

AN ACTOR'S EXPERIENCE

Read the text and questions below. Do the multiple choice

RIK MAYALL TALKS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AS AN ACTOR

I've enjoyed all the parts I've played, especially people who aren't very nice, such as Alan, the politician I played in the TV comedy series *The New Statesman*. Some people loved him, but there were others who were against the program because they thought it was wrong to make jokes about politics on television. I haven't seen that series for years. I don't think they could repeat it because many of the jokes were for the time. Comedy does date sometimes, though the basic idea behind the series - a self-important person - can be true of any time.



I do a lot of film work and still enjoy playing funny characters on TV, but I prefer theater. I need a live audience to keep me going. If I chose a favorite part, it would be Henri in *A Family Affair*, a play we performed up and down the country several years ago. It's a comedy, directed by Andy de la Tour, a good friend of mine. It's about a family who meet to celebrate a birthday and all kinds of things happen - things that could happen to anyone, anywhere. That's why it's so funny.

I really liked playing the part of Henri because in some ways his character is similar to mine. Henri's a bit of a loner and behaves very badly at times. I was delighted when the authors of the play saw it and congratulated me, saying I was exactly as they imagined Henri. Although the play is a comedy, it contains serious messages, such as how thoughtless people can be. It's very true to life and that's why I like it.

1 What is Rik Mayall's main purpose in writing the text?

- A to suggest reasons for the success of his career
- B to explain how he became a comedy actor
- C to talk about his favorite acting roles
- D to describe his future work on television

2 What does Rik Mayall say about *The New Statesman*?

- A It won't be repeated because some people were upset.
- B Not everyone approved of it.
- C It was based on an unpleasant person he met.
- D He enjoys watching it again from time to time.

3 What kind of work does Rik Mayall's prefer?

- A performing in front of an audience
- B writing with his close friends.
- C doing comedy series for television
- D making films about real people.

4 Why was Rik Mayall pleased about acting in *A Family Affair*?

- A he could insist on which character to play.
- B the writers of the play admired his performance.
- C It allowed him to do some serious acting
- D He played a character who was very different to himself.

5 Which of the following is the best description of Rik Mayall?

A He is a comedy actor who dislikes playing roles that are based on real life.	B He is well-known actor who has given up playing funny characters on TV in order to concentrate on serious theater.
C He is a famous actor who played in <i>A Family Affair</i> because he said it reminded him of his own family situation.	D He is a successful actor who says that he enjoys playing characters who are unpleasant.