**What Turns Me On**

**Television**
I am obsessed with minimalism, so I tune in to *Grand Designs* hoping there will be some fantasy home that you can only dream of. Kevin McCloud [left] is so bright and easy-going. The best ones are when he goes back two years later and the people don’t like the dream home they spent all that time creating.

I’ve fallen for *Sherlock*. How they have taken that old story and knitted it into the modern world, with new technology, is extraordinary. Benedict Cumberbatch is brilliant.

**Music**
Sam Smith. I could listen to his voice all day. Another big favourite is Ed Sheeran [right]. I first came across him six years ago when I was doing the choreography on *Britannia High*. Ed auditioned for the grooves...and I never tire of it. Music by Leonard Bernstein, away. It is still sensational – on stage or as a film – *West Side Story*, as a teacher of the grooves...to him at a party in London and I was utterly bowled over. I knew he was smart, but, wow, not that smart!

**Radio**
I have been a fan of *Just A Minute* on Radio 4 as long as I can remember. Nicholas Parsons is extraordinary. To think, he’s 91 and his brilliant brain is still whirring away as sharply as ever. Paul Merton is wonderfully witty and quick, but I heard Sue Perkins recently and she really bowled me over. I knew she was smart, but, wow, not that smart!

The other radio regulars for me are *Radio 4 Extra*. I could hardly get up out of my seat when it was over.

**Art**
My dad was a barber, but his favourite thing to do at weekends was look at art, so from about seven I went with him to all galleries in Manchester.

We used to look at the *Shakespeare’s The Winter’s Tale* – as a full-length ballet at the Royal Opera House. I could hardly get up out of my seat when it was over.

**Books**
I have always loved a good autobiography – whether about great actors like David Niven, Steven Berkoff, or the wartime dancer Gillian Lynne. Currently by my bed is a very odd book called *Sleights Of Mind* by Susana Martinez-Conde and Stephen Macknick. It is about magicians and the science of how they trick you. I am fascinated by David Blaine and Dynamo.

**Film**
My favourite film of all time is *West Side Story*. I saw it when it came out in 1961 and I was blown away. It is still sensational – on stage or as a film – and I never tire of it. Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and Jerome Robbins doing the choreography as well as co-directing with Robert Wise. An incredible team.

I adored *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. An unbelievable cast with Ralph Fiennes [right], Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, Adrien Brody and loads of others. It is a musical and visual feast and so gloriously strange. You wonder what on earth is going on half the time, but I love things that are odd and original.

**5 Fabulous Facts (& a Massive Fib*) About...**

1. **She’s a Killer Queen**
   Appearing under her full name – Bjork Gudmundsdottir – the Icelandic singer acted in the 2011 *Nordic Noir* *Utlendingur á Móhæði* (Midnight Stranger), as a teacher with a sinister secret. Which was never revealed in case BBC4 shows it.

2. **She Says It With Flowers**
   When a crazed stalker sent an acid-bomb to her address then killed himself, Bjork’s reaction – having been saved by the police – was unusual: she sent flowers to his would-be assassin’s family.

3. **Television Terrifies Her**
   Or rather they did. The young Bjork believed an Icelandic poet when he said TV shows corrupt the brain and developed a fear of TVs, cured when she took a set apart and discovered it was ‘like a little model city, with houses and streets.’

4. **She Wears It Well**
   At the 2001 Oscars Bjork turned up wearing what could only be described as a swan. Draped around her neck, the giant waterfowl then appeared to lay a huge egg (actually an ostrich egg) on the red carpet. The look was not instantly copied by fashion labels.

5. **She Eats Puffins**
   The polar-bear loving songstress is known for her eccentric tastes, and it appears they extend to the dinner table: she has admitted to eating roast puffin – but draws the line at pickled shark, on the grounds that in Iceland they use human urine to preserve the meat.

*Bjork: Biophilia Live* is released in cinemas on *Friday*.

*By Rob McGibbon*