

# Quentin Willson

MOTORING EXPERT, JOURNALIST & TV PRESENTER

Quentin Willson is one of Britain's best-known motoring authorities. He spent a decade presenting BBC's *Top Gear* alongside Jeremy Clarkson and was largely responsible for bringing the once scandalously high prices of new cars in the UK down to the same level as the rest of Europe. Wiping over £2 billion off the car industry's balance sheets overnight may not have made him very popular with car makers, but he remains a much-loved champion of Britain's beleaguered motorists.

**"Very few people can claim to having an effect named after them, but Quentin Willson is such a man. Using his high profile soapbox of *Top Gear*, Willson almost single-handedly forced UK car manufacturers to bring their prices in line with the rest of Europe. The QW Effect has saved us all thousands"** -Yellow Swordfish 2005

Willson pens a weekly column for *The Sunday Mirror*, writes and presents consumer programmes and documentaries, is the author of ten books and has appeared on scores of radio and TV shows. In 2004 he was awarded Motoring Writer of the Year.

Quentin first came to the public's attention in the early nineties as deputy editor of the only magazine solely devoted to second hand motors, *Buying Cars*, and was soon poached by the BBC to co-host *Top Gear* with Jeremy Clarkson. For a decade he appeared every week on *Top Gear*, routinely exposing shoddy service and poor product, educating car buyers on how to beat the system as well as pressurising the industry to lower new car prices in the UK.

He also presented his own classic car series *The Car's The Star* along with the first property show to talk about money, *All The Right Moves*, both for the BBC. He then left *Top Gear* to present Channel Five's rival motoring programme, *Fifth Gear*. While at Five he created the *Britain's Worst Driver* format which was nominated for best reality show in the coveted Montraux Golden Globe Awards.

**"Quentin Willson's clever *Britain's Worst Driver* format picked up one of Five's highest ratings for a wholly commissioned show. Five Controller, Dan Chambers, said 'Quentin is one of our strongest assets and BWD drew 2 million in its Friday slot - that's a million over the channel average.'"** -Broadcast Magazine 2003

A familiar face on most channels he regularly appears on *BBC Breakfast*, *GMTV*, *Panorama*, *Watchdog*, *Tonight With Trevor McDonald*, *This Morning*, *Richard and Judy* and most news and current affairs programmes.

Quentin's voice is almost as recognisable as his face and he's narrated *Driving School*, *War and Piste*, *Cops Uncut*, *How To Live Longer* as well as network TV ads for Barclays Bank, Car Phone Warehouse, Kellogs, Pacelforce, Shell Optimax, Black and Decker and Tic Tac. He's also a Bafta Judge and Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts.



## MAJOR TV CREDITS

### **Britain's Worst...**

Producer/Director/Presenter, 2003-2005 12 x 1hr

### **Britain's Worst Driver**

Creator, Producer, Presenter, 2002-03, 2 Series

### **Fifth Gear**

Presenter, 2002

### **All The Right Moves**

Presenter 1998-2000, 8 x

### **Top Gear**

Presenter, 1991-2000

## AWARDS

### **Motoring Writer of the Year Award**

Winner, 2004

### **Montreaux Golden Rose Award**

Britain's Worst Driver, Nominated, 2004

### **RTS, Best Presenter in Vision**

Nominated, 1997

## WEBSITE

[www.quentinwillson.co.uk](http://www.quentinwillson.co.uk)



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