

Frances Barber

What newspapers do you take? *The Guardian*, *The Mirror*, *The Observer*, *The Independent On Sunday* and *Hello*.

What animal best resembles you? A dormouse: I can sleep more than anyone I know.

What is your favourite piece of architecture? The pyramid in front of the Louvre.

What was your first thought this morning? I'd rather die than go to the gym.

Do you have a recurring dream? No.

What would you most like to alter about your appearance? On bad days most things, on good days not much.

What talent would you most like to have? To play the piano.

Are you superstitious? Very.

What do you blame your parents for? Nothing.

What is your favourite joke? Two cows in a field. First cow: 'I'm really worried about mad cow disease.' Second cow: 'I'm not bothered, I'm a sheep.'

Who do you most respect? My mum; she's the most courageous woman I know.

Which thinker has had most effect on your own personal philosophy? Jung and my mum.

You're driving through a hot, desolate expanse. What's playing on the stereo? Radio Four.

Who would you most want to change places with? Anthony Burgess for a day, to increase my vocabulary.

Do you believe Page 3 should be banned? Yes.

Which games do you enjoy playing? Quizzes: they confirm how little I do know.

Which charities do you give money to? Terrence Higgins Trust and Cancer Research.

Do you pay your poll tax? Yes.



Frances Barber is one of Britain's leading stage and screen actresses. Probably best known for her portrayal of Rosie in Stephen Frears and Hanif Kureishi's film *Sammy And Rosie Get Laid*, she has played major roles for the RSC, the Royal Court and the Renaissance Theatre Company. She has just completed a major Screen One film for BBC1, *Hancock*, in which she and Alfred Molina play Freddie and Tony Hancock, and she co-stars with Alan Bates this autumn in *Secret Friends*, a play for Channel Four written and directed by Dennis Potter.

Which politician do you find the least unattractive? Ken Livingstone.

Under what circumstances would you use private medicine? When the NHS no longer exists.

Should South Africa be allowed to compete in the '92 Olympics? If Oliver Tambo says so.

What films do you love and hate the most? Favourites: *Jules Et Jim* and *Bad Timing*. I

really loathed Werner Herzog's *Heart Of Glass*.

What is your favourite meeting place? My dressing room after a show, but only if I'm in a hit.

What tv do you watch to relax? *Carry On* films and *Prisoner Cell Block H*.

Do you use public transport on a regular basis? If I did I'd become a London Transport official serial killer.

Are your political allegiances the same as they were when you were 18? Pretty much so.

What would you die for? A cigarette: I've just given up. Again.

What are your addictions? Feeling guilty.

Do you own shares? No.

If you couldn't do your current job, what would you do? Fuck knows.

What part of this life would you take into another life? The same friends.

What do you now own that you had never dreamt of owning? A dog.

What is the most amount of money you've spent on an item of clothing? Don't ask.

Which film star do you dream about? Richard Gere.

Which is your favourite city? Paris: everyone smokes and drinks, every car has a dent in it, around every corner is some heart-stopping architecture, and the metro works properly.

Are you a thinker or a doer? I think a lot about what I should be doing.

What is the worst job in the world? Working in a Chuckie Chicken factory. (I've done it.)

Complete this sentence: If I were dictator for a day... I'd sack everyone in charge of London Transport, force them to travel with me during rush hour and see how many escalators don't work.

What do you no longer believe in? Come-uppance.

What hi-tech device scares you? A nuclear warhead.

How do you want to have changed by the end of the millennium? I want to have become a mother.

How much more do you want to achieve? To sleep with Richard Gere.