

'I FLY UPSIDE DOWN AND PRETEND TO BE AN EAGLE.'

DAVID GILMOUR

Pink Floyd guitar hero, 59

1 Don't call me Dave. I've never liked it and I've never used it. Some people seem to think that I've changed it. But you can't find a Pink Floyd record, going back to 1968, where I've ever used Dave. I love the name David. I hate the name Dave. I don't feel like a Dave.

2 I'm not the person on TV. There's that person who's the famous one who plays the guitar, but I don't really believe it's me. I feel very uncomfortable doing autographs, still to this day. But I am a total hypocrite and I revel in elements of it. It boosts your ego.

3 We've lost millions. We got pretty rich after *Dark Side Of The Moon* but we lost all that due to crookedness and all sorts of difficulties. At the time of making *The Wall* album, we were in distinct financial danger. If you have £10 in the world and you gamble and make an error, you can suddenly find yourself owing £10. And if you have a million pounds, you can suddenly find yourself owing a million pounds.

4 Help the homeless. I had a big house in Maida Vale on the canal, which I used rarely because we moved to the country. I was having guilt feelings about living there part-time. Crisis were launching a project to get homeless people back into a real life and in 2003 I volunteered to give them the £3.6 million from the sale of it. Quite frankly I don't need that money, I have more than enough.

5 Pink Floyd will not tour. Having Roger [Waters, Gilmour's former Pink Floyd nemesis] back in the band for Live 8 made a difference in people's minds, but that was the only place it made a difference. We could have done that same set exactly the same way. They have offered us a lot of money to do a tour—and that offer is with or without Roger, incidentally. I just don't think working in a studio with Roger and the others to make an album is something that would increase my personal happiness. I don't think Pink Floyd will tour again. With me, anyway.

6 Chocks away! I do a little bit of flying in Second World War-era aeroplanes. I love the feeling of flight, that free-as-a-bird elemental thing of being up in the sky, preferably in an open-top aeroplane. I go up on my own and do a loop-the-loop or turn it upside down and pretend to be an eagle. I've had a couple of hairy moments, but if you walk away from them, you've learnt something.

7 Syd Barrett is gone but not forgotten. I feel sorry for poor old Syd. People's obsession with him is a little unhealthy. It's a classic syndrome. If they're damaged beyond repair or dead, they become much more valuable. I'd love to see him but I haven't seen him since 1975. He gets a share of royalties from the first album and even on *[Pink Floyd's 2001 best of]* *Echoes* there's a track or two of his. It helps keep him going.

8 Drugs are for mugs, I should know. All drugs damage you. They damage your mind and they damage your body. Cocaine

is the worst because of the insidious damage it wreaks on people, and I am speaking from personal experience. I definitely don't think they help the artistic process. Look at poor old Pete Doherty. He's a charismatic, intelligent character. If his ambition is to end up like Shane MacGowan, that's tragic.

9 Imitation is flattery. The Scissor Sisters' version of *Comfortably Numb* surprised me, but I enjoyed it. I wish more people would cover us. There's the *[reggae novelty version]* *Dub Side Of The Moon*, which is fun.

10 Age with grace. I've always thought a lot about mortality and it used to scare me deeply. Now it doesn't scare me any more. Or not significantly. I thought it was quite fun to release my album on my 60th birthday and embrace my seniority. I hope that one achieves maturity and contentment and even resignation to some extent as one gets older. I think I'm pretty content. ■