



Gábor Miklós Kövesdi

Born 1976, Budapest

Literary translator, cabaret author

In his childhood he dreamed about getting paid for reading. This dream came true but he also translates what he read.

As a grammar school student he felt that he was interested in art and literature. If someone couldn't sing or play the piano it immediately turned out, but in the case of writing it did not turn out so soon. He is a writer, and whatever he does is related to writing. The success of what he has achieved as stand-up comedian, thanks to the ability of writing good jokes, which are meaningful even in his performances. He was a third-year student at the grammar school, when they got a new Hungarian grammar and literature teacher, László Katona. László Katona started to deal with movie translation and he involved Mr. Kövesdi to the rough translation. It was clear for him that this is something what he wants to do. He was shaking down movie translation within 1-2 years.

He started translating books around 2003. Between Mr. Kövesdi's movie-translator and book-translator period, he translated humor. Originally he is a cabaret author; he was one of the winners on the Comedy Festival of 1998. When he first met with Tibor Selmeczi, Mr. Kövesdi told him that he translates Woody Allen short stories for pleasure, and then Mr. Selmeczi recommended him to the Ciceró Könyvstúdió (Cicero Book Studio), which had just published Selmeczi's new book in those days. Nowadays this is one of the most important – if not the most important – source of Mr. Kövesdi's livelihood. He is not just a literary translator, he translated specialist books as well. For example, massage book, book for managers, etc. However, he accepts these kind of translations only with the help of a special editor. As a literary translator, he has already translated books from P.G. Wodehouse, and '*I Am Charlotte Simons*' by Tom Wolfe, etc. He usually translates story-books too.

He started doing movie translations again around 2008. We can see series translated by Mr. Kövesdi on Nickelodeon TV-channel: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *The Haunted Hathaways*, and *The Thundermans*. He also translated science fictions and crimes series for the AXN TV-channel, including *Doctor Who*.

He has several role models: Tamás Révbíró, because Mr. Kövesdi thinks that he is the best Wodehouse translator in the country (however, Mr. Révbíró wouldn't accept this 'title'); György Faludy due to his *Francois Villon* translation – according to Mr. Kövesdi only a genius could do that; László Katona and Zita Csányi because everything started with them ☺,

he learnt everything about translation from them; Mária Révész because of her own punch lines in the Hungarian version of the *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* – it was a kind of ars poetica.

He also respects and likes classic Hungarian literary translators, like Frigyes Karinthy.

He would like to translate books by George Mikes (the only English author who was born in Siklós), and from the Oxbridge mafia: Rowan Atkinson, Hugh Laurie, Stephen Fry, Eric Idle, John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Peter Hook, and Michael Palin's Diaries. Many books by G.K. Chesterton haven't been translated yet, but Mr. Kövesdi thinks that more people would be interested in these books, and they would be marketable, too.