

GYLES BRANDRETH

A former Oxford Scholar, President of the Oxford Union and MP for the City of Chester, Gyles Brandreth's career has ranged from being a Whip and Lord Commissioner of the Treasury in John Major's government to starring in his own award-winning musical revue in London's West End. A prolific broadcaster (in programmes ranging from Just a Minute to Have I Got News for You), an acclaimed interviewer (principally for the Sunday Telegraph), a novelist, children's author and biographer, his best-selling diary, *Breaking the Code*, was described as 'By far the best political diary of recent years, far more perceptive and revealing than Alan Clark's' (*The Times*) and 'Searingly honest, wildly indiscreet, and incredibly funny' (*Daily Mail*). He is the author of two acclaimed royal biographies: *Philip & Elizabeth: Portrait of a Marriage* and *Charles & Camilla: Portrait of a Love Affair*. In 2007/2008, John Murray in the UK and Simon & Schuster in the US began publishing *The Oscar Wilde Murder Mysteries*, his series of Victorian murder mysteries featuring Oscar Wilde as the detective.



As a performer, Gyles Brandreth has been seen most recently in *ZIPP! ONE HUNDRED MUSICALS FOR LESS THAN THE PRICE OF ONE* at the Duchess Theatre and on tour throughout the UK, and as Malvolio and the Sea Captain in *TWELFTH NIGHT THE MUSICAL* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Gyles Brandreth is one of Britain's busiest after-dinner speakers and award ceremony hosts. He has won awards himself, and been nominated for awards, as a public speaker, novelist, children's writer, broadcaster (Sony), political diarist (Channel Four), journalist (British Press Awards), theatre producer (Olivier), and businessman (British Tourist Authority Come to Britain Trophy).

He is married to writer and publisher Michèle Brown, with whom he co-curated the exhibition of twentieth century children's authors at the National Portrait Gallery and founded the award-winning Teddy Bear Museum now based at the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon. He is a trustee of the British Forces Foundation, and a former chairman and now vice-president of the National Playing Fields Association.

Gyles Brandreth's forebears include George R Sims (the highest-paid journalist of his day, who wrote the ballad *Christmas Day in the Workhouse*) and Jeremiah Brandreth

BOUND & GAGGED COMEDY

(the last man in England to be beheaded for treason). His great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Brandreth, promoted 'Brandreth's Pills' (a medicine that cured everything!) and was a pioneer of modern advertising and a New York state senator. Today, Gyles Brandreth has family living in New York, Maryland, South Carolina and California. He has been London correspondent for "Up to the Minute" on CBS News and his books published in the United States include the New York Times best-seller, *The Joy of Lex* and, most recently, *Philip & Elizabeth: Portrait of a Royal Marriage*.

TELEVISION

The One Show

Reporter

BBC 1

Have I Got News for You

Guest presenter

BBC 1

Public Opinion

Series presenter

BBC 1

Sunday AM

Newspaper reviewer

BBC 1

This is Your Life

Subject

BBC 1

Room101

Guest

BBC 2

QI

Guest

BBC 2

Celebrity Mastermind

Guest

BBC 2

That Mitchell & Webb Look

Guest

BBC 2

Rob Brydon's Annually Retentive

Countdown

Guest

Channel 4

Richard & Judy

Guest

Channel 4

This Morning

Guest

ITV

Philip & Elizabeth

Series presenter

Channel 5

Up to the Minute

Regular presenter

CBS News

Frost Over The World

Guest

Al-Jazeera

RADIO

Living with the Enemy (sitcom)

Co-Star / Writer

BBC Radio 4

Sound Advice

Series presenter

BBC Radio 4

Whispers

Series presenter

BBC Radio 4

Just a Minute

Regular guest

BOUND & GAGGED COMEDY

Guest
BBC 2
Just a Minute
Regular guest
BBC Radio 4
The Brandreth Rules
Series presenter
BBC Radio 4
Pick of the Week
Guest presenter
BBC Radio 4
With Great Pleasure
Guest presenter
BBC Radio 4

The Personality Test
The Brandreth Rules
Series presenter
BBC Radio 4
Pick of the Week
Guest presenter
BBC Radio 4
With Great Pleasure
Guest presenter
BBC Radio 4
The Personality Test
Guest presenter
BBC Radio 4

THEATRE

Malvolio in Twelfth Night - The Musical, Edinburgh: August 2005;
ZIPP! 100 Musicals in 100 Minutes (Edinburgh Festival Most Popular Show Award);
Duchess Theatre, 2003; UK Tour, 2004;

Also: Wit's End, one-man show and An Evening with Gyles Brandreth

AFTER-DINNER SPEAKER & AWARDS HOST

'Probably the best speaker I have heard' Daily Express

'Brandreth is brilliant' Daily Mail

'Gyles Brandreth has a serious talent for making people laugh' Daily Mirror

'Not merely, like all the best after-dinner speakers, does he know how to spin a yarn – unlike most politicians, he has a touching access to the secrets of the human heart' The Times

BOOKS

The Oscar Wilde Murder Mysteries:

- Book 1: Oscar Wilde and the Candlelight Murders (UK) / Oscar Wilde and a Death of No Importance (USA) ('Genius', Express; 'Fabulous', Scotsman; 'Highly Entertaining', Dubliner; 'A wow of a history mystery ...a first class stunner', Booklist)
- Book 2: Oscar Wilde and the Ring of Death (UK) /Oscar Wilde and a Game Called Murder (USA) ('Hugely Enjoyable', Daily Mail, 'Devilish Ingenuity', Express, 'A cast of historical characters to die for', Sunday Times)
- Book 3: Oscar Wilde and the Dead Man's Smile (UK & USA)

BOUND & GAGGED COMEDY

Charles & Camilla: Portrait of a Love Affair ('Book of the Year: Riveting, gossipy & touching'
Beryl Bainbridge, Mail on Sunday; 'Could this be the best book ever written about the royal
family? A masterpiece' Sunday Express)

Philip & Elizabeth: Portrait of a Marriage
(The Sunday Times best-seller. 'A joy . . . Thoughtful, sympathetic, wholly original, often
hilarious, occasionally profound' Craig Brown, Mail on Sunday)

Brief Encounters: Meetings with Remarkable People
(His interviews are quite superb. Nobody does it better.' Michael Parkinson, BBC Radio 2)

Breaking the Code: Westminster Diaries
(By far the best political diary of recent years, far more perceptive and revealing than Alan
Clark's.' The Times
www.gylesbrandreth.net

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