



ACTOR, 45

EWAN MCGREGOR

The Scot on returning to his Highland home and why he prefers edgy films over superhero flicks

a road that goes around the whole island and I'd love to do that in a four-by-four, camping with the kids.

You live in LA. How often do you get back to your home country, Scotland? I go back every summer. And if I'm working in Britain, I'll go up for the weekend. My

parents are there, my brother and his family, I've got friends up there – I love going back. I miss the landscape, I miss the countryside, the fresh air and the smell of heather and sheep. You need a big dose of it every now and again, to get up in the Highlands and go for a walk. It's all mixed up in my childhood and who I am. If someone asks me what my nationality is, I always say Scottish. The feeling of belonging to somewhere is quite strong with Scots, I think, and it certainly is with me. I feel right when I'm back in Scotland. **You're filming the *Trainspotting* sequel in Scotland now, right?** Yes, we're shooting in Scotland for a couple of months. I can't tell you anything, other than it's exciting to be doing it. Working with [director] Danny Boyle and the boys again – Bobby Carlyle, Ewen Bremner and Jonny Lee Miller – is beyond thrilling. It's a great script, written by John Hodge who wrote the original *Trainspotting* script. He adapted Irvine Welsh's book *Porno*, but very loosely; it's a clever adaptation.

And *Our Kind Of Traitor* is out soon, which was adapted from a John le Carré book. Are you a le Carré fan? I'm not a huge thriller reader, but I tend to read a lot because I spend my life making stories. At the moment, I'm reading a lot about mountain climbers. I don't climb mountains, but I like to read about them, I don't know why. I've been somewhat adventurous in my life, I suppose. I don't think I'd ever read a le Carré, so I read *Our Kind Of Traitor* after I'd been offered the script, and really liked it. I read it in that special way you do when you're reading a novel you might adapt for the screen. I was looking for similarities and differences between me and the character I dreamt up in my head, and then le Carré's character. He was written as a bit older than me and I think as an Englishman. So I got le Carré's blessing through the director, Susanna White, to play him as a Scot.

What do you look for in projects these days? I don't know that it's any different than it has ever been: I'm always turned on by something I haven't done before. It's odd, I've been a parent for 20 years and only really been cast as one in the last four or five. My family is my heart, my life, so to explore those things is quite interesting. But I'm still drawn to drama, stories about real characters in the world, real-world issues as opposed to superhero-type things. I like films about people, films with a bit of edge. **HANNAH JAMES**

Our Kind Of Traitor is in cinemas on July 14.

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Hi Ewan. Hi Hannah, so sorry I'm late! I was in my garage with my motorbikes, trying to get one started to take to a shop – they're selling a couple for me. I've got this old Triumph I haven't started for ages. I was sweating and swearing and kicking it over, and I guess I couldn't hear my phone. **That's OK! Do you often buy and sell bikes?** I do. I like old, traditional bikes, like Moto Guzzi, which is my favourite brand of Italian bike. I love riding them, of course, but I like the search – hunting one down and buying it, tinkering with it – and then eventually I usually sell them on because I like to be looking for the next one. My grandfather was like that. He was always in the garage. You have to be patient as a mechanic, willing to do something and then undo it. I get a bit fed up and end up sending it off to someone who does have the patience [laughs]. **You're famous for your motorbike trips – any adventures coming up?** Nothing planned, but I dream about taking my family around Iceland. There's

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MY SUNDAY STYLE / RUSSELL DYKSTRA *My ideal Sunday, from sunrise to sunset*



Russell plays Barney on *Rake*, Thursdays, 8.30pm on ABC TV.

7am Every day starts with a walk in the garden. Hopefully there are some plants to put in that I've picked up at The Wildflower Place [Erina, NSW].



9am I am not a coffee snob, so instead I get my blood pumping by hang-gliding at Air Sports in Newcastle.

3pm After lunch at Horizons in Killcare, I tend my bees. I've been keeping bees for a few years. No honey tastes as good as what you pull from your own hive.



7pm Hit the hot tub! It's nestled in the bush looking out to the sea, so I watch the nightfall and nature settle. Bliss.

