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get the price from me that they might get from a collector, but because – as a specialist – I’ll offer them a better price than they’d get from another dealer, and they’ll have a quick turnover. If I could apply that principle to my own business, I’d be a much happier man!

The extraordinary thing is that movies in which cars feature prominently – the James Bond series, *The Italian Job* – often don’t show them on the posters. It’s the less famous films that can throw up surprises. Italian crime thrillers of the 1970s, for example, are a great source of Alfas and Lancias. French and Italian poster artwork of the 1950s-70s is also hugely evocative, whereas modern posters tend to be all CGI’d or just picture the stars of the film. A notable exception is the ‘teaser’ poster for the 2004 *Starsky & Hutch* movie, which has a fantastic graphic close-up of the red-and-white flank of the Gran Torino and a smoking tyre.

I’ll typically start an evening by taking the cork out of the best bottle of red that I can find (or afford), cooking a meal and then sitting down with the cat – not that I have a choice in the last of those activities. I may watch a bit of television but usually it’s when I catch up on movies. It may sound odd, given what I do for a living, but I generally prefer to watch films on DVD rather than in the cinema.

The last film I watched in a cinema – and the first one I’d seen in a cinema for ages – was *Skyfall*. For one thing, ‘hell is other people’, but the main reason is that I find the sound quality in cinemas very poor, particularly with regard to music and effects. Plus, of course, you aren’t going to see most of the old films in the cinema – and in many cases they’re so bad that you aren’t going to see them on television, either! We have a decent-sized TV with surround sound, so watching DVDs works very well. And the cat doesn’t mind if I cry.

VISIT Paul’s website at www.drivepast.com to view and buy original posters – no reproductions allowed.

Paul Veysey

The proprietor of motoring movie poster business Drivepast loves films of all ages – but he rarely goes to the cinema

MY dear mother always swore that the first word I spoke was ‘car’, and that travelling on the trams in Wellington, New Zealand, where we lived at the time, I could name virtually every vehicle we passed. So I’ve always had an interest in cars. When I set sail from Australia to England in 1976, the main reason for my leaving was that I’d failed to turn up for my latest court appearance after a string of speed-related motoring offences, and knew that they’d throw the book at me if they caught me...

It was my very beautiful – but, as it turned out, very misguided – wife Helen who sparked my interest in movie posters. She bought me a British ‘quad’ for *Checkpoint*, and I absolutely loved it. This was about 15-20 years ago, at the time when the sun was setting on my career as a broadcaster – in other words, I was about to get fired – and, having a few bob in the bank at the time, I started looking at other movie posters. These days I spend most of my time searching the internet for rare posters, although I still do a lot of voiceover work and narration for documentaries, too, which pays the bills.

Helen is also a broadcaster and, truth be told, makes a much better living from it than I do, so during the week she’s often away from home. I rise from my pit any time between 5 and 7am and sit at my computer, looking for new stock. I don’t have breakfast so I stay fuelled with strong coffee and Berocca, which is a vitamin/mineral mixture designed to stop me from falling asleep again. If I get lucky, and can con someone into buying me lunch, then that’s my meal of the day. You wouldn’t guess it to look at me, but I frequently go right through the day on a lot of water, plus coffee, until I cook in the evening.

Most of the day will be spent on the computer, unfortunately. It used to be that I could track down stuff quite easily, but these days the supply is greatly diminished and anything that is really old and beautiful will often go straight into a collection and may not come out again during my lifetime. That said, I’ve just picked up a poster from a French dealer for which I’ve been looking for over ten years. If they get any car-related posters, many of the dealers around the world will get straight in touch with me. Not because they’ll