

Not a book

a lot of what you fancy...

THE RISE OF SECRET SURGERY

The nip/tucks no one
need ever know about...

20
PAIRS OF
BEAUTIFUL
BOOTS
FROM £15

Robson Green

Cod's gift

From heart-throb to fisherman, he's still reeling us in

Robson Green: "My only regret is wearing really tight jeans"

08.00, 1 February 2015 By Emma Jones

Actor, singer and extreme fisherman Robson Green, 50, talks snug pants, adventure, outdoor pursuits and how he can put on ever such a nice fireworks display...



Robson has had an incredible career

Robson Green is early to our shoot. In fact, we were at the studio an hour before he was due to arrive and he was so early, he still beat us. And the cleaner.

There's no awkwardness, however, as our favourite Geordie bounds over and hugs us all, rubbing our hands to warm us from the minus conditions outside. He then offers us teas and coffees, and won't let anyone do anything for him throughout the entire shoot. Weird considering the bloke could be a diva if he wanted.

With an acting career spanning 30 years, with Soldier Soldier, Strike Back and Grantchester as just a handful of the primetime programmes he's starred in, plus that record-breaking pop career with Jerome Flynn as 'Robson and Jerome', he's now managed to capture the nation's attention by rendering cool a hobby that was perhaps the once most un-cool pastime ever – fishing. Yep, even those who have no interest in tackle and waders have been captivated by Robson's charm. And charming he certainly is.



Robson with James Norton in Grantchester

Throughout our day with him we listen to his favourite artist, Elvis, and he references his 'wonderful, inspiring' late father at every given opportunity. In fact, he remarks how much he looks like his dad in our shots (and he's thrilled about it). He has a refreshing philosophical outlook on life, 'I invest in people, flowers and greenery. Anything that's alive,' and is clearly comfortable within himself, happy to comment on how a close friend of his is 'the most gorgeous man on Earth. Even if he does wear Crocs'.

Oh, and we learn a lot. Did you know the burst of a firework is made out of rice husk? Neither did we.

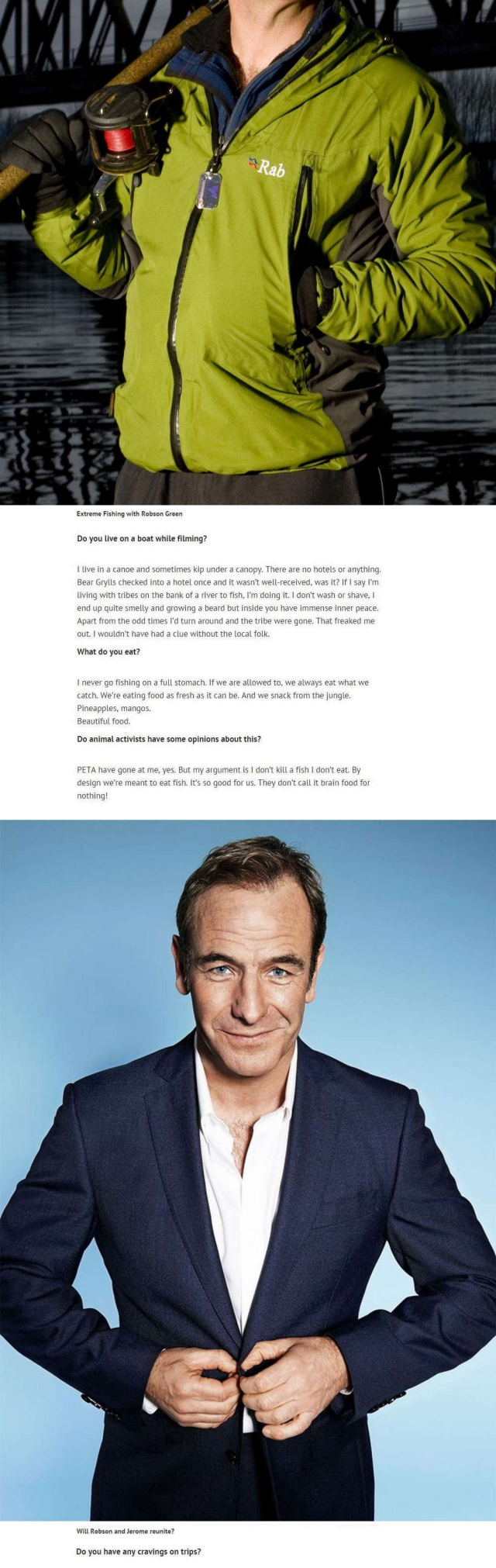
At the end of the day, his enthusiasm and positivity is infectious. With yet another incredible fishing journey under his belt, Robson Green's Ultimate Catch, he admits he finds it really difficult to be unhappy. He's living his dream after all...

Can you believe how successful your fishing adventures have become?

No. The first week of filming was a career low. It's never been broadcast. I was awful. I was so nervous and almost quit. Then I realised I didn't have to be an expert, I just had to be passionate.

Have you ever found yourself in trouble on the open water?

When we were near Alaska we hit a Force 10 hurricane and were stuck in the middle of the ocean for 36 hours. When the captain looked at me and said, 'We could be in serious trouble here,' I genuinely thought 'This is where it's all going to end.' You can't turn around in a storm, you have to go head on into it. I'm not a religious man, but for those 36 hours, I believed in the Almighty.



Extreme Fishing with Robson Green

Do you live on a boat while filming?

I live in a canoe and sometimes kip under a canopy. There are no hotels or anything. Bear Grylls checked into a hotel once and it wasn't well-received, was it? If I say I'm living with tribes on the bank of a river to fish, I'm doing it. I don't wash or shave, I end up quite smelly and growing a beard but inside you have immense inner peace. Apart from the odd times I'd turn around and the tribe were gone. That freaked me out. I wouldn't have had a clue without the local folk.

What do you eat?

I never go fishing on a full stomach. If we are allowed to, we always eat what we catch. We're eating food as fresh as it can be. And we snack from the jungle. Pineapples, mangos. Beautiful food.

Do animal activists have some opinions about this?

PETA have gone at me, yes. But my argument is I don't kill a fish I don't eat. By design we're meant to eat fish. It's so good for us. They don't call it brain food for nothing!



Will Robson and Jerome reunite?

Do you have any cravings on trips?

Thorntons chocolate. I don't drink alcohol so that's my vice. If I'm at home I can't concentrate on anything if I know it's in the house, I have to eat it. I train five times a week though, so I'm allowed.

Have your rugged outdoor pursuits attracted a certain type of woman?

No. My girlfriend is an account manager for a big clothing brand. But we do like walking and doing outdoorsy things. We like the countryside and she finds fishing peaceful. Fishing is my therapy. It's such a great immersion into life.

Will it be a fish dinner on Valentine's Day then?

Oh no! I'm not romantic, but I'm a good listener. She mentioned something she liked, and I actually listened and remembered it. So I'll buy it. That's nice isn't it?



Robson says he's living the dream

Definitely. What's the first thing you do when you get home from fishing trips?

Go and watch my son Taylor, 15, play hockey. He is so talented. That boy is destined for great things. He's a gorgeous-looking lad too, he doesn't get that from me, his mother is beautiful.

You seem down-to-earth. Anything flashy about you?

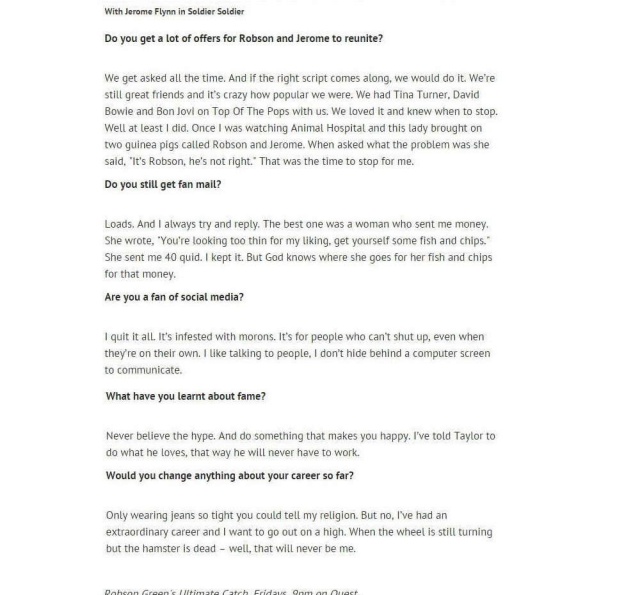
Nothing apart from a few nice watches. I used to buy lots of fireworks too. I have a pyrotechnics license and I put on displays. I did a couple of weddings a few years back. I'm not kidding you.

Do you like going to the odd celebrity party?

I don't like being classed as a celebrity. I'm a normal actor who's survived. I find the people at those parties are just there to be seen rather than to engage. That isn't me.

What do you get recognised for the most?

You can't call it. People tend to reel off my CV to me. Once I was sat on the toilet and someone decided to have a conversation with me. They shouted, 'Robson, caught anything today?' Absolute recognition low.



With Jerome Flynn in Soldier Soldier

Do you get a lot of offers for Robson and Jerome to reunite?

We get asked all the time. And if the right script comes along, we would do it. We're still great friends and it's crazy how popular we were. We had Tina Turner, David Bowie and Bon Jovi on Top Of The Pops with us. We loved it and knew when to stop. Well at least I did. Once I was watching Animal Hospital and this lady brought on two guinea pigs called Robson and Jerome. When asked what the problem was she said, 'It's Robson, he's not right.' That was the time to stop for me.

Do you still get fan mail?

Loads. And I always try and reply. The best one was a woman who sent me money. She wrote, 'You're looking too thin for my liking, get yourself some fish and chips.' She sent me 40 quid. I kept it. But God knows where she goes for her fish and chips for that money.

Are you a fan of social media?

I quit it all. It's infested with morons. It's for people who can't shut up, even when they're on their own. I like talking to people, I don't hide behind a computer screen to communicate.

What have you learnt about fame?

Never believe the hype. And do something that makes you happy. I've told Taylor to do what he loves, that way he will never have to work.

Would you change anything about your career so far?

Only wearing jeans so tight you could tell my religion. But no, I've had an extraordinary career and I want to go out on a high. When the wheel is still turning but the hamster is dead – well, that will never be me.

Robson Green's Ultimate Catch, Fridays, 9pm on Quest.

This interview was featured in The Sunday Mirror's Notebook magazine.