



DELIVERED FROM TEMPTATION

He's been silently melting the hearts of Temptation viewers for years. Now Scott McGregor is hosting his own program. He tells Matt Myers about modelling, internet rumours, tattoos and wearing the right pair of undies.

DNA: Last year DNA readers voted you one of the sexiest men alive.

Scott McGregor: [Laughs] I was a bit taken aback by it. I was actually on my way home from a round-the-world trip and I stopped in Auckland and saw it in a newsagency. I picked it up and had a read of it. It was a bit strange but at the same time flattering.

Plenty of gay guys find you attractive. How do you feel about that?

I take it as a compliment. One day down the track, if I end up with a good gig on TV, I'll have double the audience [laughs]! I have some really good gay mates. They are great guys and I love them to death.

You began your career as a *Temptation* model and now front your own show, *Blood, Sweat And Gears*. How did that happen?

One of the guys from Foxtel used to work at Channel 9 and he gave me a call to audition for it. I was honest and said I was not all that in with cars. I'd grown up with three older brothers and I love my cars but I could think of other people much more suited to the role. But I went for it and got it. I was pretty lucky in the end. It's a great show and we're now into the second season.

Was the transition from model to host a difficult one?

For me it's about the experience I can get and the way I'm perceived within the industry. It's good to show that I'm not just a model. Working on *Temptation* for almost four years and not saying a word... it's great, but it's also good to show that I have a personality and can mix it with others.

What do you like best about *Blood, Sweat And Gears*?

I grew up in the Melbourne suburbs and at the end of the day I'm a boy from the hood. I'm a boy's boy and I love my motorbike but I suppose the best thing about it is that I'm learning new stuff. To drive these cool cars is pretty awesome. Last year I got to drive Lamborghinis, Ferraris and Hummers – and it makes me look good, too [laughs]!

You grew up in Avondale Heights, the same suburb as Tina Arena.

Well, her cousin grew up around the corner from me. When I was really young I remember she'd turn up at his place every now and again. Matthew Lloyd, the Essendon AFL captain, also grew up near me. The model from *The Price Is Right* also comes from the area, too.

You have a fan base that stretches around the world.

A couple of years ago a mate of mine was overseas and met another mate of mine so they googled me and up popped all these weird and wonderful websites and forums. Some of them are maybe a bit much and the boys get stuck into me about it but I just take it as a compliment.

On that note, last year someone made a fake MySpace page in your name and claimed you were bi. How did you deal with that?

It was funny because the Chadwick [Modelling Agency] Sydney office gave me a call and said they wanted to confirm something. They saw my MySpace page said I was bisexual and wanted to know if it was true. I said, "I don't have a MySpace page [laughs]!" There are idiots out there and you can't do much about them. You can report it but the way things are going these days with the internet... well, I don't really care. At the end of the day, the majority of people know what's true and what's not.

Do people get you and Scott McGregor from *Better Homes And Gardens* confused?

Not long ago my agency gave me a call wanting to confirm if I was with another agency. We soon figured out who it was! I think he's got about 20 years on me.

If you were gay, who would do it for you?

Maybe Hugh Jackman. I saw *Australia* the other night and he's a good-looking bloke, isn't he? The thing that's good about him is that he's a typical Aussie guy.

Do you think tattoos look good on a guy?

I think it depends on the guy and the tattoo. I've contemplated getting one for a while but someone once said to me, "It's kind of like when you buy a really cool T-shirt and you love

it for like four months and then two years later you pull it out of your wardrobe and think, "Why the hell did I buy this?"

Is the modelling industry tough?

Yeah. There's a lot of competition but probably more so on the female side. I never really got into modelling as a career. At the end of the day they have an image in their head of what they want. If you don't get the job you don't get the job. You move on and try and find a dollar somewhere else.

How did you originally get into modelling?

I started studying graphic design after high school and a couple of my cousins and friends said I should get into modelling. I thought, "Why not? I might make some money," and I always thought it would be pretty cool to be in a TV commercial – something I could show the grandkids! So I did a modelling course and then joined with an agency. I didn't do much for the first few years but as you get older you tend to get more work. It seems to be the opposite for women. I got *Temptation* in 2004 so I put the graphic design on hold and I've been doing modelling full-time ever since.

If you could pick one famous gay icon to see in concert, who would it be?

I've always wanted to see Madonna. She's been around for years and she's still going. I was born in the '80s and how many hits did she have back then?!

Who is the most famous person you've met?

I've met David Beckham twice. Once I was

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travelling overseas and bumped into him. I got a photo and we had a bit of a chat. The other time was when he came out to Australia to play a game for Foxtel. But I'm sure he wouldn't remember me!

You look after your body. What do you do to keep fit?

I go to the gym – not religiously – but I try to go as much as I can. I grew up a sports freak and from the age of five I've played footy and cricket. I still get out and play golf twice a week. I like being outside and I try to keep active with things like swimming and surfing.

Are you a jocks, boxers or freeball man?

I've recently gone from boxers back to jocks. I get given a lot of samples. I'm never going to run out of them! But I'll wear something and think they're great and the next week I'm given something else. I even know all the different materials now [laughs]! But I don't know why I've gone back to jocks. I just think they're more comfortable. Maybe I'm getting old! 🍌