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COVER PHOTO: 'HQ COMPANY 8TH EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT AT WHIZZ-BANG CORNER, FONQUEVILLIERS, 1915', TAKEN BY LIEUTENANT PATRICK KOEKKOEK



JOHN HANNAH

The *Four Weddings* actor reveals why James Stewart makes him cry, Radiohead cheer him up, he's gripped by gruesome Shakespeare and he loves the villains in *The Sweeney*



My movie magic

It's *A Wonderful Life* starring James Stewart [1] has to be my favourite film, mainly because of the memories it evokes. I first watched it on Christmas Day as an unemployed single man sharing a flat with fellow actor Neil Dudgeon. We sat in front of it late morning over toast, turning to look at each other at one point and realising we were both crying. I saw director Peyton Reed's superhero film *Ant-Man* [6] with my kids recently and it was terrific, the right balance between action and comedy.

My TV gold

I'm a big fan of *The Sweeney* [4]. It was the first programme I can remember showing bad guys getting away with it. Up until then, culture was too neatly divided into good and bad so it was fascinating to watch that being turned on its head.

I enjoyed *Mr Robot* on Amazon. I liked the premise: a young guy who works for a cyber-security company by day but is a hacker by night. He's a bit like Dexter: he's a bad person but he does it for good reasons to people who deserve it.

Words of wonder

I tend to discover an author I really like then read all their work. So I've read all of Haruki Murakami's novels - I think he's amazing. *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* [2] is my favourite. His writing makes you feel you've entered a strange world.

I read *The Catcher In The Rye* at drama school; I was having a reading epiphany and working my way through the classics. I really empathised with the distress and trauma Holden Caulfield was going through.

Music to my ears

My favourite album is *The Bends* by Radiohead [3]. A lot of people call Radiohead misanthropists but I don't think that's the case. I don't find their lyrics depressing and I recognise a lot of their view of the world. It's great music to run to - sometimes it makes you want to throw your arms up and scream and shout.

I bought a record player for Christmas because when my son



first saw one he had no idea what it was. I've been playing records by Leonard Cohen, Fleetwood Mac [8] and The Velvet Underground on it.

I listen to my 12-year-old son's iPad but our tastes clash a bit. He likes speed dub, which sounds horrendous to me, as if Alvin And The Chipmunks have released a CD.

I went to The Who at Hyde Park last summer with my wife, who is a major fan. Roger Daltrey was great; he had a lot of class and a lot of power despite having some problems with his voice.

The play's my thing

I saw Brian Cox playing Titus Andronicus in a production directed by Deborah Warner in the late Eighties. It was extremely gruesome and I'd never seen the play before so it had a big impact on me.

Another theatre experience that sticks in my mind was seeing Mark Rylance playing Hamlet in Ron Daniels' 1989 RSC production [7]. He was amazing in the role - elfin and cheeky. It's hard to put into words how good he was.

The art in my heart

I love the whole body of Tracey Emin's work. I think she's a real artist with something to say, not just some modern chancer with an unmade bed. She's a great technician, which is apparent in her more classical work [5].

I saw an Otto Dix exhibition in Glasgow years ago. I loved the power and strength of his work and thought his skill and craftsmanship was amazing. I've also recently got into Scottish artists like Arthur Melville. *Dancers At The Moulin Rouge* is an incredible piece.

Don't touch that dial

I listen to *Today* on Radio 4 in the morning to find out what's going on in the world, and sometimes a bit of Chris Evans on Radio 2. That said, I'm a big football and cycling fan, so if no one else is around I'll tune in to talkSPORT.

Interview by Gwendolyn Smith
'Love In Recovery' starts on March 15 at 11pm on Radio 4