

Media
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My media David Mitchell

Newspapers

There are no international newspapers for sale in the small backwater town in Japan where I live, so I've been subscribing to Guardian Weekly for about 12 years. I read every sentence, literally, even the finance page. And, like everyone else who subscribes to it I am sure, I love Nancy Banks-Smith.

Magazines

I only get one: Prospect. It's sane, it's intelligent, and there's no wasted space. It runs a short story, too, which acts as the soul of the magazine and, as a novelist, that is obviously an attraction.

Books

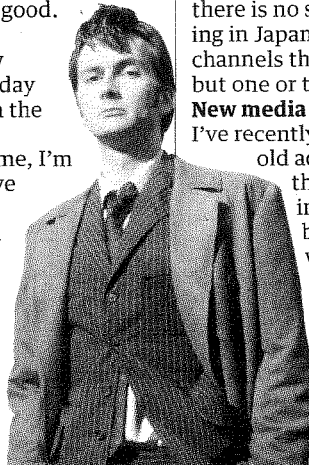
My next novel is set in the 18th century so I've been reading a lot of history and 18th-century novels. I'm also engaged in the lifelong job of filling in the blank spaces on the map of classics. Currently I'm reading John Cheever's Collected Stories. My God, he was good.

TV

We just use the TV really for a short period in the day to distract the kids. Dora the Explorer is on a lot, as is Charlie and Lola. As for me, I'm a big Doctor Who fan. I've bought the box set and worked my way through the entire oeuvre. David Tennant, pictured right, is my favourite Doctor; he is brilliant.

Radio

When we're within broadcasting range we usually have Radio 4 on. Both my wife and



I like Jonathan Ross's Radio 2 show as well. It's a bit long perhaps, but we enjoy his irreverence and wit. I also like a Radio 3 show called The Verb, and Late Junction, which is my utopian radio programme.

Ads

The ad I remember the best is Jimmy Savile's "this is the age . . . of the train" one for British Rail. I don't know why that sticks as it's very cheesy, but it does. Japanese adverts are generally

David Mitchell's
novel **Black Swan
Green** is out now,
published by
Sceptre



very grim. I think it's fair to say that there is no school of artistic advertising in Japan at all. Generally I avoid the channels that have them, which is all but one or two.

New media

I've recently discovered YouTube. The old adage about 95% of something being crap is truer of the internet than anything else, but there are some worthwhile things on YouTube. I also use www.abebooks.com to obtain out of print books, and my daughter loves the CBeebies website and the Nickelodeon equivalent.

**Interview by Paul
Mardles**