

Julian Fellowes lambasts James Cameron's "unfair" Titanic

Downton creator says his Titanic TV series will "set the record straight" about ship's first officer



Tom Cole
3:13 PM, 20 March 2012

Downton Abbey creator Julian Fellowes has hit out at James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster film Titanic, accusing the movie of containing factual inaccuracies.

Speaking to Radio Times, Fellowes said that his TV dramatisation of the Titanic disaster will "set the record straight".

The 62-year-old reserved particular condemnation for Cameron's depiction of the ship's first officer, William Murdoch, who was painted in the film as a coward.

Fellowes said: "That was very unfair how Murdoch was depicted. He wasn't cowardly. He fired the pistol to just stop a potential riot. It was suddenly getting out of hand, and he fired it in the air. That's not being cowardly."

Murdoch, who was seen in the 1997 film shooting passengers before taking his own life, was credited with saving the lives of 75 passengers and unfairly "villainised", according to Fellowes.

"I don't think you can just say, 'Well, we'll make this guy a villain - he'll do,'" he said.

"I think with real people you have a kind of imperative to be true to who they were. I don't think you can take someone who was moral and decent and make them do something immoral and indecent. I would feel uncomfortable doing that. So we do have Murdoch, and we have him firing a pistol, [but] there is a little bit of setting the record straight."

Read the full interview with Fellowes in [this week's Radio Times](#).



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MAC

Of course it is wrong to name an actual Historical Figure who lived a villain -when in fact he was not. Not only that but his living decendants and family have had to live with the LIE. its exactly the same as executing an innocent man for the crime he DID NOT COMMIT. Try and place yourself in that position and think!

10 hours ago

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Ian Young

Julian Fellowes' rosey historical view of the British upper class as wise, generous and belevolent is of course very accurate.

4 days ago 2 Likes

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Stevie D

Somehow I don't have a great problem with the idea of a guy called Murdoch being portrayed as a cowardly villain...

4 days ago 2 Likes

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9pm

BBC4

The lives of the 32 boys and girls, aged between 8 and 13, who perform in the Salisbury Cathedral Choir. The...

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We Won't Drop the Baby

10:25pm

BBC1 (not Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland)

Documentary following comedian Laurence Clark and his wife Adele, who both have cerebral palsy, as they prepare...

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10:15pm

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