

SHRINK RAP

Inside the head of... Anthea Turner

What is your earliest memory?

Sitting on a red potty at my uncle and aunt's caravan site in Rhyl. I was two-and-a-half. I really needed to go, but I refused to take my pants off because my uncle and auntie kept hens and they were pecking all around me.

What sort of child were you?

I was outwardly very confident, but at times I'd go into my shell and want to be invisible. An educational psychologist eventually diagnosed me as dyslexic. I took strength from that, and threw myself with extra vigour into anything I was good at.

What is your biggest regret?

Allowing myself to be photographed holding a chocolate bar on my wedding day [the rights to the event were bought by *OK!* magazine, which issued a photograph to the press of the couple appearing to plug a new Cadbury bar]. It didn't occur to me that so much mischief would ensue.

What's the worst job you've ever done?

Being dressed as a debit card and having to go round garage forecourts with my friend Lesley in 1988 to try to persuade people to get cashback on their cards.

Tell us a secret about yourself

Donald Trump offered me a lift on his private jet. I was interviewing him for *GMTV*, and off-camera I mentioned I was going to travel to New York. I declined, but we met up when I was there. While I was in his office, he told me he'd just bought a floating casino and was looking at the carpet samples and could I help him pick one? I wasn't keen on any of them but chose the least

offensive. I often wonder if my carpet was the one he ordered.

Who would be your dream dinner date?

Madonna. She fascinates me. I just want to know if she is actually as strong as she seems.

What is your most unappealing habit?

Pulling my eyebrow hairs out.

Have you ever cheated death?

I nearly got killed on a live TV show. I was presenting a link while sitting on the back of a covered truck. There was a motorbike inside the truck, which was to ride out past me at top speed as I talked to camera. As the bike emerged, the rider misjudged where I was and he almost smashed into the back of my head. Although he missed me, a spark from the exhaust set my jacket and hair on fire.

What do you most dislike about your appearance?

I have a very flat skull and no proper crown to my head.

What has been your biggest achievement?

The fact that I'm still standing, still here after one hell of a lot of knocks. My other great achievement was being on *Blue Peter*. I loved that show and I wish I'd stayed there longer, but I couldn't turn down the chance to work on *GMTV*.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

'Exactly'.

What's the worst pain you've experienced?

A horse kicked my knee and smashed it into five pieces – it was excruciating.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

I once met Olivia Newton-John's sister, who told me I looked like a member of her family, so any of them who's a good actress.

And your biggest disappointment?

The failure of my marriage to Grant Bovey [they split in 2013 and were divorced last year]. I'm sad it failed, sad I was with someone who didn't respect me. I do not regret it though, because of my relationship with my three stepdaughters. I couldn't have children myself and they are simply amazing.

What one skill should every person possess?

To wash clothes properly. Whites. Darks. Colours. It's that simple.

What do you believe in?

I believe in karma. I hope I'm right.

Interview by Louise Gannon

Anthea Turner is in 'Jack And The Beanstalk' at the Theatre Royal Windsor until January 8

'DONALD TRUMP TOLD ME HE'D JUST BOUGHT A FLOATING CASINO – AND COULD I HELP CHOOSE THE CARPET'

LAST FILM YOU SAW?

Inferno. It was terrible. I don't know who thought that it was a good idea to make it into a movie.

LAST BOOK YOU READ?

The Girl On The Train by Paula Hawkins. Loved it. I was gripped from the beginning.

LAST TV SHOW?

I've just finished season three of *House Of Cards*. I keep quoting Frank Underwood, and I love everything Robin Wright wears. It's such an incredible show.