JOANNA LUMLEY, the "New Avengers" all-action girl Purdey is an all-action girl in real life. She had a son at 21 by a man she never named, was married to film man Jeremy Lloyd, ws romantically linked with pop star Rod Stewart, and now lives with actor Michael Kitchen. Here she talks about her lover, matriage and men.



MANY

I have been married and I

I know people who live together

happy, who brought up their children and remained

faithful to each other.

Yet marriage, in the end, is not being faithful to each other, but to a piece of paper.

Couples who are married can be having affairs all over the place and being bestial to their children, but because they are married it is OK. That, to me, is hypocrisy.

### Down

I am ready to settle down or up with Michael. Whether it means getting married or not is not terribly important. I've never been more in love with anyone than I am with Michael, probably the most perpetual kind of passion I've felt. We are together and settled and I cannot see that the two of us, going into a room and signing a piece of paper, is going to make us any more sure of each other.

Marriage is for those whose work permits it. Michael and I lead such lunatic lives, always rushing about and much of the time not knowing where or how.

But if Michael said to me tomorrow: "Shall we get married?"—I would.

If he said: "Let's wait until we're 60," I'd still be there at 60. I love him more than life itself.

In many people's eyes, marriage gives you some kind of status. If you are married you are OK, you are acceptable and you join the club. Well I've been asked many, many times and, bar once. I've said No.

Perhaps I should wear a giant sticker saying: Said Yes once and asked 53 times, to make me acceptable.

### . Job

I had known Jeremy Lloyd for only three weeks before we we're married. I must have been out of my tree and so must he. But we were working on the same film and, on its completion he had to return to the States for another job.

It was the urgency of his schedule that pushed us into marriage and, had we waited longer, things might have been different. We were married for only eight months and together for just four of those.

It might serve to underline how important it is to KNOW the person way are in the

underline how important it is to KNOW the person you are going to marry. We accept cases of child- and wife-beaters more easily than people living together.

Before laws were made, everyone lived together and had children and there was nothing wrong. At eighteen I did not mind how caddish and

mind how caddish and dreadful my boyfriends were as long as they were

couples gef married for the sake of the institution and to have children.

have a son, so marriage holds no mysteries for me.

and who are supremely

faithful to each other.

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