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# RUN, CHAT BOY, RUN!

WORDS  
PAUL SIMPER  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
JOHN WRIGHT

Look out Graham Norton and Paul O'Grady – the naughty Mr Alan Carr has let his chat show off the leash for Friday nights. **buzz** caught up with him (and a pair of alarmingly friendly Rottweilers)



**S**INCE IT WAS ANNOUNCED that Alan Carr's hit talk show Chatty Man was moving to a Friday night slot – and slap bang between rival chatters

Paul O'Grady and Graham Norton – we've been relishing a bit of competitive argy bargy between the flamboyant threesome. Imagine our delight, then, when Alan breezes into **buzz**'s studios and cheerily announces that he's just had a snarling face-off with Mr Norton himself.

But more of that shortly. First there's the small matter of our photoshoot. We ask dear, sweet, lovable Alan to show us his secret hard side by posing with two Rottweilers in order to prove he's got what it takes to become the top dog of Friday night chat.

"They *are* tame, aren't they?" Alan asks the dogs' owners. They nod, though not entirely convincingly. "Yeah, so you say. But so were Siegfried and Roy's tigers and look what happened to Roy!" (The Las Vegas entertainer was famously attacked by his own tiger.)

Before they eat Alan for a mid-morning snack, we decide to delve a little deeper into the aforementioned Graham Norton face-off...

So tell us more about you versus Graham... I was taking Bev [Alan's Red Setter] for a walk when Graham came round the corner. I waved but his dogs started growling at Bev. I pulled her back, but if anyone had taken a photo it would have looked like celebrity gay dog fighting! It was a perfect moment if you were looking for a Graham Versus Alan headline: "Look, even their dogs don't like each other!"

Are you excited now you're back on Friday night telly?

Yes, it feels like a bit of a pat on the back from Channel 4. I know I'm going up against Graham Norton and Paul O'Grady, but Chatty Man feels like a Friday night show. Monday nights were a bit: "So what?" I do like Graham and Paul, though. People might think we're spitting at each other and wanting to scratch each other's eyes out, but we've been at the same dinner parties a few times. At the end of the day, it's only a television show.

Did you enjoy being the warm-up guy on Friday Night With Jonathan Ross? I loved doing that. Jonathan has been so supportive of me. I did another series even after I was on the telly with The Friday Night Project. I had such fun. I've had great guests on Chatty Man but Jonathan's were something else. I'd be standing backstage in the same corridor as Paul Newman, Jane Fonda,



Alan gets his tats out for the lads



“**I FEEL SORRY FOR CHERYL ABOUT THE WHOLE X FACTOR THING. SHE’S JUST COMING ACROSS AS BEING USED**”

Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz. They didn't really talk to me. Jane Fonda said: "Move!" So I did.

**Who was the starriest celeb backstage?**

The Rock. I know he's a massive Hollywood star, but he's not exactly Paul Newman. He had these security men talking into their cuffs, saying: "The Rock needs to pee." The whole corridor had to be cleared for him. Then you had Babs Winsor tottering by, going: "All right, darlin'." People were more interested in getting her autograph than The Rock's!

**J.Lo was on your first show – did she have any crazy, diva-like demands?**

No, I'm amazed to say she had no rider at all. I thought: 'Here we go, she'll want puppies and roses,' but she was good as gold.

**What was Mariah Carey's rider like when she came on?**

I love Mariah. I don't know whether it's the people around her that make demands. They said Mariah wanted a massive plate of doughnuts and an ostrich feather to be fanned with. But when I asked her about it on the show, she didn't really know anything about it. She did have a 'stair coordinator', though, who had to walk down the stairs of the Chatty Man set to make sure she could actually do it!

**Is there anyone you'd never have back on Chatty Man?**

I was a bit disappointed when Vic [Reeves] and Bob [Mortimer] came on last year. Vic started asking me why I was doing the show and if Channel 4 were paying me. I didn't think it fitted in with the spirit of Chatty Man – and it was the one time I didn't offer a drink from my cabinet. But I'm not slagging them off.

**Which guests did get stuck into the drinks cabinet?**

The Black Eyed Peas really tucked into the Lambrini. It was just after Michael Jackson died and there was this awful moment when Will.i.am raised his glass and toasted him with the Lambrini: "Michael, this is for you." I didn't want to say anything, but I thought I should have tipped out the Lambrini and replaced it with champagne to toast the King of Pop.

**What did you make of Lindsay Lohan?**

She was lovely backstage. She said to me: "I want to talk about everything and wipe the slate clean." But then when the show began and I started interviewing her, every answer was: "No comment." Out of the corner of my eye I saw the next topic coming up on the Autocue – lesbianism. So I said: "Are you a lesbian?" As a gay man, I didn't think it was an offensive question – you either are or you're not. She said: "None of your business." So I asked: "Oh, are you back on the c\*\*k?" and she said: "You b\*\*\*\*\*d." But I really didn't want to embarrass her.

**Will Cheryl Cole be back on?**

I'd love to have her on again. Last time she did Chatty Man, she loosened up towards the end. I was so sick of seeing these interviews with her crying. I thought: "Let's have a laugh." I feel sorry for her about the whole X Factor thing, though. She's just coming across as being used.

**Would you want to have Katie Price and her boyfriend Leandro Penna as guests?**

She can come on but she must sign something to promise she won't get married before the show goes out. It was a nightmare when she came on with Alex Reid. She promised me she wasn't going to marry him and then the very next day she did. I had to go back and film an extra bit where I asked the marriage question, and when she said no, I turned to camera and said: "Yeah, and I believe that!"

**Is your life more glamorous now that you're interviewing A-listers?**

Me and my partner Paul are actually really boring! We just get a nice bottle of red wine in and maybe watch Grand Designs. But I think that's what most people do. The more famous people I

"Hang on, how come Paul O'Grady gets a little dog?"



meet, the more I discover that they just sit at home watching telly.

**How did you meet Paul?**

At a friend's party. I'd gone out wearing a nice blue top and slate-grey trousers – but then I spilt a cup of tea down my trousers, so I changed them for another pair and a tank top. I caught myself in the mirror and it was exactly what I used to wear when I worked in Tesco. So I wasn't looking my best, but then Paul and I just clicked. One thing led to another, he peeled off my Tesco uniform and said: "I'm here to help!"

**Would you like to have kids?**

No way. I can't even look after Bev. I always feel sorry for gay men who have that urge to be a father. It must be awful for them. But I don't have that in me. Bev's filling the place where there would be a space for a child.

**How are you finding Twitter these days?**  
Fine. I'm learning not to bite back at nasty

comments when I've had a drink. After a couple of glasses of wine I tend to say: "Well, you've only got two followers, go f\*\*k yourself." I love Twitter because it's like life. You'll find someone you're on the same wavelength with and then another time someone will be rude and call you a bell-end.

**Would you ever consider having cosmetic surgery?**

Do you know what, I might have it once I'm no longer on the telly. But to be honest, I don't know what I'd have done. I'm used to my features now. One paper said I'd had my teeth straightened and my eyes lasered, but it was rubbish.

**What's been your favourite night out with your showbiz pal Adele?**

She's great at karaoke but I used to enjoy watching The X Factor with her and getting a takeaway in. Her songs Make You Feel My Love and Chasing Pavements would come on and I'd just go to her: "Kerching!" It's so weird to be sitting watching the show with someone who is earning hundreds of thousands of pounds as the minutes tick by. Adele does buy

the cheapest wine when she comes round, though. There was one bottle she bought with a picture on it that looked like an operation. I said to her: "That isn't good. How many millions have you got? You're on that bloody rich list." She needs to start spending some of it.

**WATCH IT! ALAN CARR: CHATTY MAN FRIDAY 10PM CHANNEL 4**

**FOR DETAILS OF ALAN CARR'S 'SPEXY BEAST' ARENA TOUR, VISIT WWW.ALANCARR.NET**



Alan was rubbish at vogueing

**DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HARD ENOUGH?**

He's got the scary dogs and the butch tattoos, but is Alan a hard man or Mr Soft?

**HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PROPER SCRAP?**  
Yes, I have. I can get violent when I'm on the gin. I gave one friend a black eye after he was winding me up. Then of course the next morning you wake up feeling awful about it.

*Hard man*

**HAVE YOU EVER JOINED IN WITH FOOTBALL CHANTS ON THE TERRACES?**

Yeah, I used to support Northampton Town every week when Dad [Graham Carr, right] managed them. I'd chant along to: "He's fat, he's round, his feet don't touch the ground – Graham Carr! Gra-ham Carr!"



*Hard man*

**WOULD YOU GET A REAL TATTOO?**

No, I can't think of anything I want to have tattooed. I suppose I could have 'I love Mum' as you'll always love your mum, but that's been done to death. It's also a bit East-End gangster, which isn't really me...

*Mr Soft*

**HAVE YOU EVER DRUNK A YARD OF ALE?**

No, it gives me wind.

*Mr Soft*

**WHAT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS SPORT YOU'VE PLAYED?**

Probably rugby. Mind you, I used to find country dancing quite strenuous. I'd worry about getting garrotted by the maypole.

*Mr Soft*

**GOT ANY DANNY DYER [LEFT] DVDS?**

No, I haven't, funnily enough. I've got some Danny Kaye DVDs.

*Mr Soft*

**WOULD YOU SAW YOUR OWN ARM OFF LIKE THE BLOKE IN THE FILM 127 HOURS?**

I could probably chew through it with my teeth.

*Hard man*

**FINAL RESULT**

*Mr Soft (but with hard edges)*