



Erich Redman plays a German bad guy in Captain America: The First Avenger and is a familiar voice on language tapes

On my first visit I found I really liked England, and I had the impression that English people liked me, more so than Germans did in Germany, or maybe it was just the fact that being a foreigner with a slight accent gave me a special status – made me a little more interesting,’ says actor and voice over artist Erich Redman, who now lives in Abbots Langley.

His first job in showbusiness came one day when a contact of his called and asked if he could fill in for a German voice-over artist recording an advert for Haagen Dazs ice cream. After that, he started enrolling in voice related courses in London, as well as an acting class: ‘I thought: Maybe an acting class won’t do any harm in my imminent career as a voice-over artist!’

Erich loved acting, even though his parents were totally against it: ‘In their eyes I was throwing my life away, my financial security, my business career, my education – everything. In moments of doubt I told

myself: “If you don’t do this now, you will regret it later,” and here I am still doing it now, nearly 20 years on!’

Erich’s filmography is lengthy. He’s had roles in *Saving Private Ryan*, *Charlotte Gray*, *United 93*, BBC sitcom *TLC* and Morse spin-off *Lewis*, to name just a few.

Students learning GCSE German may also be interested to know that Erich is the voice on the language CDs in class, guiding them through lines such as ‘Hallo. Mein Name ist Hans. Ich bin 15 Jahre alt und komme aus Berlin’.

German language lessons may not be the high point of his career, however, as Erich has a plethora of Hollywood blockbusters to his name. Are there any in particular that stand out for him? ‘I really enjoyed working on a Sir Richard Attenborough film starring Sandra Bullock. It was called *In Love and War* and was about Hemingway’s first love affair during World War One with an Austrian nurse in Northern Italy. I

also loved working on *Saving Private Ryan*, because shooting a big Hollywood picture is always very exciting; they seem to have limitless resources, nothing is too much trouble or costs too much.’

Abbots Langley may be a far cry from movie sets and celebrity parties, but Erich has a soft spot for Hertfordshire: ‘It’s friendly and leafy – there’s so much green around me. I love jumping into my car and going for a drive. I really enjoy discovering new villages in Hertfordshire, just going for a stroll through the High Street to get a feel for a new place.’

Next on the agenda is a French film, *Late Bloomers*, starring Isabella Rossellini, William Hurt, Joanna Lumley and Lesley Phillips, which will be out in the UK next year. As for his voice-over work: ‘They are usually booked at very short notice, sometimes on the same day, so it’s difficult to say what I’ll be voicing the next week. With the arrival of the internet the turnover rate has become amazingly fast.’ >