

The way it is



In a Fine Art Collector exclusive, Sarah-Jane Szikora's Gingerbread Man bares his soul on life in the biscuit tin

What is the hierarchy of the biscuit tin?

Well, obviously any self-respecting biscuit should know his place.

There are three social groups including the high class 'hand baked' or belgian chocolate coated variety, then the middle class flapjacks and hob-nobs and finally, working class digestives, custard creams and gingernuts (my distant ancestor).

What's been your worst experience since being baked?

As you can see, I lived to tell the tale after falling into a cup of tea... though I must confess, I normally do the stunts myself. On this occasion my agent insisted I use a body double, he was very professional... while he lasted.

Are you gregarious or a solitary little man?

I like to think I am a sociable chap, I regularly see the guys, but I set

aside time for moments of quiet contemplation where I like to focus on my 'inner-self' and hopefully this reflects in my work.

Is it lonely without the company of Gingerbread women?

Are you joking? 'Preying mantis' springs to mind.

Tell me about life in Sweetieland?

On the whole it is a glorious place to dwell though it can be a tad dangerous when that Szikora woman introduces new, undesirable characters. Recently I had a near miss with the entire membership of Darlington Weight Watchers!

What is your best asset?

Apart from my good looks, I would say I have a certain nostalgic appeal to a wide range of folk. I think I remind them of their childhoods.

Any truth in the rumour that the Terminator has mellowed?

Larry is just an old softie in real life, he would far prefer a room full of fig-rolls any day of the week. Anyway, he is a bit concerned about his weight at the moment so he is on the Atkins Diet.

How did you feel about your cat-walk debut in Sherbet Dandies?

Well, they say you should never work with children and animals but what about models? So incredibly vain! Anyone would think the audience had come to look at them! The very idea.

What are your plans for the future?

I can't say too much at the moment, but I have been offered a role in the forthcoming 'Who ate my grandmother?' alongside the delectable Martha La Muffin.

Can Gingerbread men get depressed?

Darling, don't think I haven't done my stint on prozac! These days if I feel a lowering of spirits, I see my therapist who reminds me I am wonderful, and I indulge in a spot of yoga.

The view from the sitting room wall must be fascinating?

You simply wouldn't believe some of the things I've seen. For a start there's that crowd who have their dinner parties in the nude!! And some of the saucy shenanigans I've witnessed in the boudoirs of our green and pleasant land would make your currants drop off.

Oh, finally I would like to say how nice it is to be interviewed. It's about time you started dealing with the organ grinder. ■