

After Live 8, Pink Floyd's David Gilmour solos as a senior.

Since reuniting at Live 8 for a performance in July and seeming to patch up their differences, David Gilmour and Roger Waters of Pink Floyd have dashed fans' hopes that the band would tour. Those in need of a Floyd fix aren't out of luck, though. Mr. Gilmour, who turns 60 on Monday, is releasing his first solo album ("On an Island") in 22 years and for the first time in 12 years is touring small European halls (next month, the United States). So many milestones, so many guitar solos, yet he isn't fazed. He recently spoke by phone with Joe Brescia. Here, with, excerpts from their conversation.

QUESTION You have not toured since 1994. Do you miss it?

ANSWER I'm looking forward to all of it. Doing something modest is quite a turn-on for me, really.



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Q You collaborated with your wife, Polly Samson, on the lyrics for the album. Does working together cause any conflicts?

A We argue, of course. But we get over everything. She was a journalist and is naturally very good with words. Speaking and words are not my strongest suit. I don't have to worry that she'll get upset and not cook dinner. I cook dinner anyway.

Q You play eight instruments on the album. Are you trying to make Steve Winwood jealous?

A I'll have a go at anything. I play the keyboards and the piano. I always have done a bit of that. Then the bass guitar is not too tough if you play the guitar. I learned the drums when I was much younger.

Q Were you happy about the Pink Floyd reunion at Live 8?

A It was a terrific day. It was a very good cause. On a mundane personal level, it's good to get together with Roger and get some of that bad stuff out of the air. Can Live 8 lead to a permanent reunion? I don't think I'll do any more. Why would I go back to something that wouldn't make me a happier human being?

Q What's the latest on "The Wall" coming to Broadway as a musical?

A I know no more than anyone else. If Roger wants to go ahead and do that, fine. Broadway shows are not my big thing. I never saw "Tommy." That's sort of like karaoke really. Quite entertaining in their way. But I would rather go see a really good production of "West Side Story."

Q How is it turning 60?

A I've been shouting on about getting to 60 so much that I already think I've got there, so it will be fine. I'm just going to go out and do my nice little show. Of course, I'll still do the splits onstage.