



# Passions: Rolf Harris

**W**ELL, I'm very passionate about stairs being identical height. I can't stand it when the last one is two inches longer or shorter and you practically break your neck on it or jar your spine – your body just assumes steps are all going to be the same height. Now if they're higgledy-piggledy all the way then it's a different matter – you know you've damn well gotta watch every step – if not, it's big trouble.

And I feel very strongly about toilet paper that doesn't rip along the dotted line or rips all the way down the middle but not across – drives me scatty!

I have no passionate 'causes' because as a celebrity, people are forever asking you to embrace this cause or that but I always feel that they're latching on to someone in the entertainment game for their publicity value, to sort of cash in on them. My feeling is that if you just quietly let your views be known and people like you and what you do then maybe they'll take your opinions on board as well. But I'm not the sort to push my ideas down anybody's throat – the only person who buys a protest record is a person who already agrees with you.

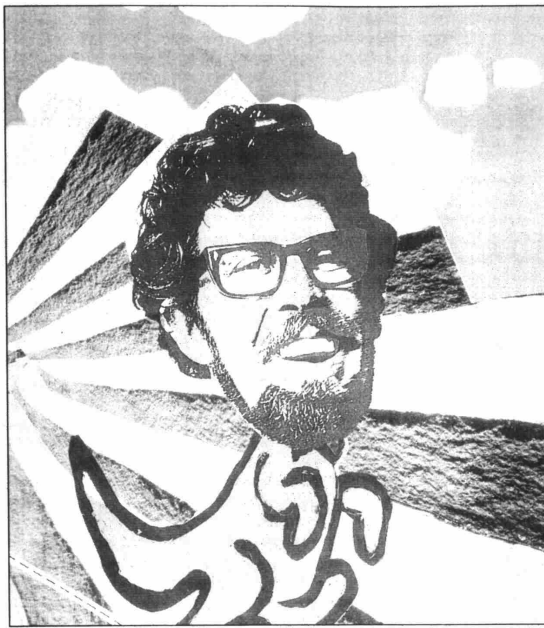
I must say that until *Animal Hospital* I didn't really know very much about the subject except for having a love of animals, and feeling able to communicate with them in a fairly friendly way; showing them I wasn't scared and giving them confidence by being calm and stroking them. And being able to make a few animal sounds – dog-sniffings and pantings and cat sniffings

and things – to gain their attention.

I've learned a lot and I'm shocked at the way some people treat animals, at the callous disregard of them as living creatures. How can people get a pet and then just ignore it or lock it away or do something awful – throw it out of a window or something – how can they do that to an animal, a living creature? How can they vent their anger at society on a little dog or something that's only there to love you? How can they do that? But when you see the dedication with which those vets and nurses work, and the way they lavish love on those little creatures, it's very heartwarming.

I think there's a great groundswell reaction against violence, barbarity, ruthlessness and cruelty in the world, evidenced by people complaining about the veal traffic. People are fed up with it and rightly so. I'd like to help not by bashing the people who are violent but by showing the opposite side by extending love and friendship. It's just my general philosophy that we should all try to spread as much love and affection around as we can; give whatever you have to other people and offer friendship and love – it comes back a hundredfold.

We should try to compliment people – tell them how nice they look if they've taken trouble with their outfit, or what a good job they've done – and give of ourselves without any desire for reward. In this entertainment game I've had so much help from so many people along the way that I remember it and try to



extend the same help to other people on their way up the ladder. You see other people who spend all their time treading on others to get to the top and then if by any chance they start sliding back down the ladder then all those people they trod on are very happy to kick them on the way down. You get out of life what you put in.

Roll Rules OK! is now available on MCI Records

Interview by Gillian Ferguson

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