



## **CLIVE JAMES**

### **Class of 1956**

Educated at Sydney Technical High School and the University of Sydney, where he studied English and Psychology from 1957 to 1960, Clive edited the student newspaper, *Honi Soit*, and directed the annual Union Revue. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in English in 1961 and then worked for a year as an assistant editor for The Sydney Morning Herald. He later gained a place at Pembroke College, Cambridge, to read English literature.

James became the television critic for The Observer in 1972, remaining in the job until 1982. He subsequently hosted the show Clive James on television, in which he showcased unusual or (often unintentionally) amusing television programs from around the world, followed by Saturday Night Clive (1988–1990), returning as Saturday Night Clive on Sunday in its second series, and then Sunday Night Clive in its third and final series.

His major documentary series Fame in the 20th Century (1993) was broadcast in the United Kingdom by the BBC, in Australia by the ABC. In 2007, James started presenting the BBC Radio 4 series A Point of View, with transcripts appearing in the "Magazine" section of BBC News Online. Three of James's broadcasts in 2007 were shortlisted for the 2008 Orwell Prize.

James has published several books of poetry, including Poem of the Year (1983), a verse-diary, Other Passports: Poems 1958–1985, a first collection, and The Book of My Enemy (2003), a volume that takes its title from his poem "The Book of My Enemy Has Been Remaindered". In 1980 James published his first autobiography, Unreliable Memoirs, which recounted his early life in Australia.

In 1992, James was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). This was upgraded to Officer level (AO) in the 2013 Australia Day Honours. James was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2012 New Year Honours for services to literature and the media. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2010. He is an Honorary Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Born: 7 October 1939

Died: 24 November 2019