

KONNIE HUQ

Dancing in the rain to Pulp, OD'ing on OJ - but the *One Show* and *Blue Peter* presenter really loves watching Hindi films with the folks (while not understanding a word)



Music to my ears

The first single I bought was *Banana Splits* (*The Tra La La* song) by The Dickies. I had it on 12in yellow vinyl. My sisters and I had a Sixties record player - I remember the joy of dropping the needle on the record.

My last live show was Reading in 2011 before I had kids. I saw Pulp and danced in the rain to *Something Changed*, a song I adore. And I was introduced to Jarvis Cocker [4] by our set painter on *Blue Peter*, a lovely guy called Joe, who knew Jarvis's mum.

Words of wonder

The first book I read over and over was *To Kill A Mockingbird*, probably the first 'grown-up book' I loved. Douglas Coupland's *Microserfs* [2] also had a big impact. It's about the tech industry and follows a group of young people working in Silicon Valley. Computers were becoming a household essential and Coupland timed his book perfectly.

So You've Been Publicly Shamed by Jon Ronson is a must for anyone obsessed by Twitter and the online community. It shows how people love outrage.

The art in my heart

I remember seeing *Sensation* at the Royal Academy in the late Nineties, with works by Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst and the controversy that the exhibition caused by showing Marcus Harvey's portrait of child killer Myra Hindley. There was an installation of a little old man lying down and he looked so realistic I could imagine him getting up and shouting at me. I like Julian Opie and the four portraits he produced of Blur for their *Best Of...* in 2000. Last year, I went to see Michael Craig-Martin's [6] exhibition *Transience* at the Serpentine and he has a similar vibe.

My TV gold

Living with my husband [TV critic Charlie Brooker] means we watch a lot of TV, especially when he's in pre-production for his show *Screenwipe*. It's a very labour-intensive show to make, as it involves watching lots of TV clips. I enjoyed to the point of addiction *The People Y OJ*



Simpson. John Travolta [7] is unrecognisable as lawyer Robert Shapiro. The show that stays with me is *Press Gang* [1], a really good kids' drama about a student newspaper. I remember thinking then how much I would like to be a journalist like the one played by Julia Sawalha.

My movie magic

My parents would watch Bengali films when I was growing up and I remember fondly one called *Amar Akbar Anthony*. It was in Hindi - which I can't speak - but Bollywood is so cartoon, you can follow the plot. I was in a Bollywood movie called *Musafir*: as I couldn't speak Hindi, I was an extra in a nightclub scene.

I loved the Brat Pack films of the Eighties - the best being *The Breakfast Club* [3] and *St Elmo's Fire*. The films showed a young, brash, independent lifestyle.

Don't touch that dial

I grew up listening to Capital Radio with Mick Brown and Pat Sharp. I'd make compilation tapes from the chart show, struggling to press pause on a tape recorder before the DJ scuppered my mix.

Now I'm a Radio 4 fan - I have a Sunday morning ritual where I listen to *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* and anything from drama to *Gardeners' Question Time*. I love Victoria Coren's [8] *Heresy*.

The play's the thing

Growing up, I was a member of the National Youth Music theatre - plays like *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller at the National made a huge impact. Heavy going but I really enjoyed it. A fellow alumnus of the theatre was Jude Law, who was excellent as Hamlet in 2009. I wasn't convinced he would be able to pull off the role but he absolutely did.

Interview by Olivia Duxton
Konnie Huq is the ambassador for Mitsubishi Motors in the UK. For more information, go to mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/outlander/explore-phev.aspx