

20 Questions to

Mirabelle: First of all, David, do you have any hobbies?

David: I'd be a pretty weird sort of a guy if I didn't have any interests apart from my music. I guess if you include sports and leisure activities, then yes, I've got hobbies.

Mirabelle: Are they things that are very important to you?

David: Not important in themselves. I mean you get guys who build model boats who take it all deadly seriously and aren't satisfied unless every last detail is just right. My spare time pastimes aren't in any way passions, just things I enjoy doing because they help me relax and hold my interest for short spells at a time.

Mirabelle: Well, let's hear about a few of those things.

David: There's the horse-breeding which you probably already know about. Then recently with all the fuss about fuel shortages and the terrific waste of natural resources, I'm looking into ways of saving on gas, petrol and electricity. I like shopping around junk stalls for little antique bits and pieces, I like movies, collecting records, meeting people and travelling.

Mirabelle: Do you find you're better equipped to get back to work after spending some time on a hobby?

David: Certainly. Because I'm under no pressure to breed the fastest race-horses in the country. It's something I can do in my own time and enjoy for the fun of it rather than the rewards. Now if a professional horse-breeder did amateur dramatics and singing in his local hall in his spare time, he'd get a lot of fun out of that because he wouldn't have to prove anything to anybody. That's what hobbies are for — relieving the pressure of your day to day existence.

Mirabelle: So there's no chance of you getting involved with any of your hobbies that you'd want to take it up full-time?

David: No chance.

Mirabelle: Do you invite friends to share your hobbies with you?

David: Not generally because I like to keep that little corner of my life to myself. If you're going to have a retreat, there's not much point making it an open-house! But now and again I'll be proud enough of something to show it off and of course I need some expert advice when it comes to horses. I'm trying to have my house on Hawaii run on electricity from the wind. I can take care of that almost by myself but a friend of mine is helping out on the technical side.

Mirabelle: Do you allow your hobbies to cost much money?

David: Not really although again, horses don't come cheap in America where they were the traditional method of transport until fairly recently! I don't believe it's necessary to spend a small fortune in order to enjoy yourself.

Mirabelle: Are you a sports fan?

David: I take an interest in the football and baseball scores and I go along to the odd game but I'm not a fanatic. I have been known to indulge in a game of touch football with some buddies — in fact I passed many hours away on the set of 'The Partridge Family' by playing ball with Danny and some of the crew. But I've never been mad keen on athletics of any sort. About the only sport I take part in with any real pleasure is swimming and that's a solitary thing with me. You wouldn't get me racing anybody over 20 lengths of the pool. I like to keep competition for business!

Mirabelle: You've never thought of becoming a jockey with a love of horses like yours?

David: A jockey? With a figure like mine? It would be nice to ride in a race but it was never anything I had any ambitions about. Actually it would be nice to organise an amateur race in aid of charity.

Mirabelle: Would you include cooking as a hobby?

David: Cooking no, eating yes! Unless you count burgers and steaks as cooking!

Mirabelle: What sort of antiques do you collect?

David: Believe me, I'm no expert. I couldn't date much of the stuff I've got, let alone tell you anything about it! All I know is I browse around and if anything catches my eye and I think it's worth the money that's being asked, I'll have it. I like small items, beautifully made and totally useless except that they make me feel good to look at them.

Mirabelle: Do you get to the cinema often?

David: Not nearly so often as I'd like but it doesn't matter so much these days because most of the stuff on television is films specially made for the small screen with big movie stars. Sometimes I hire a new film and show it for a few friends but there's nothing to beat the real thing — the huge screen, a packet of popcorn and a girl holding your hand during the spooky bits.

Mirabelle: Do you have a large record collection?

David: Pretty big, although I've been in homes where the walls are lined with rows and rows of albums. I don't like to hang on to albums I'm not going to play again so I give quite a lot away. I enjoy music at any time, especially in the evening when I've had a meal and I have nothing at all to do until bedtime. I think about calling up a friend, going out to a club, but sometimes the best thing in the world is to sit by myself, get a stack of albums ready, a plate of sandwiches, a bottle of Coke and you would have a job to find a happier man!

Mirabelle: Who are your favourites?

David: Too many to name and anyway, I prefer the actual albums more than the names on them. However I pay close attention to whatever John Lennon and Paul McCartney do. I'm very hung up