

*Claudia*, which is perhaps better known as *Claudia and David*, was an old time radio show based on a series of short stories written by Rose Franken and William Brown Meloney, which appeared in *Redbook* magazine.

The program was a soap opera centered on newlyweds David and Claudia Naughton. It followed the problems and the successes, big and small, of an average newly-married couple, including the need for thrift, having an overhanded mother-in-law, and all those charming little moments of life.

The program began as a skit on *The Kate Smith Hour* in 1941, and was expanded into a full summer series a month later. In those original shows, Claudia was played by Patricia Ryan and David by Richard Kollmar.

Franken and Meloney's stories were collected into books that were adapted into a pair of RKO films, *Claudia* in 1943 and *Claudia and David* in 1946. Both films starred Robert Young and Dorothy McGuire. The success of the films prompted Coca-Cola to sponsor a 15-minute syndicated weekday radio program in the 1947-1948 season, starring Kathryn Bard and Paul Crabtree.

The *Claudia and David* stories also spawned two TV movies in the late fifties, as well as British and German television adaptations.

For the Old Time Radio Researchers, this is your announcer, Rich Meyer.