

## QUICK CHAT

"I'm a pain in the a\*\*\*!"

# SIR BOB GELDOF

## ON MUSIC, LOVE AND BEING A DAD

**B**ob Geldof has come a long way since his days working as a pea canner. Now, the Irish millionaire is better known for being a rock musician, a knight, a business mogul, a campaigner and even a political advisor to Tony Blair. He became world famous after the success of his charitable hit single, *Do They Know It's Christmas?*

Sir Bob is notorious for using expletives and refusing to talk about his personal life, perhaps because as he put it, "Plenty of guys get divorced but not at some Shakespearean level of tragedy." Bob is referring to his ex-wife Paula Yates who left him for INXS singer Michael Hutchence – who was later found dead in a hotel room – Paula then took a drug overdose leaving Bob to become the legal guardian of Tiger Lily (Paula's daughter with Michael). Later Geldof wrote *Sex, Age & Death* as a cathartic release, "I don't discuss what happened because I can't," he admits. "I can't show you my soul but I've tried to articulate it through my music."

When I meet Sir Bob inside the Grovesnor House hotel in Dubai he reminds me of his disinterest in trivial matters. 'I don't do light-hearted chit-chat,' he said, but much to *OK! Middle East's* delight, the Dubliner does open up on a few personal issues...

### **You've had so many achievements in your lifetime, what was your proudest moment?**

Well the only thing I instantly remember is getting to number one in the UK charts. I wrote the single while I was working in an abattoir. That was the most improbable thing. It was such an Everest moment. It was so beyond what I thought would ever happen to me. One minute I was in the dole queue, the

next I was in the charts. It was a brief moment of triumph though. Sometimes you're better off not experiencing this fleeting feeling at all. Afterwards, I thought where do I go from here? Anything less is a failure.

### **Do you think there's a lot of good music around at the moment?**

I think there is. The Brits have gone back to guitar music, which I like, whereas the Americans are still on their R&B and hip hop thing, but I'm not sure where that can go anymore. When it first smacked you in the face it was fantastic...Run DMC and NWA broke boundaries but some of the stuff you get now is f\*\*\*\*\* boring!

### **You are well known for your involvement in campaigning against debt relief and trying to persuade political leaders to make positive changes. Are you friends with Tony Blair?**

Yes. We talk from time to time, although he only got a mobile phone about three months ago! I call Number 10 but I don't get put straight through to Tony – I usually leave a message for him and if it's urgent, he gets back to me pretty quickly.

### **Is Bono one of your best mates?**

Yes, he's a proper friend. We've known each other for over 25 years. We used to hang out together in the bars in Dublin long before he was in U2.

**Above: The Dubliner is passionate about performing live gigs. Below: Sir Bob is very protective of his four daughters Fifi, Peaches, Pixie and Tiger Lily.**





**Above:** Bob couldn't believe it when he got a number one hit single. **Inset:** Bob with his long term partner, Jeanne.

**Do you have a girlfriend at the moment?**

Yes, I've been living with my missus, Jeanne for the last 12 years.

**How many times have you been in love?**

Probably three times and then there's the five thousand times I've thought I've been in love but later realised I wasn't!

**Who were your three great loves?**

My first girlfriend Daphne, Paula and Jeanne.

**What are your best memories of Paula?**

I really can't talk about her much but she was a beautiful girl. Very funny, witty and bright.

**You're a very busy man. When you do have some free time, how do you like to spend it?**

I get lost in books and music. I like listening to music in intense bursts...you won't find music playing in my house all the time.

**What have you got playing on your iPod?**

Stuff like The Arctic Monkeys and The Ramons, but the trouble is Alan McGee (the man who discovered Oasis and managed the Libertines) gave me his iPod a few months back and I don't know how to delete stuff! I didn't really fancy listening to Pete Doherty's demo tapes...but I do think he's a serious talent.

**What do you think about Pete's erratic drug-taking lifestyle?**

I've no opinion about that.

**You have four daughters – Fifi, Peaches, Pixie and Tiger Lily. What kind of dad are you?**

I'm not easy going unfortunately. I think I'm a strict dad, not that my kids listen to me! I'm protective of them so I don't really like talking about them.

**Describe yourself in three words...**

I'll do four – pain in the a\*\*\*!

**When was the last time you cried?**

I dunno. I don't have a problem with that though.

**So, are you happy with life, Bob?**

This is the most interesting period in my life and the last ten years have been the most enjoyable. But please don't take that that implies content. I think that happy stage will elude me forever and I don't think anyone is ever completely happy, I don't think that's part of the plot. And I think trying to find contentment is a complete waste of time...like going to f\*\*\*\*\* live in a cave... that's neurotic! My problem is I have to keep my mind frantically busy otherwise I can become melancholic. I have four main priorities in my life – music, business, politics and family and I juggle these all the time.

**How would you like remembered?**

I couldn't give a f\*\*\*!

**OK!**



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