughed and we scheduled a meeting at her home for the following day. I don't think I need to tell you that I didn't sleep much that night.

When I got to her house at the appointed time, she invited me in. She had the figure sitting on the sofa. I walked over, looked at it and know it was a McElroy and I began to get choked up. I just couldn't believe it! She was touched as well and looking at me said, "I think God has been saving him for you." I will never forget that statment.

We both got choked up. To bring some levity to the moment, she asked, "You're not going to pee your pants now are you?"

After I pulled myself together, I told her that I would love to buy the figure, and we negotiated a price that we could both be happy with.

My figure has the exact same face as "Johnny Smiles," the very same face as the poster that has hung over my desk these past several years! I've redressed him in a tuxedo now, and I've decided to name him "Mack Elroy" in honor of his makers. I've been using him in my act since mid-February 2002.

In April, my wife Lynda and I attended a ventriloquist convention. There was a guy there in the Vent Convention Dealers Room that had a table where he was selling Ventriloquism memorabilia. I told the guy that I had a "McElroy" figure and asked him if he had anything at his table that had anything to do with the McElroys. He told me that he had some old photos of some ventriloquists who used McElroy figures.

He then pulled out a photo that was taken probably in the late 40's of the figure that I now own along with the ventriloquist who used him. I about fell over. I told the guy that was the figure that I now owned. He told me that he had been searching for that figure for years!

Indeed it has been fun for me to incorporate Mack Elroy into my act. Frankly, he is a challenge to operate, but I have enjoyed the challenge. If you would like to see Mack Elroy in action, along with my other "partners," give me a call to book a performance and check out my DVD of the show.

END

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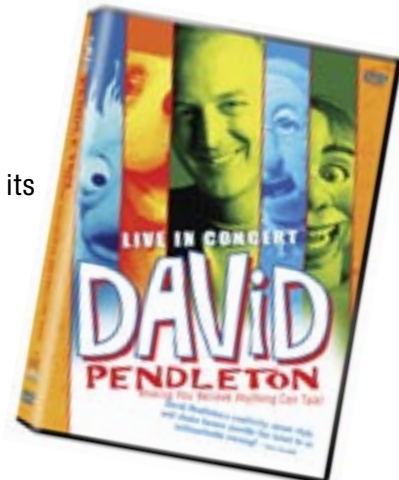
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## NEW PRODUCT:

Filmed in front of a sold-out audience, this new DVD release exhibits David's comedy at its finest! Order your copy online at: [www.anythingcantalk.com](http://www.anythingcantalk.com).

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A 20-year veteran entertainer, David's humor and stellar technique keeps audiences laughing from start to finish.

David brings to his show a wide range of comedic characters including lovable, but blunt Aunt Tilly, a 94 year-old spinster; quick-witted trouble-maker, Mack Elroy with his laid-back sidekick; Buford the Beagle; and rounding out the cast, Vern, a slightly misguided albino Vulture. Be prepared for a few surprise appearances from members of the audience!

Throughout all his high-energy entertainment, David mixes in humorous truths of God's plan for our lives. As comedy delights your heart, let the truths that are communicated change your life! Enjoy!

Bonus comedy tracks by John Branyan and Rick Nielsen.

**\$20.00**

Region 1 DVD, Dolby Digital Surround Sound

**David is a master  
ventriloquist!  
Our clients raved  
about his show!  
We would highly  
recommend David to  
anyone looking  
for an evening  
of fun filled  
laughter!**

- Dorothy Bennett

Prehms Financial Group, GA

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