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## DEBORAH ROSS

'Sewing Bee, like the  
football, runs until  
the final in July, for  
which I intend to  
buy a vuvuzela' p54



COVER: CHARLIE GRAY/MARY MCCARTNEY

# WHAT TURNS ME ON

## JUDY MURRAY

The ultimate tennis mum on her love of the Proclaimers  
and Meryl Streep, reading racy novels in airports – and  
Andy and Jamie's obsession with... Roger Moore!



### My TV gold

When I was growing up my favourite was *It's A Knockout*, and I loved trying to remember all the things on the conveyor belt in *The Generation Game*.

When my sons Jamie and Andy were growing up they were into *Thomas The Tank Engine* [7] so videos of that were always on.

The must-see show for me is the soap *River City*, which is basically Scotland's answer to *EastEnders*.

### The play's my thing

I was late in discovering theatre. I only ever went to pantomimes at Christmas time with the boys and when they were teenagers I took them to see *Bottom* with Adrian Edmondson and Rik Mayall. The boys were really into the TV series and they laughed their heads off at the stage show.

Six years ago I saw *Blood Brothers* in the West End, which I found very moving and since then I have started going to the theatre quite a bit, seeing *War Horse* and *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory*.

I enjoy watching large-scale musical productions because I love the dancing and choreography. My favourite show is *Jersey Boys* [4].

Last year I organised a big family night out. We went to see *Hairspray*, but a few minutes after the curtain went up, Andy fell asleep! He woke up at the interval, watched a bit of the second half, then fell asleep again!

### The art in my heart

Representational paintings don't do it for me but I adore abstract art. I like big splodges of colour or lines and shapes – the more expressive the better. Matthew Bourne is my favourite painter – I have seven of his paintings [3] around my home. I only spent between £300-700 on each work, but they've all got vibrant colours and a sense of movement and they brighten up the house.

### Music to my ears

My music tastes don't seem to have changed much over the past few decades because I still play music I was into when I was younger. The first



concert I went to was The Police in Edinburgh in 1980. I was 20 at the time and seeing Sting was amazing.

I still like their music, as well as Blondie, The Bangles, Amy Macdonald and The Proclaimers [1] for their energy and strong Scottish voices.

The singer I love more than any other at the moment is Jimmy Nail. I play his album *Big River* a lot. Jimmy sings in such a wonderful, melancholic way.

### My movie magic

When Jamie and Andy were younger it was all about Roger Moore [5] as James Bond, so I sat through the whole lot at one time or another, and then along came Harry Potter. I can't say I concentrated much through those films either, but the boys loved all that wizardry stuff. One of their tennis coaches looked just like Harry, so that gave them a laugh.

I have always been drawn to strong female characters and my favourite film is *The Devil Wears Prada* with Meryl Streep [2]. She is brilliant – I love her toughness.

### Words of wonder

For years I was totally into trashy novels by Jackie Collins and Jilly Cooper. I was always at airports waiting for long-haul flights, so I needed a distraction. Some of Collins' books were quite racy and I really enjoyed Cooper's horse-set stories, like *Riders* [6].

These days my main reading is thrillers by Michael Connelly and Harlan Coben. I engage with the multiple plot lines and the problem-solving of crime thrillers. Detective stories are a bit like tennis – two minds trying to find a way through all the complexities of the game and crack what the other person is thinking.

Interview by Rob McGibbon

Judy Murray is an ambassador for Lavazza Coffee.

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