

# GABY ROSLIN AND MARK DURDEN-SMITH

THE PRESENTERS TALK ABOUT THEIR HOMELY NEW SHOWS AS THEY DINE WITH US AT TRADER VIC'S

**M**ost of our lives are spent in our homes – but are we really happy there? Many of us dream of living elsewhere, and even those of us happy to stay put are surrounded with clutter we don't really need!

Two new series coming to a TV screen near you this week address both these issues, with the help of two fabulous presenters, Gaby Roslin and Mark Durden-Smith. Gaby is the presenter of *Celebrity Fantasy Homes*, which follows famous house hunters, from David Gest and Mica Paris to the Right Said Fred boys, in search of their dream properties in the UK and abroad. 'It's more like an intimate chat show, as they tell me things that are quite revelatory – things they say they've never even told a therapist!' says Gaby.

Mark, meanwhile, is our genial guide to *Gutted*, which sees unsuspecting members of the public return to their homes to find that everything they own has gone! With Mark's help, they're able to retrieve their worldly goods – as long as they can remember them. If not, their not-so-treasured possessions are put up for auction and they've the chance to re-boot and de-clutter their lives forever.

With both shows about to start in the next few days, we thought it was time to share some celebrity goss and a whole lot more with Gaby, 44, and Mark, 40. So, we swept them off to glamorous night-spot Trader Vic's on London's Park Lane (the renowned global company is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary), where the chat ranged from Brendan Cole's ghoulish fancy dress obsession to Mark's penchant for bulls' testicles!

**Gaby, we've seen you in many different guises, from presenting the Children In Need appeal to singing and dancing in Chicago – but is presenting your true love?**

Yes, I've done a lot of acting now. I've performed at the National Theatre and I did a national tour

of *When Harry Met Sally* – but my heart is as a presenter. I've been presenting for 21 years, from my *Big Breakfast* days, and I still love it. Everyone asks me what would be my dream job, and I'd love to be doing live telly every day again or a big Saturday night show. And *Celebrity Fantasy Homes* is something I'm really proud of.

## What's so special about it?

The show's changed quite drastically from how it started out, it's become a chat show with a difference. We take celebrities to view four prospective properties and somehow, because they're out of a studio environment and because we're very comfortable together chatting, they tell me things that are quite revelatory – things they say they've never even told a therapist!

## Would you like your own fantasy home?

I'm really happy in London. I'd love a country place for weekends, but we simply couldn't be there every weekend. My seven-year-old daughter, Libbi-Jack, is at school, and I've got my two-year-old, Amelie, to schlep around. I've got a huge ▶

mortgage like everyone else, so I couldn't really afford another place. My partner David is Amelie's dad, and he's a fantastic stepdad too. Libbi-Jack still sees her dad and they have a great relationship – I'm incredibly lucky with my home life.

## Please dish some dirt on some of your celebrities in the series!

Well, David Gest was completely barking mad, but very kind and fiercely loyal. I respect that in somebody. He talked lots about Michael Jackson, and also about his own sexuality, the fact that a lot of people insinuate that he's gay – but he's not. Just because he married the ultimate gay icon, Liza Minnelli, doesn't mean he's gay!

## Who do you think have proved the most revelatory celebrities?

Sherrie Hewson was extraordinary. We took her to Sitges, where she revealed some heartbreaking

details about her divorce and the abuse she suffered from her first husband. At one point I felt I could ask her if she ever contemplated ending it all, during her lowest times. She said she had done, and her daughter was completely thrown – we all were. It was a very emotional moment.

### How was Brendan Cole?

Sherrie and Brendan were the ones who really made us stand back and gasp. Brendan talks about being bullied and he opened up incredibly. No one ever sees that with him, you just see the tough dancer. We also took him to a multimillionaire's house, which had a room dedicated to death. There were real skulls there and an invitation to Princess Diana's funeral was framed on the wall. There was a scythe, which Brendan loved, and then he admitted he dresses up as the grim reaper when he goes to fancy dress parties!

### Mark, do you practise what you preach on *Gutted*, or is your home full of clutter?

I am the ultimate hypocrite, I'm a sporadic hoarder. The big problem is the emotional attachment you get to things. My sister had a big grandfather clock which was bust, but for some reason, because I went to my grandmother's house as a child, I stuck it in the attic rather than putting it on the dump.

### How does *Gutted* work?

An unsuspecting hoarder comes home and gets the fright of their lives – their house is completely empty. They've been nominated by their family, who are in on the game. All that remains are the walls of their house, and me, sitting patiently to explain what's going on. I can't imagine I'm very popular! But I reassure them that their belongings are safe and getting them back couldn't be easier... as long as they can remember everything!

### What happens next?

Every time our Guttee fails to answer a question about their belongings correctly, all the items in that category go up for auction that next day. We offer them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – they can keep the money raised or they can get their possessions back. The dilemma is money or your life? Which would leave you feeling less *Gutted*?

### What have been the most extreme reactions?

Tears are quite frequent. We're not nasty, though, we're there to help. But we have had people expressing some anger!

### What sort of clutter do people hoard?

We had a guy in Croydon who was so obsessed with films that his relationship with his wife

was strained. He'd put up shelves everywhere to hold his DVDs, even up the staircase. He had *Empire* magazines dating back to 1990. But it all had to go... or did it?

### What's the most shocking stuff people have forgotten about?

One bloke forgot his daughter's goldfish! It was in a little tank. We couldn't quite work out how we'd sell that at auction! He claimed the goldfish had been moved two weeks earlier to a different space, so it wasn't on the shelf with a big 'X' donating the fish.

### Has making the programme changed the way you feel about your own hoarding?

Absolutely. I now look at my house, thinking, this place is full of rubbish – I must get rid of it! I'm very happy where I am, though, in a big house in Wandsworth with my wife Rachel and our kids, three-year-old twins Archie and Freddie, and Rosie, two.

### Gaby, you once took part in celebrity duet show *Just The Two Of Us*...

That was just a laugh. I was most relieved to be knocked off it. The production team kept telling me: 'No, you want to win, don't you?' and I would go: 'No! It's a laugh!'

### Would you ever go on *Strictly Come Dancing*?

No way! I've been asked many times, but I can't dance to save my life – just the thought makes my palms go sweaty. And I wouldn't go into the jungle either, or do *Celebrity Big Brother*. I'm quite a private person.

### Does Libbi-Jack want to follow in your footsteps?

She wants to be a nursery school teacher! She's unbelievable with small kids. We had some friends around the other day, they came at 1pm and left at 10.30pm. All that time, Libbi-Jack was looking after their little ones.

### Mark, we love seeing you host *I'm A Celebrity – Get Me Out Of Here! Now!* – will you be

### back again later this year?

Who knows? It's lovely to be asked, but I'm 40 now – I can't eat bulls' testicles all my life! At the end of each programme, we've had a studio cat-off, where the loser had to eat something horrendous, and yes, I've eaten bull's testicles. It's not exactly *Wish You Were Here*...?, is it?

### Talking of which, how is your lovely mum, Judith Chalmers?

Jude the dude! She's fine, thank you very much. Last year I presented *Wish You Were Here...? Now & Then*, which gave me the chance to watch Mum, or the Travelling Tangerine, as I like to call her, in all those old '70s clips. That bouffant hair, the lime-green trouser suits – those were the days!

OK!

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BOTH MARK'S AND GABY'S NEW SERIES ARE ON HOME, THE NEW CHANNEL FOR HOMES & GARDENS INSPIRATION. 'CELEBRITY FANTASY HOMES' IS ON WEDNESDAYS 9PM, FROM APRIL 30. 'GUTTED' IS ON WEDNESDAYS 10PM, FROM MAY 4. (HOME IS THE RE-BRANDING NAME FOR UKTV STYLE).

FEATURE BY ROB DRISCOLL PHOTOGRAPHS BY ED WATTS HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY SADIE HEWLETT USING BOBBI BROWN



## BONGO BONGO SOUP

*Trader Vic's uses jarred Pacific coast oysters for this dish, inspired by boula boula, a purée of pea and turtle soup.*

### SERVES 2

- 8 oysters
- 300g spinach
- 200ml double cream
- 1 tbsp HP sauce
- 1 clove of garlic, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 200ml water

**1** Cook together all ingredients except the cream, until the mix comes to a gentle boil. Take off heat and put through the blender. Slowly warm the cream separately then add into the soup, stirring through for a marbled effect. Pour into two bowls and serve.



Popular presenters Gaby and Mark get into the spirit of Trader Vic's before they dish all the dirt for us!



**Mark hosts *Gutted* and says the show has changed his outlook: 'I now look at my house, thinking, this place is full of rubbish - I must get rid of it!' Gaby, meanwhile, is really proud of *Celebrity Fantasy Homes* and has seen her guests really open up**

## INDONESIAN RACK OF LAMB

*A deliciously exotic treat with a marinade that's best prepared the day before.*

### SERVES 2

- 8 small lamb chops/cutlets or noisettes
- 2 pineapple rings
- 2 lbsps mango chutney
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp Chinese 5 spice
- Dash of lemon juice
- 1 tsp honey
- Salt and pepper

**1** Mix all the spices, lemon juice and honey together, then rub this mix generously into the lamb chops. Let the chops rest covered in a fridge for 24 hours.

**2** Grill the lamb chops for 2-3 minutes under a medium heat. Do not overcook. Add the pineapple rings towards the end of cooking. Dress with chutney and serve with a mixed salad or fresh vegetables of your choice.



**Above: The duo enjoy a cocktail. On celebs featuring in her series, Gaby says: 'David Gest was completely barking mad'**