

DAVE BERRY

ZOOLANDER OF THE AIRWAVES

loaded chats horny callers and oddball producers with London's most popular breakfast DJ – in the middle of his Capital FM show

Interviewing Dave Berry shouldn't be difficult. He doesn't just host Britain's second-biggest breakfast show, he's a former male model, starred in *EastEnders*, dated a Sugababe, wears a full suit to work – on the radio – and spends the early mornings with the lovely Lisa Snowdon. But forget all that, *loaded* has a much more important question to ask him when his PR people invite us to call him at 9:45 on a Thursday morning – like shouldn't he be presenting his breakfast show right about now? “Oh I'm technically still on air,” he says laughing. “The 9 o'clock hour is dedicated to the tunes so we do three or four songs back to back. So that gives me 10 or 15 minutes to either make some more tea or cobble my face together ready for when I leave the studio. I will have to rush back and close the show soon.” All of this means we've got just three songs to get through the entire interview. And we're nearly at the end of Coldplay and Rihanna's *Princess Of China*. Blimey.

princess of china: 9:44am

Dave landed the gig at Capital after long-serving breakfast host Johnny Vaughan was 'axed' late last year. But despite his exit, Dave – the crafty bastard – managed to get custody of his co-host Lisa Snowdon, and the pair have presented the slot since January. *loaded* wonders how the 'couple' get on off air, considering the former Miss George Clooney is, at 40, slightly older than his youthful 33? “Slightly older?” laughs Dave. “No, She's a *lot* older than me! Our relationship is constantly changing though, there are times when I have felt mothered and also occasions when I felt I needed my head stroked. But I'm no pushover, sometimes we're like brother and sister and I'm berating her in a kind of 'you need to take a long hard look at yourself young lady' type of way,” *loaded* wonders whether in a fit of er, excitement, she has ever called him Johnny? “No! I told her that we don't talk about exes! We talk about their exploits, but we have already started to get our in-jokes.”

the power 9:49am

Despite starting off with an MTV television career, Dave had to work his way up the ruthless radio pyramid through XFM and Capital before bagging the big breakfast show slot. *How* does he cope with the kind of fruitcakes and oddballs who regularly phone in to live shows? “You embrace them!” he explains. “Thankfully every time it's been well worth the risk. I enjoy live. I remember we once had a guy on during a show where we were talking about strange fetishes. He had this thick Northern Irish accent and admitted that he was sexually attracted to tractors. It started out as funny and weird, but then it descended into being like a terrible late-night sex phone chat! He went into graphic detail about his favourite, and started describing the circumference of the wheels and how his favourite was big and shiny and had yellow sides. I laughed my

way through it, I thought it was inspired. After we finally got rid of him, we ended up with a Polish girl with a fetish for long novelty pencils. That's when people text the show saying ‘Oh my God, did you talk to a man wanking off about tractors?’ I'm like yes – now it's Rihanna!”

boyfriend: 9:53

But Dave's path to stardom started off after he bagged a job as a male model. “I'll be honest, I had to suck a lot of dick to get where I got,” he jokes. “It's funny though, because I never saw the pics from any of the big campaigns I did. I was working in a vintage clothes shop and one day some guys came in looking for models for the now defunct *The Face* magazine. At the time I was skinny and pale with long shaggy hair. I looked like Harry from One Direction. So I wouldn't exactly call myself a male model – It goes to show why I made a success of myself on air!”

Not bad for a man who confesses that he had “never really listened to the radio” before he started. “The only show I listened to was Ricky Gervais' XFM slot,” he adds. “My girlfriend at the time had a Mini and it was the only working radio we had. So we would get some cans of beers and sit in the car with the engine running while we listened to his show. I even got my own Manc ‘Karl Pilkington’ called Dave Masterman when I started presenting. He not only sounded like him but said the same things. He produced my XFM breakfast show for ages. We were both called Dave so one of our bosses thought people might get confused. I work on the theory that Daves are like rats – you're only five minutes from a Dave. We did a thing called ‘Let's rename you’. And he was like ‘I don't want to’. It went through an X Factor-style process and we settled on Producer Chris. Even now he's called that and I left him years ago.”

And as Justin Bieber's single winds down we have one question left to ask him. With Chris Moyles heading towards 40, does he fancy the Radio 1 gig? “I'm not interested,” he insists, getting all political on us. “Both of those shows are huge and I'm happy with what I've secured!” Good answer – looks like the radio rookie is learning fast. ■ **loaded**

Listen to Dave on Capital FM from 6-10 every weekday morning

“Was a man wanking off to tractors on air? Yes! Next up it's Rihanna”

Face for radio

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SCOTT MILLS
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