

# DESERT ISLAND PICS

## Suggs

On the couch with Monkhouse, on stage – or on his bike... the Madness singer's life in pictures

A three-month-old Graham McPherson aka Suggs



### 1 Olympian feat, 2012

Performing at the closing ceremony of the Olympics in 2012 was amazing, but it wasn't without its problems. Just before our set started I forgot the opening line to *Our House*. Suddenly everything went blank. Seconds before the camera panned to me I shouted in panic at one of the lads to tell me the line [*Father wears his Sunday best*].

### 2 Driving in our car, 1979

Madness were up and running but we still had very little money. We managed to buy two old GPO Morris Minor vans, which were our limousines. They only went 60mph so we spent endless hours on the motorways travelling to shows. I also used the vans during the day for my gardening job.

### 3 Bob the mender, 2002

The great Bob Monkhouse was my psychiatrist in a drama series I made for Radio 4 called *I Think I've Got A Problem*. None of us knew at the time, but Bob was already suffering from prostate cancer. He never let on. It was a real honour to have worked with such a legend.

### 4 Nutty boys, 2009

The first time I met Rod Stewart was at the Brits; I was on his table and we had a long session on the wine. I woke up next morning with vague memories of Rod asking me to fly up on his private jet to Scotland. I thought I was dreaming and went back to sleep, then I got up later and there were loads of messages on the answerphone from his assistant asking why I wasn't at the airport!

### 5 Boy racers, 1980

This is by the Regent's Canal in north London. Madness were now a big success and we had money, but we still loved going around on our bikes. A bloke I knew pulled up in his BMW alongside me at the lights and said, 'So this is what you get for being in a famous pop group!' then zoomed off.

### 6 Hat's entertainment, 2003

I think God created traffic cones specifically to fit on the heads of drunken men as a means for high celebration! This is me on stage at the Cambridge Theatre in the West End after the show *Our House* won the 2003 Olivier Award for best musical.

### 7 It must be love, 2012

Here's me with the wife – Anne – and our daughter Viva, who's 28, at last year's launch night of *An Evening With Suggs And Friends* in aid of Pancreatic Cancer UK. I started the event to raise money after Anne's sister Alanah died from pancreatic cancer in 2012. She was only 60. She was gregarious, fabulous, a real rock. Her death hit us all terribly. Support Pancreatic Cancer UK by donating at [pancreaticcancer.org.uk](http://pancreaticcancer.org.uk)