

THE INVENTORY

MATTHEW MACFADYEN

Actor

If you had a coat of arms, what would be on it?
A proscenium arch. There's something about going on and off stage at the theatre that I love – going into the dark in the wings and then stepping into the light.



'My biggest extravagance? Nipping off to hotels with my wife Keeley Hawes'

Actor Matthew Macfadyen, 40, is best known for his roles in TV series such as *Spooks* and *Ripper Street*. He won a Bafta for his performance in *Criminal Justice* in 2009, and appeared as Mr Darcy in the 2005 film of *Pride & Prejudice*.

What was your childhood or earliest ambition?

To be in the school play. It was the Nativity and I wanted to be one of the kings. I was cast as Melchior and I was really pleased with that.

Public school or state school?

University or straight into work?

I went to a bunch of schools, in Scotland and Lincolnshire, until I was nine, when I went to an international school in Jakarta because of my father's work. From there, boarding school in the Midlands – Oakham School. It was a very happy place, co-ed, with fantastic

sports and theatre. I had a good time and did oodles of plays. I went from there to Rada. I applied secretly and couldn't believe it when I got in – I thought, at 17, that was my life sorted. After Rada, I went straight into work, doing a tour with the Cheek by Jowl company.

Who was or still is your mentor?

If I get stuck in an acting rut I think of Declan Donnellan and his wise words. He's a wonderful director but I don't have an actual mentor.

How physically fit are you?

Fit enough to work and be healthy.

Ambition or talent: which matters more to success?

Talent. And then perseverance and, most importantly, luck.

Have you ever taken an IQ test?

No, I haven't.



Most wanted:
Roger Smith watch



Education: Jakarta

How politically committed are you?

Not terribly, in any sense.

Do you have more than one home?

I don't.

What would you like to own that you don't currently possess?

A Roger Smith Series 2 wristwatch.

What's your biggest extravagance?

Lovely food and wine in lovely places. Nipping off with my wife [Keeley Hawes] for quick

breaks without the children in fabulous hotels. And watches – I really love watches.

Do you consider your carbon footprint?

I don't consider it with any deep conviction – a slightly shaming answer. Being environmentally aware is common sense – but things like flying I don't know what to do about, so I feel a bit powerless.

In what place are you happiest?

Wherever my wife and kids are.

What ambitions do you still have?

To keep acting and working and playing fantastic parts, especially in the theatre.

What drives you on?

The love of what I do. I'm still making a fist of it as an actor because I love it – it's my *raison d'être* – but it can be a hard business, so I'm pleased to be keeping the show on the road after 20 years.

What is the greatest achievement of your life so far?

I am inordinately delighted and proud of my children and how funny and kind and lovely they are.

What has been your greatest disappointment?

There's nothing that stands out.

If your 20-year-old self could see you now, what would he think?

He'd raise a quizzical eyebrow and say, "Lose some weight, you fat, lazy bastard." He'd be pleased that I'd stopped smoking.

If you lost everything tomorrow, what would you do?

I would probably have a big cry and then carry on. But I don't know what I would do apart from being an actor. I'd probably go and be a ski instructor somewhere, though I'd have to get better at skiing.

Do you believe in assisted suicide?

I do.

Do you believe in an afterlife?

Not really. Although I don't mind surprises.

If you had to rate your satisfaction with your life so far, out of 10, what would you score?

An eight or a nine.

Interview **Hester Lacey**

"*The Enfield Haunting*", starring Matthew Macfadyen, is on Sky Living and On Demand