

## **What I see in the mirror: Prue Leith**

There are moments when I think, "I don't look bad for nearly 70". If I am tanned, I feel a million times better. But there are times when I look every inch my age and I don't like it at all.

I have strong hair, so if I've had a good haircut, I can wash my hair in the bath and not worry about it. I get it streaked because my hair is mousy brown. I used not to have the grey bits at the sides coloured, but after looking at myself on the Great British Menu, I decided that television is not for old ladies.

Until 10 years ago, I had very crooked bottom teeth. With great difficulty, I persuaded my dentist to saw one of my teeth level with the others. He thought it might kill the tooth, but it didn't. I wanted it done because I was doing a lot of television with food and I saw myself eating with these horrible crooked teeth. I still have them, but they are not as bad as they were.

I'd love to look incredibly glamorous, but I am a wholesome, comforting nanny type: I think I look like an advertisement for wholemeal flour or something. Being with a new partner who is in the clothing trade has made a difference. When I felt rich, I always used to buy a Jean Muir dress that I would wear for 10 or 15 years, but when she died (in 1995) I went back to Marks & Spencer. My partner loves good designers. Recently, he gave me a coat from Issey Miyake: it's wonderful and I feel a million dollars in it.

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