

JUST FOR LAUGHS,
WE TALKED CARS WITH CANUCK COMEDIAN

RUSSELL PETERS



Comic superstar Russell Peters is sporting a sweet new green ride these days: a Lexus LS 600h hybrid. That's miles ahead of his first set of wheels – a bare-bones Saturn SL without “power anything.” Currently developing a sitcom with FOX, the Gemini-nominated comedian tells Sharon Aschaiek about his favourite mood music, revving it up in the desert and how he likes to “Tetrify” himself in traffic.

Story by Sharon Aschaiek
Photos by Merrill Newell



“I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE IN FRONT
OF ME OR BEHIND ME.
I LIKE TO TETRIFY MYSELF.”

Q: Describe your first vehicle.

A: It was a Saturn SL, I was 21, and that car was as base a model as you could get. It didn't have power anything, it didn't have air conditioning or a cassette deck. I had to lift it up and run with it like Fred and Barney. It was such a low-end model that it only had a driver-side mirror – the passenger-side mirror was an option.



Q: What do you currently drive?

A: I just bought a white Lexus LS 600h hybrid. It's nice and fast, it's very luxurious – it's everything I want in a car.

Q: Among the cars you've owned, what has been your favourite?

A: I also have an Audi S8, and it is a mean machine. It's a V10, so it's a hell of a car to drive.

Q: What's your biggest driving pet peeve?

A: Other people. For some reason, other people feel they need to drive cars, too. I don't know who they think they are.

Q: What's your driving style?

A: Sitting in the driver seat – I find that style to be quite effective. I'm somewhat of an aggressive driver, and to me, it's like Tetris when you're driving. I'm all about trying to get into the empty lane. I don't like people in front of me or behind me. I like to Tetrify myself, if that's even a word.



Q: What's your own worst driving habit?

A: Texting and driving.

Q: While driving, do you listen to music or talk radio?

A: Music, all the time. Depending on what kind of mood I'm in, if I'm angry, I'll put on some heavy metal; if I want to be obnoxious, I'll put on some hardcore hip hop, maybe some NWA with lots of swearing.

Q: What's your dream car?

A: A Bentley Continental GT convertible, or a Rolls-Royce Phantom convertible, or an Aston Martin.

Q: Describe the most enjoyable road trip you've taken.

A: I like driving between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, and I do it often because I have a house in both cities. It's just a straight road in the middle of desert, and I may or may not have taken my car up to 274 kilometres an hour on that road.



Q: What's the most fun you've ever had in a car?

A: Hey now, what's the most fun anyone's ever had in a car? Seriously folks. But, you know, I've had some good times in some cars.

Q: If you could go for a car ride with someone exceptional, dead or alive, who would it be?

A: I would go for a car ride with Jack Johnson, the first black Heavyweight Champion of the World from the early 1900s. He had a penchant for nice cars and driving even back then.