

Interesting People

Nicholas Smith, British Actor/Mr.
Rumbold of *Are You Being Served?*

Interesting People

Education

- Primary
 - Banstead Infant School, Banstead Community Junior School, St. Anne's, Warren Mead Infant and Junior School
- Secondary
 - The Beason School
 - Ball boys, Wimbledon
- Independence
 - Aberdour School
 - Greenacre School
 - The Priory School
- Royal Academy of Arts: 1957
 - Pay dues then a celebrity
 - US: celebrity then acting
- Compare and contrast
 - Impact on creativity
 - British method of funding: TV tax
 - U.S.: “free will and individual gifts”

Interesting People

Birthplace/Family

- March 5, 1934
- Banstead, England, a town
 - County of Surrey
 - Border of Greater London
 - 13 miles south of London
 - Population: 8,500
- Father
- Mother
- Siblings
- Spouse: Mary
 - Your first date
- Child: Catherine Russell

Interesting People

Catherine Russell

- London, England: 1966
- Drama, crime, mystery, comedy, thrillers, romance, horror, music, family, war
- Credits
 - Agatha Christie Poirot
 - The Inspector Lynley Mysteries
 - The Secretary Who Stole 4 M pounds
 - The Silent Witness
 - The Cazalets
 - Late Night with Conan O'Brien
- Grandchildren

Interesting People

The Adolescent Nicholas

- Fondest childhood memory
- Your acting eyes?
 - Convergent brain
 - Divergent brain
- Passions
 - Travel
 - Sports
 - Academics

Interesting People

The Adult Nicholas

- What experience changed the course of your life?
- The acting process
 - Preparation
 - Alone vs. isolated
 - Information considered
 - The pain/coming down
- Non-professional interests?
- What makes your profession pleasurable?
- How much, if any, dysfunctionality is just enough to allow you to succeed?

Interesting People

Actor: The Beginning

- Earliest roles
 - Non-speaking extra
 - First speaking role
 - BBC's *The Dalak Invasion of Earth*
 - Richard Martin
 - 6 vs. 3 episodes
- Next step: adventure series: *The Saint*, *The Champions* and *Ace of Wands*
- 1972-1985: *Are You Being Served?*
 - Mr. Cuthbert Rumbold, manager of menswear and ladieswear departments/Grace Brothers
- 1977: Spin-off film: Mr. Rumbold
- 1992 and 1993: *Grace & Favour*

Interesting People

Theatre, Film, Television, Radio Credits

- Theatre: plays and musicals
 - A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Mikado, Ten Little Indians, My Fair Lady, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It, Cinderella, Macbeth
 - Two years with the Royal Shakespeare Company
- Film
 - What Rats Won't Do, The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes', Casanova, The Canterbury Tales
- Television
 - Are You Being Served?, BBC sketch show Revolver, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Kirk Douglas)

Interesting People

Are You Being Served?

- 9/8/1972: First broadcast in form of pilot for the series of Comedy Playhouse
 - Munich massacre: 1972 Summer Olympics
- 22 million viewers, 10 series, 69 episodes, 13 yrs
 - PBS, BBC, Canada
- Themes
 - Parody of the British class system
 - Sexual innuendo, mistaken identity, slapstick
- Mr. Rumbold, the autocratic, obsequious, easily confused menswear and ladieswear manager
 - Simpsons of Piccadilly
 - Jeremy Lloyd; clothing store
 - Harrods
- Are You Free?, double entendres, just a mother's boy

Interesting People

The Duchess

- 18th Century England
- Georgiana (Keira Knightley)
 - Duchess of Devonshire
- Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes)
- Golden Globe nominated
- Story line
 - Extravagant advices
 - Scandalous affair w/Charles Grey
 - Prime Minister

Interesting People

The Stanislavski System: No. 1

- Brilliant Russian actor; Three Sisters, Cherry Orchard; hands, body, voice
- “Great artistic work requires the ability to look into the hearts of today’s spectators, into the soul of a role, and into the heart of the actor who will play it. This requires technique and stamina” Stanislavski
- “... audiences to comprehend all the inner essence of a play, live the experiences of the character and “incarnate” him and express inner truth in vivid form...”
- Not sober to drunk; drunk to sober
- Door opening: hospital, office, train
- Pretending/experiencing
- Faked emotion/experienced emotion

Interesting People

The Stanislavski System: No. 2

- Starting from nothing
 - Awareness, ease and focus
- Imagination and action – creating the foundations
 - Acting in circumstances, acting with others, What do I want?
- Developing the imaginary reality – seeing, sensing, feeling
 - Visualizing the action, sensing, feeling atmosphere
 - the objective feeling
- Exploring text and character
 - Meeting the play, meeting the character, discovering the action, creating the physical life of the role, refining the role
- Beyond the role
 - Acting ethics, working together, an open conclusion

Interesting People

Closing

- Your worst memory?
- Greatest ambition?
- Wildest dream?
- Ideal day?
- Any fears?
- With whom would you most wish to visit?
- Rewind your life?
- Any person: living or dead?
- Live during any other time?
- Any regret?