

Times

Temptation Island
could your love survive?

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Posh & Becks
TV exclusive



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EXCLUSIVE

Ross Kemp

Hard shell, soft centre

The sensitive man behind TV's tough guy

in the chair
with
**Jane
Dimond**

He loves
his job and
has all the
trappings
of success.
Life only
gets better
for Ross
Kemp if he
can help
somebody

'I don't think there's any
higher plane after this life,
so why be miserable?'

constantly thinking how lucky I am that I have relatively good health. I'm doing a job I love and most of the 'pleasures' in life I've either experienced or have access to - I've got a nice house, a nice car. They don't necessarily make you

We're familiar with your on-screen personas, first as Grant and now as DC Jack Mowbray in *Without Motive*, but what's Ross Kemp like?

Normal - my close friends might laugh at that! (roaring loudly).

What are your most prominent character traits?

I'm impatient, not only with myself but with others. Lack of commitment and people not trying hard enough, that frustrates me. I like working and trying to be the best I can, so laziness bothers me. What else? I suppose I might be guilty of not laughing enough.

You think that you take things a bit too seriously?

Sometimes. If I'm working like I've been working lately, you're under this pressure to achieve, which does knock out a lot of humour.

Are you an emotional person?

Yes. I am quite passionate, and I can lose my top over something ridiculous - like someone not acknowledging it in the traffic if I've let them out - but when serious things happen I can deal with it. I don't analyse myself much. I'm

happy, and you can't be happy 24/7, but you can be content. And I am, very. **What was the last thing that made you cry then?**

God, all my crying recently has been to do with work, I haven't had much time to watch films or read books. *Bambi* made me cry when I was very young. I remember getting on the bus back from Romford cinema in heaps of tears, with my mother going, 'Grow up for God's sake!' I was 23 at the time (laughing)! I'll tell you what really got me emotional, it was when Steve Redgrave got his gold medal.

When you signed the ITV deal you talked of feeling the pressure to deliver the goods. With the second series of *Without Motive* under your belt, you must feel a little bit more relaxed?

That's absolutely the right way of describing it, 'a little bit more' - I don't think you'll ever feel totally relaxed, because as an actor you're constantly being analysed as to the worthiness of your being. But I love my job - I wake up at 5.30 and go, 'You lucky b****er!'

Is there any other job you could imagine yourself being happy in?

I always have this romantic idea of 'I'd love to be a farmer or a fisherman', but I probably wouldn't be a strong enough or powerful enough human being. **You're a member of the Labour Party and have friends who are politicians, but would you want to be more politically involved?**

Not at the moment. But at a later stage I might like to get involved in the development of sports in Britain. Sport taught me how to win and lose, comradeship and discipline. We need more sports facilities. It's getting better,

but we've got to try harder to encourage kids to get out and play. **You love the thrill of speed - your Porsche and horse-riding - but you also enjoy slowing down to zero, and last year were trying to learn to meditate. Did you manage it?**

I did lots of meditation on my last holiday and really enjoyed it, and I've started doing a bit of yoga occasionally, and have reflexology, which helps me unwind and sleep well. I love my sleep - one of my friends described me as a bit like a baby, all energy go, go, go and then all of a sudden I stop. **What is most important to you in your life?**

Work, my partner, having my friends around me, and helping people if I can. I don't think there's any higher plane after this, so why should people be miserable while they're here? **You've a patron of the NSPCC - what does that involve?**

Advertising campaigns, speaking at dinners, trying to do things whenever

star interview • ROSS KEMP

I'm the cat that's got the cream



get the chance. The things I see and hear make me angry, but people who are cruel to children have generally been treated cruelly when they were younger. You have to see it in a wider sense, but cruelty to children is unforgivable. I'd love to have my own kids eventually.

You always use red gaffer tape to mark your floor positions as it's a good luck thing - do you have any other superstitions?

I had red gaffer tape on my first job

after I left *EastEnders*. I also touch wood and do all those things like not walking under ladders. And when I played rugby I was superstitious about which boot I put on first.

You've often expressed a desire to do a sitcom. Why?

It's the challenge of making people laugh, which is the hardest thing to do. **And to prove that there is more to you than Grant Mitchell?**

There were opportunities for comedy of the highest calibre in the scripts for

EastEnders, so it's not like I haven't had the chance to do it.

There were rumours that the BBC were trying to get you back. What's the position with ITV?

I've recently re-signed with ITV. As an actor, I'm very happy to have two years' work, though, and feel very privileged.

What projects are next for you?

I'll be doing something called *The Crooked Man*. It's sort of spying. **Would you go back to *EastEnders*?**

I'd never say never.

Picture by Mike Crow/Courtesy Press

star interview · ROSS KEMP

I'm the cat that's got the cream

in the state with
Time
Dimension

He knows the job and has all the wherewithal of an actor. It's only a pity that Kemp of The Cat has nobody to help anybody.

It isn't Ross Kemp's wife, higher plane after this life, we why the messiah?

The actor's life is a constant state of flux. He has been in the business for over 20 years, and his career has been a roller coaster ride. He has been in the industry since the late 1980s, and his work has been a mix of television, film, and theater. Kemp is known for his role as the character 'The Cat' in the British television series 'The Cat in the Hat's Hat', which was a parody of the children's book 'The Cat in the Hat' by Dr. Seuss. The show was a success, and Kemp's performance was widely praised. He has since appeared in several other television shows and films, but he has always been most comfortable in his own skin as 'The Cat'. Kemp is a hard worker and a dedicated professional. He is always looking for new challenges and opportunities to grow as an actor. He is also a family man and a devoted husband. He has a young daughter and a young son, and he is always looking for ways to spend time with them. Kemp is a true professional and a true actor. He is the cat that's got the cream.

By [Name]