

**I've Never Seen Star Wars (11th February 2009)**  
**Presented by Marcus Brigstocke**

- [Speaker 0] Now the show in which Marcus Brigstocke asks his guest to do the few things they've never quite got round to do before: "I've never seen Star Wars."
- [Speaker 1] Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think. Enjoy yourself, while your still in the...
- [Speaker 2] Welcome to "I've never seen Star Wars"
- [Marcus Brigstocke] I'm Marcus Brigstocke, and this is the show in which I persuade my guest to try something they have never done before. Over the last series I nearly convinced Michael Palin to be mean about somebody. Peter Mandelson to be nice about somebody and David Cameron to be somebody. I couldn't quite pull it off. Now let's welcome tonight's initiate. He is a comedian, a writer, broadcaster and professional Lenard Cowan impersonator. Ladies and gentlemen Arthur Smith.
- [Speaker 1] Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think. Enjoy yourself...
- [Marcus Brigstocke] Good evening Arthur, welcome, how are you?
- [Arthur Smith] I'm pretty good, my apologies to anyone in the audience who misread the ticket and is expecting to see Aerosmith
- [Marcus Brigstocke] Now you've you've done a huge number of extraordinary things, err so it's quite hard to find things to get you to do. You've sung the Maldovien national anthem naked on Balham Highstreet.
- [Arthur Smith] Yes I have
- [Marcus Brigstocke] That's the weirdest coincidence cause that's what I was gonna get you to do.
- [Arthur Smith] I do it every Tuesday
- [Marcus Brigstocke] OK you've also appeared in panto in Denmark
- [Arthur Smith] Yes yes, hasn't everyone? Yes it happens every year, theres an English language pantomime in Copenhagen and I play, I gave my Nurse Nelly-Nightcap. Ah are not the audience a lot of them are English professors and students of English and look upon this weird English arcane the actual form of panto and you say "Ohh no you don't" and there's a sort of rustling while they look at their notes. "Ohh yes you do". To them it's like Kabuki theatre.
- [Marcus Brigstocke] Ah Also you've never driven a car
- [Arthur Smith] No No I've never well I've only ever driven one motorized vehicle and that was for a bit of filming and I was meant to be a milkman and err I discovered I can either do the lines or drive the milk float but not both. And after I'd buggered up the lines the first two times and well I thought

I'm gonna get them right, I got the lines right, wrote off the milk float. Err so no. never err I can't drive.

Well this is what what led me on to the first challenge ahead for you.

[Marcus Brigstocke] Because based on that, you haven't watched a show that's been seen by three hundred and fifty million people, in ninety different countries, and that show is Top Gear. I asked you to watch an episode of Top Gear

[Arthur Smith] Yes

[Marcus Brigstocke] What were your initial impressions?

[Arthur Smith] Well I mean the umm the last ten minutes of the programme was possibly the finest bit of television there has ever been. Possibly I wouldn't know, I didn't watch it. I could only manage the first bit really. I'm really not familiar and I know nothing about cars you know. You say to me it's a blue Lexus. I don't know what a Lexus is they're all Cortina's to me. I made some notes about this program called Top Gear. Now what happened is that a tall old man in tight blue jeans with an oblong face and hand drawn hair came on at the beginning and tried to make some jokes about Germans and homosexuals and then some other men I think feeling sorry for him laughed. The length of his face meant he was able to register an almost infinite amount of smugness. And then one man got in a car and started being very boring about it. And then another man a bit shorter did the time thing in a different car. They both tried to make jokes too, which was sweet of them but they had no aptitude for it and then the first man the tall man actually presented an advert for a car and talked about prostitutes and then I turned off.

[Marcus Brigstocke] That was actually the original pitch for the program. Thats the basis from which it was commissioned. Did you, did you like anything about it?

[Arthur Smith] No, really, No I'm trying to think of one. One of the people in the audience, had a shirt that I quite liked.

[Marcus Brigstocke] So some redeeming features then. Let's have a bit of a listen to the episode of Top Gear

[Jeremy Clarkson] Tonight James drives in a Rolls Royce. Richard drives a Bugatti Veyron and I drive something that isn't either of those things.

[Marcus Brigstocke] Ah the audience goes beserk. but what about that that delivery, I mean Clarkson's got a very emphatic you know it's sort of, it draws you in.

[Arthur Smith] What I'd like to see would be Jeremy Clarkson try and do ten minutes down the comedy store because he'd fall on his arse and be heckled off

[Marcus Brigstocke] Yes

[Arthur Smith] By me. You know like I'm sorry his delivery really annoys me there's a sort of smug here I am what a funny chap I am in my jeans and my My Sunday Times column which are filled with rubbish I can't even think every week er my stupid books railing against anything that I don't like.

He's a really irritating man [...with an he's I mean..] cars clearly, blokes who are really into their cars are inadequate

[Marcus Brigstocke] Yea, lets just find out how many Top Gear fans are there here tonight. Give us a cheer if you enjoy Top Gear.

[Audience] Whey!

[Marcus Brigstocke] It is a phenomenally popular program. It's adored I mean: three hundred and fifty million people around the world have watched it in ninety countries or something like that. I mean I it's sort of torture for me because I admire the program it's incredibly well produced they do some phenomenal sequences it looks amazing and the banter and stuff, if you analyse it the cold light of day doesn't work well. But I'm swept along with it, I have to press a fork into the back of my hand to stop myself from crying out while I'm watching it. It's the only way to get through it. I mean the production's astonishing isn't it?

[Arthur Smith] Well I suppose so, if you like lots of pictures of cars driving by erm, which you obviously do Marcus. But on the other hand adverts, car adverts, I always thought you know, you see it and some beautiful cliffs and you think that looks nice and then some stupid car drives though it.

[Marcus Brigstocke] Do you know it is the most popular factual programme on the National TV Awards and it beat planet Earth. I mean literally Top Gear has beaten Planet Earth in real life and on the TV Awards

[Arthur Smith] Well I mean they're I don't think you know popularity is necessarily a mark of quality and I refer you to the career of Judith Chalmers Only because I just couldn't think how to end that sentence.

[Marcus Brigstocke] Ok, fair enough.

[Arthur Smith] I usually find if you say Judith Chalmers you get away with it

[Marcus Brigstocke] People often say that Top Gear is the funniest programme on TV Ah but Let's have a listen to some of that vintage humour

[James May] The thing is I believe deep in my heart that I look good in it and it suits me cause it's stylish and its contemporary

[Jeremy Clarkson] Every time I see you those are the words that pop into my head: stylish and contemporary. After other words like for instance: beige, Stanna Stair Lift , the war. Can you think of any more? Homosexual.

[James May] I object to the beige.

[Arthur Smith] Ha Ha Ha Haaa. Isn't it funny, I always said, Homosexuals, ai? It's all about penis's really.

[Marcus Brigstocke] Well there's certainly three of them on it that I've seen.

[Arthur Smith] But that was one of the moments in it that I noticed that Jeremy Clarkson had found a car that went from nought to sixty in three and a half seconds and described it as a profound experience. And I think well Jeremy really

there's another world out there: there is love; there is death; there is life. I mean going quickly in a tin box

[Marcus Brigstocke] So I'm guessing from what you've said you're not going to be massively inclined to watch Top Gear again

[Arthur Smith] I would rather bash my own teeth out with a hammer.

[Marcus Brigstocke] What would you give it out of ten?

[Arthur Smith] There were some nice colors flashing by and then little bits of lively music that were quite entertaining that distracted you from the great ugly bastard at the front. I'll give it two point five out of ten.

[Marcus Brigstocke] Two and a half

[Arthur Smith] In twenty seconds

[Marcus Brigstocke] There we go, two and a half out of ten for Top Gear.