

CELEBRITY TRAVELLER ALAN CUMMING

MOST MEMORABLE HOLIDAY?

I took my mum to Costa Rica for her 70th birthday last year and it was great to spend time with her and also to be in such a beautiful place. It's quite lush and jungly and we stayed in a posh Four Seasons hotel, which was kind of swankeroony to do with my mum.

AND YOUR WORST?

I went to Rhodes years ago on a package holiday and it was stereotypically awful. There was a cement mixer churning away directly outside our front door and it rained the whole time. Definitely one to forget.

WHICH GADGET IS ESSENTIAL?

I always take one of those multi-socket adapters that you can plug in anywhere as I can't stand not being able to power up your mobile. I've got one of those clever ones where you press a button and it transforms itself to suit whichever city you're in.

BEST BOOK?

I have a pile of books in my apartment in New York that I keep for holidays. Whenever I travel I think, "mmmm, those ones would be good for that particular journey," and even if I don't read them because I've got too many scripts to read, I just like having them with me. The one I'm reading right now is called *The Pursuit Of Love* by Nancy Mitford. It is beautifully characterised and makes me cry laughing.

HOW DO YOU SPEND TIME ON HOLIDAY?

I'm not one of those people who says, "let's go somewhere and see



75 churches." I might do that on a day off when I'm working. But for me a holiday is just a chance to stop, recharge the batteries, take stock and check up on yourself.

WHERE WOULD YOU REVISIT?

I really liked Budapest. I did a film there once and it's an incredible city. It's one of those places where the people who live there don't care if you like it or not. They'd like you to like the place but their experience of living there isn't validated by your approval, which I think is really refreshing.

WHERE NEXT?

I'm going to the island of Oronsay in the Outer Hebrides after my one-man show at the Vaudeville Theatre in London. It's this really tiny remote island. You have to go to Colonsay first and then take another ferry that doesn't always come. I've always wanted to go somewhere that remote and I can't wait.

● *Alan Cumming is an ambassador for Homecoming Scotland 2009 - a year of national celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. For information visit www.homecomingscotland2009.com*

NICK MCGRATH