GENERAL

jeremy clarkson on cars

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Jeremy Clarkson on Cars: A Deep Dive into the Iconic Automotive Voice

When most people think of automotive journalism, the first name that comes to mind is Jeremy Clarkson. From his early days as a writer for **Top Gear** to his current role on **The Grand Tour**, Clarkson has become synonymous with passionate, often controversial, and undeniably entertaining car commentary. This article explores Jeremy Clarkson's unique perspective on cars, his influence on car culture, and why his opinions continue to resonate with audiences worldwide.

Early Beginnings: From Journalist to Car Enthusiast

Jeremy Clarkson's love affair with cars began in his youth, growing up in the small town of **Huntly** in Scotland. He was fascinated by the mechanics of engines and the thrill of speed. Clarkson's first foray into automotive journalism was as a freelance writer, contributing to magazines like **Motor & Power**. His sharp wit and ability to convey complex technical details in an accessible way quickly set him apart.

While still a student, Clarkson earned a degree in **Journalism**from the University of Central Lancashire. It was there that he honed his writing style, blending humor with hard-hitting analysis. His early articles often featured in-depth reviews of performance cars, a niche that would later become his trademark.

Top Gear: The Birthplace of a Legend

The Show's Format and Clarkson's Role

In 1988, Clarkson joined the BBC's **Top Gear**team as a presenter. Alongside Richard Hammond and later James May, the trio redefined car shows with a blend of car reviews, challenges, and outrageous stunts. Clarkson's segment, "The Clarkson Review," became a staple, where he would test a car's performance and provide candid, often humorous commentary.

Iconic Episodes and Memorable Moments

- "The Car of the Century" – Clarkson's critique of the 1973 Ford Mustang highlighted his love for classic muscle cars.
- "The 1000 Year Old Car" – A segment that showcased a 19th century Wolseley, illustrating Clarkson's fascination with automotive history.
- "The Ultimate Car Challenge" – A race between the fastest cars of each era, where Clarkson's commentary kept viewers on the edge of their seats.

These episodes cemented Clarkson's reputation as a fearless, unapologetic car critic who could mix technical insight with entertainment.

Jeremy Clarkson's Car Philosophy

Clarkson's approach to cars is rooted in three core principles: performance, authenticity, and emotional connection. He believes that a car should not only deliver speed but also evoke a visceral reaction in its driver.

Performance: Power and Precision

For Clarkson, a car's true worth lies in its ability to deliver raw power and precision handling. He frequently praises high-performance engines and advanced aerodynamics, often comparing them to the "heart" of the vehicle. His reviews of cars like the *Porsche 911 GT3 RS* and the *Ferrari SF90 Stradale* exemplify this focus.

Authenticity: Staying True to the Brand

Clarkson values authenticity. He often criticizes modern cars that sacrifice brand heritage for technological gimmicks. Classic models, such as the *Jaguar E-Type* and the *Mercedes-Benz 300SL*, are celebrated for their timeless design and engineering excellence.

Emotional Connection: The Human Element

Beyond numbers and specifications, Clarkson emphasizes the emotional bond between driver and machine. He argues that the best cars make you feel alive, a sentiment that resonates with many car enthusiasts worldwide.

Modern Automobiles: Clarkson's Take on Electric Vehicles

As the automotive industry shifts toward sustainability, Clarkson has not shied away from discussing electric vehicles (EVs). While he acknowledges their environmental benefits, he remains skeptical about their performance and driving experience.

Positive Aspects

- Instant Torque – Clarkson appreciates the rapid acceleration that EVs provide.
- Quiet Operation – He notes the silent drive as a refreshing change from traditional combustion engines.

Criticisms

- Range Anxiety – Clarkson points out that many EVs still have limited driving ranges compared to gasoline cars.
- Charging Infrastructure – He highlights the inconvenience of charging stations, especially on long trips.
- Driving Dynamics – Clarkson argues that EVs often lack the visceral feedback of a combustion engine.

Despite these reservations, Clarkson remains open to the possibility that future EVs could match or even surpass the performance of their gasoline counterparts.

Classic Cars: Clarkson's Love Affair

Jeremy Clarkson's passion for classic cars is evident in his numerous reviews and documentaries. He often travels to classic car shows, museums, and private collections to showcase the golden era of automotive engineering.

Iconic Classic Cars

1. Ford Mustang (1965) – A symbol of American muscle, praised for its raw power.
2. Jaguar E-Type (1961) – Celebrated for its design and engineering brilliance.
3. Mercedes-Benz 300SL (1954) – Admired for its iconic gull-wing doors and advanced aerodynamics.

Clarkson's reviews often highlight the craftsmanship, design, and engineering that made these vehicles legendary. He believes that classic cars offer a tangible connection to automotive history, something that modern cars can rarely replicate.

The Grand Tour: Continuing the Legacy

After leaving **Top Gear** in 2015, Clarkson, along with Hammond and May, launched **The Grand Tour** on Amazon Prime Video. The show follows a similar format but with a broader scope, including road trips across continents,

exotic car challenges, and deep dives into automotive culture.

Key Features

- Global Exploration – Clarkson drives across Europe, Asia, and America, testing cars in diverse environments.
- High Performance Challenges – Competitions such as the “Big Wheel” showcase the limits of modern sports cars.
- Technical Insight – The trio provides detailed analysis of car mechanics, blending humor with technical depth.

Through **The Grand Tour**, Clarkson continues to influence car enthusiasts by presenting cars in a fresh, entertaining, and educational format.

Controversies and Criticisms

Jeremy Clarkson’s career has not been without controversy. His outspoken nature and occasional use of profanity have sparked debates about his suitability as a public figure.

Notable Incidents

- 2015 BBC Incident – Clarkson was dismissed from the BBC after an altercation with a producer, leading to a highly publicized investigation.
- Use of Profanity – Clarkson’s frequent use of strong language has led to criticism from viewers and sponsors alike.
- Political Statements – His outspoken political views, particularly regarding Brexit, have alienated some fans.

Despite these controversies, Clarkson’s influence on automotive journalism remains undiminished. His fans appreciate his candidness and the authenticity he brings to car reviews.

Impact on Car Culture and Automotive Journalism

Jeremy Clarkson’s influence extends beyond television. He has shaped modern car culture by:

- Demystifying Car Mechanics – Clarkson’s ability to explain complex engineering concepts in simple terms has made car knowledge accessible to a wider audience.
- Promoting Car Enthusiasm – His passionate reviews inspire viewers to pursue their own automotive interests.
- Encouraging Innovation – Clarkson’s challenges and tests push manufacturers to innovate and improve performance.

Moreover, Clarkson’s presence in the automotive media landscape has led to a surge in online car forums, podcasts, and social media discussions, fostering a global community of car lovers.

Future Outlook: Where Will Jeremy Clarkson Go Next?

As the automotive industry continues to evolve, so does Clarkson’s role within it. Potential future directions include:

1. Automotive Podcasting – Clarkson could leverage his storytelling skills to produce a podcast series covering car history and technology.
2. Documentary Projects – A documentary exploring the future of automotive design and sustainability.
3. Automotive Education – Clarkson could collaborate with educational platforms to teach automotive engineering fundamentals to students.

Regardless of the path he chooses, Clarkson’s influence will likely persist, continuing to shape how people view and experience cars.

Conclusion

Jeremy Clarkson on cars is more than just a television personality; he is a cultural icon whose passion for automotive excellence has inspired millions. From his early days as a journalist to his current adventures on **The Grand Tour**, Clarkson's blend of humor, technical insight, and emotional storytelling has set a new standard for car reviews. Whether you love classic muscle cars, high-performance sports machines, or the future of electric vehicles, Clarkson's perspective offers a unique lens through which to appreciate the world of automobiles.

As the automotive landscape shifts, Jeremy Clarkson remains a steadfast voice—reminding us that at its core, a car is not just a machine, but a vessel that connects us to our dreams, our heritage, and the thrill of the open road.

Tags: #jeremy #clarkson #cars