

# Sharon Carpenter

The TV and quiz app presenter likes to play the game in edgy style and designer heels

Words by Laura Mulley

Sharon, 36, hosts live quiz app HQ Trivia in which players answer questions to win a share of the prize money. She is a familiar face on American TV, presenting on the *The Wendy Williams Show* and *Entertainment Tonight*, and regularly covers red-carpet events for BBC America. She has also appeared in the TV drama *Empire*. Born in England, she now lives in New York.

**How would you describe your style?**

Off camera it's a little edgier than what you see on-screen and a lot more relaxed. I love to wear a nice pair of jeans, a T-shirt and flats, but I also have some real statement, fashion-forward pieces in my wardrobe.

**Which colours and shapes suit you best?**

I used to wear a lot of black, white and neutrals but working on HQ Trivia has made me much bolder and I've realised I can pull off bright colours. I love salmon, coral, mustard and cobalt blue. Waistlines are important for me, especially on camera, where simple, fitted looks work better. I don't wear trousers often, as I struggle to find ones that fit well, but I'm really into pencil skirts.

**Which is your favourite fashion era?**

The 1920s, which had a real edge to it – the whole flapper look is gorgeous – and the 60s, which was a great era for bold, feminine, empowered style.

**Who is your style icon?**

Rihanna can do no wrong when it comes to fashion. I love that she's always taking risks. I also love the Duchess of Cambridge's buttoned-up, very British style – and I get inspiration from Kim Kardashian.

**Why do you think HQ Trivia has become so popular?**

First of all, people love to challenge themselves and each other. Even though we're part of this "in your phone" generation now, the game is actually bringing people together. People are playing in teams, with friends, family or colleagues. People also like the live element, where anything can happen. And it does.

**If you were playing, how far do you think you'd get?**

On average I get to question six or seven. I have made it to question 11 before, though. I know it's tricky, which is why playing with friends is a good way to increase your chances of winning.

**What do you wear for hosting the show?**

There are lots of things to consider. With HQ Trivia, the camera framing is tight, so fit on the torso is very important. I like outfits that make a statement, even if it's just a great fit or a good colour or, for example, I'll add earrings to the collar of a dress for a bit of detail. HQ Trivia's colours are very bright as it's a fun game and you can't wear too much of a pattern, but I like to push the boundaries of what "camera ready" is.

**Do you own more high street or high end?**

I have a mix. As long as the fit and the fabric are right, I don't care if something costs £300 or £30 and I'll happily wear a Boohoo dress with a pair of Saint Laurent heels. I do spend a lot of money on shoes, though. They're my guilty pleasure. I find designer shoes are more comfortable, especially when I have to spend hours in heels for work.

Sharon shows off her unique style in this Nina Tiari crop top and skirt she teams with a pair of purple Gianvito Rossi heels