



Why I love working Christmas Day

YES, it's me again folks," giggles Moira Stewart. "I'm the Christmas Day news girl."

It will be the fifth year running that Moira has been the duty girl on Christmas Day while all her colleagues are at home having a knees up with their families.

Bachelor girl Moira, 39, doesn't seem to mind working while everyone else is letting their hair down.

Apart from the five years of Christmas Day newsreading, this will be the 11th year running

by **PATRICIA SMYLLIE**

that Moira has worked in radio or television over the Christmas holiday.

So why does a beautiful girl like Moira do it?

Is some awful news editor fixing it for her that she always draws the short straw?

"Not at all," she insists.

"I actually enjoy working during the holiday," laughs Moira.

"We have great fun in the news department. There is a fantastic atmosphere on Christmas Day.

"We don't draw straws or anything daft like that. Nobody is putting a

gun to my head saying I've got to work."

She's already planning her Christmas dinner.

Jolly

"As it is the one day of the year when the Beeb canteen is closed, we all bring in home-cooked food.

"I usually bring something Bermudian. We have a marvellous spread. It is a very jolly party atmosphere.

"But I've got to be careful not to come on screen still chewing a mince pie," with that Moira bursts into one of

her usual fits of giggles.

Off screen the ebony beauty with the unusual gravelly prim and proper voice, is skittish and witty. Quite different from her austere, severe and even slightly schoolmarmish appearance when she reads the news.

There is nothing spinsterish about the stylishly dressed woman who in real life is far skinnier under her over-sized shoulder pads, than she appears on the box.

"I think men are gorgeous... it's only finding the right one that's difficult," she says.

In the news room she is known for her witty, often wicked sense of humour.

On Sunday she will ar-

rive at 10.00 am and start working with a team of ten, which includes cameramen and reporters, to prepare the news bulletins.

And she'll be popping into our living rooms on BBC1 at 6.25 and 9.10pm.

"I always hope against hope that I won't have to read out bad news at Christmas," she says.

After Christmas she's off for a well-earned rest.

Then with a wicked grin she says: "I'm off abroad. I'm not saying where."

Rest

"No I won't be seeing my mother in Bermuda. I won't be going anywhere in Europe. I'm just taking off straight after Christmas for a rest"

Perhaps it's with Mr. Right? Moira gets a fit of the giggles but she won't give anything away.

"It is somewhere very, very nice," she says mysteriously.

'I must be careful not to go on screen chewing a mince pie'