

the rootsy *Run Devil Run* – an experience he rated one of the thrills of his performing life. His next guest appearance: Paul and Heather's wedding.

46 GILMOUR IS SO DARN MULTI-TALENTED he's even spent the past few quiet years learning the sax. 'Dave was the most musical of the Floyd members,' Alan Parsons confirms.

47 HE'S PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF MIMICKING JIMI HENDRIX, whom he once saw at a London club and has appreciated ever since. Former Floyd manager Peter Jenner remembers Gilmour being auditioned at Abbey Road. 'Someone said "C'mon, Dave, give us your Hendrix," and out came this extraordinary sound, just breathtaking. He was a great mimic.'

48 HE'S NO GUITAR PURIST and admits he'll 'use any gadget or trick that will make me achieve something that sounds nice to my ear'. We're not sure if this includes the Peter Frampton-style 'voicebox' employed to render Professor Stephen Hawking's cameo vocal on *Keep Talking* on stage.

49 HE REHABILITATED RICK WRIGHT AND NICK MASON after Wright was forced out of the band and when Mason's confidence become so damaged that he hardly drummed on *Momentary Lapse Of Reason*.

50 OTHER GUITARISTS LOVE HIM, TOO. Roxy Music's Phil Manzanera was particularly grateful for his help when he was a mere 17-year-old wannabe. 'David was a friend of my brother's when he first joined Pink Floyd, and I went along to meet him to ask how I could get into a band,' recalled Manzanera. 'The experimental side of the Floyd was what was happening in '68 and 1969, and I was very much influenced by that in my playing.'

51 HE MADE IT TO LIVE AID INCOGNITO. Although Pink Floyd had ceased to trade by the summer of 1985, and lawsuits over the name were pending – hence their non-appearance alongside such giants as Queen, The Who, Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin – David was present, unknown to many of the watching millions, playing guitar for Bryan Ferry.



52 HE WRITES LOVE SONGS TO HIS MISSUS, just like Eric. Author/newspaper journalist Polly Samson became Mrs David Gilmour in July 1994, four months after the release of *The Division Bell*. His songs to her include that album's *What Do You Want From Me*, apparently written during a pre-nuptial row.

53 HE WAS THE PRIME MOVER IN PUTTING TOGETHER THE BEST-SELLING COMPILATION ECHOES, even setting up a voting system to ensure fair play in the track selection process. This caring approach caused the album's deliberately non-chronological track listing – something that was either loved or hated by the fans.

54 HE JOINED IN THE STRAT'S 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. When Fender fans from all points of the compass descended on Wembley Arena in November 2004 to celebrate the Strat's half-century, he starred alongside Hank Marvin, Gary Moore, Joe Walsh, Phil Manzanera and Ronnie Wood, gaining much applause from 10,000 fans.

56 HE SECRETLY LONGS TO PLAY SMALL VENUES AGAIN, like Mother's, a regular Floyd haunt in Erdington, near Birmingham at the turn of the '60s/'70s where some of the live material on *Ummagumma* was recorded. 'Before *Dark Side*,' he reminisces, 'in the quiet passages you could hear a pin drop. One always has a bit of nostalgia for the days when we could perform without any compromise.'

57 HE HAS A FLOATING STUDIO ON HIS HOUSEBOAT, called The Astoria, where he can get away from it all, pull up the gangplank and be creative. The vessel was actually built in 1911 for music hall impresario Fred Karno and was purchased by David in 1986.

58 HE'S NOT AVERSE TO A BIT OF DIY. When he had the inspiration for *High Hopes*, he upped anchor, sailed away from all interruptions and completed the track, drums and all, in just one day. 'That joy, the pride was absolute magic.'

59 HE WAS ONCE A HIGHLY PAID MALE MODEL. Well, maybe not quite. 'I was hanging around London in the mid '60s and someone wanted someone to go up to Santa Pod Raceway and sit in a stupid motor with some stupid clothes on and have their photo taken for fifty quid a day,' he once admitted. 'I jumped at it!'

60 HE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOUR. When asked what he wanted to call *Pulse*, he said: 'Why don't you just call it *The Inevitable Live Album* and have done with it?' Describing the 'fretboard-cam' shots on a DVD, he said these were 'for all the anoraks out there who want to follow my fat little fingers at work'. We do. Cheers, David.

55 HE DIDN'T MAKE A FUSS ABOUT HIS CBE, awarded in November 2003 for services to music. 'I don't know her taste in music,' he said of his meeting with the Queen, 'but I suspect that if she has listened to Pink Floyd it's been one of her children or grandchildren playing it and she's more likely to be the one to say "turn it off".' He also admitted it had been 'more nerve-racking than playing to a hundred thousand people'.

