



Quentin Willson

Quentin's career began respectably enough by studying English Literature under Philip Larkin, but after university he *'went completely off the rails'* and started up a car dealership selling ancient Ferraris and Maseratis. Which is how he amassed his now famous knowledge of everything on four wheels and made him unique among motoring pundits. Quentin's expertise is very real as he's the only car commentator who has bought and sold literally thousands of cars.

He first came to the public's attention in the early 90s as Deputy Editor of the only magazine solely devoted to second hand motors, *Buying Cars*, and was soon poached by the BBC to co-host **Top Gear** with Jeremy Clarkson. His deep knowledge of the market changed the way British consumers bought used cars and caused most carmakers to regularly reach for their Valium. For a decade he appeared every week on **Top Gear**, routinely exposing shoddy service and poor product, educating car buyers on how to beat the system as well as pressurising the industry to lower new car prices in the UK.

He also presented his own classic car series **The Car's The Star** along with the first property show to talk about money - **All The Right Moves**, both for the BBC. He then left Top Gear to present Channel Five's rival motoring programme, **Fifth Gear**. Whilst at Five he created the **Britain's Worst Driver** format which was nominated for best reality show in the coveted Montreux Golden Globe Awards. A raft of **Worst** derived shows followed, including **Britain's Worst DIYer**, **Worst Mother in Law**, **Worst Husband**, **Worst Teenager** and **Worst Builder** to name just a few.

The **Worst** format is now an international brand and has been televised in 30 different countries including America, Canada, Holland, Australia, Denmark, Sweden and Belgium. Quentin has also presented many other shows including **How to Fail Your Driving Test**, **The Biggest Car Fraud in The World** and **Television's Most Shameful Moments**. A familiar face on most channels he regularly appears on **BBC Breakfast**, **GMTV**, **Panorama**, **Watchdog**, **Tonight**, **This Morning**, **Richard and Judy** and most news and current affairs programmes.

Quentin's voice is almost as recognisable as his face and he's narrated **Driving School**, **War and Piste**, **Cops Uncut**, **How To Live Longer** as well as network TV ads for Barclays Bank, Carphone Warehouse, Kelloggs, Parcelforce, Shell Optimax, Black and Decker and Tic Tac. He's also a BAFTA Judge and Fellow of The Royal Society of Artists.

He admits to being particularly proud of achieving the lowest ever recorded score on the BBC's second series of **Strictly Come Dancing** – a toe-curling 8 out of 40, which is still an unbroken record. He claims he is *'to dancing what Frank Bruno is to English literature'* and dances *'with all the finesse and elegance of a hoard of Mongol storm troopers on a three day pass'*. Quentin pens regular columns for *The Sunday Mirror* and *Classic Cars Magazine* as well as writing for scores of other newspapers and periodicals. He's also written 10 motoring books.

**For more information on Quentin Willson,
Contact: 0113-239-2222**