

Born in Weston-Super-Mare, England, JOHN CLEESE (Voice of Ape) was educated at Clifton College and Cambridge before beginning his career as a performer and writer. Following his debut as a member of the Cambridge Footlights Revue in the West End, Cleese went on to BBC Radio as a writer before returning to the stage in two Broadway shows "The Cambridge Revue" and "Half a Sixpence" with Tommy Steele. He then returned to England to work for BBC Television on "The Frost Report," "At Last the 1948 Show" with Marty Feldman and "Monty Python's Flying Circus."

In the 1970s, Cleese made his first Monty Python film, "And Now For Something Completely Different," later taking the comedy act on a stage tour before beginning "Monty Python and The Holy Grail" in 1974 and the BBC-TV series, "Fawlty Towers" in 1975 and 1979. Since then he has made two other Monty Python films "Life of Brian" and "Meaning of Life," directed several Amnesty stage shows including "The Secret Policeman's Ball," portrayed Petruchio in "Taming of the Shrew" for BBC and written the books Families And How To Survive Them with Robin Skynner and its sequel, Life And How To Survive It. With the release of "A Fish Called Wanda" in 1988, Cleese won the BAFTA Award for Best Actor and received an Oscar and Writer's Guild nomination in the United States, as well as an Italian Oscar, for Best Screenplay.

Most recently he has completed roles in "Fierce Creatures," "The Wind in the Willows," "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein," "Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book" and "Splitting Heirs." He received The Jack Oakie Award for Comedy in Motion Pictures from the Screen Actor's Guild in America.