

NEAR YOU

Teen idol, Brit award-winner... he even sang the opening lines of Band Aid's legendary Do They Know It's Christmas? Paul Young was big news in the 80s and he's still selling out gigs today. **HELEN BARNES** caught up with him

Paul Young



What can fans expect from your forthcoming tour with Go West?

We are still discussing what form it's going to take, but there will be a couple of collaborations, maybe one in the middle and one at the end.

Do you prefer touring with others or festivals?

I like them both. I haven't done that many festivals recently, so I look forward to a lot more to those. I've been doing a lot of touring in theatres and halls recently, so to get out in wide open spaces feels great.

When I chatted to Peter Cox (Go West) recently, I asked him if he could pick one of your songs to sing, what would it be and what would he like to hear you sing of Go West's; He said Tear Your Playhouse Down and Goodbye Girl. What would your choices be?

Well, for Pete to do, I think I'd like to hear him sing Now I Know What Made Otis Blue and one of theirs - I'd steal the best one - King Of Wishful Thinking.

Is the most common question you're asked, "Where did you finally lay your hat?"

No, it's not actually. I think "What did it feel like to do the Band Aid record?" is probably what I get asked the most.

Are you still a fan of cooking?

Yes. I don't get as much time these days as I'm never off the road, so I don't get to cook that much.

I remember seeing you on Celebrity MasterChef. If you were to do another cooking show now, what would your winning dish be?

Maybe a Cajun recipe - there's one I do with chicken, with nuts and spices. I grind them so they're quite crunchy and coat the chicken breast in that. Then I make a mustard sauce, with a mixture of sour cream, real cream, Cajun spices, that sort of stuff. It's delicious.

Is it true you were a keen footballer when you were younger?

No - I cannot believe that is still going around now. I never was. For sport, I do like to watch tennis and did have lessons 15-20 years ago. We played as a couple and I did want to improve and get good at it, but I just didn't stay playing it for long enough.

How do you keep fit now?

I do general fitness stuff now. I have someone that comes to my house and kicks my ass!

Gino D'Acampo once stole your guitar collection, which thankfully you were able to get back. Has your collection grown significantly since then?

I have nowhere near as many as real guitar players, but I do have about 12 now. I play guitar more with Los Pacaminos. Some I have on display at home, some are with the road crew, stored somewhere in the Midlands, I've another five in my music room and three or four in the loft.

Do they all sound different?

Yes, if you're a real guitar player, you can tell. I can listen to a record and know if it's a Fender Telecaster, a Gibson Les Paul, or a Strat. Those three are very significantly different sounds. My guitar player, Jamie, would be able to pick out a few more.

When was the last time you played in the East Midlands?

I've played with Los Pacaminos at the Flowerpot, in Derby, recently.

Finally, can you tell our readers something they won't know about you?

That's the other question I always get asked! OK, how about - I sang Rhinestone Cowboy with Glenn Campbell, in Donald Duck voices backstage at one of his gigs once... crazy, but it is true.

■ Paul Young and Go West play Leicester De Montfort, on Tuesday, September 15. Tickets: demontforthall.co.uk, 0116 233 3111, from: £31.50.