

IT'S ALL ABOUT CHEMISTRY FOR TELLY FAVES EAMONN & RUTH

Battle OF THE banter



FRIENDLY FIRE: Ruth and Eamonn clashing on This Morning

EAMONN and Ruth's home sounds like a battle zone right now.

You know what they're like at the best of times, these two, when they co-host ITV's This Morning or whatever, always winding each other up.

But in the run-up to Christmas, when they clash over how to decorate their house, I'd steer well clear if I were you.

"I like decorations that are tasteful, Mike," Ruth tells me.

"White lights, a red, white and gold tree, all very gorgeous. Whereas I don't know what's happening to Eamonn. I think he's regressing to his childhood."

Needless to say, that's not how Mr Holmes sees it.

"Ruth is Mrs Plain." Eamonn moans. "Same old crap every year. The other day, I said, 'Right, this year we're getting coloured lights, fibre-optic trees, loads of colour. Maybe an 18ft inflatable reindeer.'"

"I was back in Belfast last week, buying little ornaments to bring home - a snow globe, two Santa salt-and-pepper pots, a lit-up snowman. All the stuff she hates!"

Stirring up this taste war further

THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW

TV PRESENTERS
RUTH LANGSFORD
& EAMONN HOLMES



was their latest overseas trip for a show out tonight on Channel 5.

Eamonn And Ruth Do Vegas took them to the ultimate adult playground, a city that doesn't really do understated. Seems it only highlighted their conflicting views.

"I'm totally fine in Las Vegas," declares Eamonn. "It's my sort of place. But Ruthie? It's so not her!"

Obsession

"I wouldn't rush back," Ruth concedes. "But I loved the experience and I'm really glad I went."

"She hated it!" Eamonn chuckles. But there is one subject on which the couple do agree. Both found it hard to get their heads around Vegas's gambling obsession.

"You'll see people sitting at slot machines for hours," says Ruth.

"We all know it's the casino that wins," adds Ruth.

And that, of course, is the other

side of the coin, because Las Vegas has made some of its business people colossally wealthy.

Eamonn and Ruth have always been fascinated by the rich and famous. They've made several series about them. Invited into their swish homes, they're never judgmental - "Essentially, it's a gawp" - but do such extremes of wealth ever strike them as wrong?

"I don't like the politics of envy," Ruth insists, pointing out that many of the people have worked their way up from nothing.

"I could sit in my own house and go, 'Oh, it isn't fair that I have all this while a family down the road hasn't'."

"I've worked very hard for it. Neither Eamonn nor I were born with money. Our parents were very working class."

So they do have plenty in common. And those on-screen tiffs are maybe just confirmation of how well they click.

"It's banter and it's done with love," Ruth is at pains to point

out. "But some people just don't get it."

"I said something on air the other day about my weight, and Eamonn, completely straight-faced, went, 'Yeah, you've let yourself go a bit, love'."

"I found that hilarious - coming from Eamonn - but

we had comments like, 'Your husband's rude today.' Some people don't get it and never will."

"The truth is I miss her when I'm away," adds Eamonn.

"I can't wait to see her. Then the next time we're on This

Morning, we'll argue again. "It goes in circles. By lunchtime she'll realise she went too far, so she'll be nice to me again."

So it's always Ruth who goes too far, Eamonn? Never yourself?

"Mike, you're spot-on there, my friend. Got it in one."

● **Eamonn And Ruth Do Vegas, tonight at 9pm on Channel 5.**

Some people just don't get it and never will



Picture: HUMPHREY NEWMAN