



john mortimer

owning up at 80

imagine... john mortimer *owning up at 80*

In the year he celebrates his 80th birthday, John Mortimer, the barrister turned author who became a household name with the creation of his popular drama *Rumpole of the Bailey*, is about to publish his latest book, *Where There's a Will*. *Imagine* captures him pondering on life and offering advice to his children, grandchildren and in his own words "anyone who'll listen".

John Mortimer's wit and love of life shines through in this reflection on his life and career. The film eavesdrops on his 80th birthday celebrations, visits his childhood home – where he still lives today – and goes to his old law chambers. There are interviews with the people who know him best, including Richard Eyre, Jeremy Paxman, Kathy Lette, Leslie Phillips and Geoffrey Robertson QC.

Imagine looks at the extraordinary influence Mortimer has had on the legal system in the UK. As a civil rights campaigner and defender par excellence in some of the most high-profile, inflammatory trials ever in the UK – such as the Oz trial and the Gay News case – he brought about fundamental changes at the heart of British law.

His experience in the courts informs all of Mortimer's writing, from plays, novels and articles to the infamous *Rumpole of the Bailey*, whose central character became a compelling mouthpiece for Mortimer's liberal political views.

Imagine looks at the great man of law, political campaigner, wit, gentleman, actor, ladies' man and champagne socialist who captured the hearts of the British public.