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WOSSY'S BACK!

*SuperWossy swoops in to kick ass
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SUPERWOSSY to the WESCUER!

Is it a TV host? Is it a comic book geek? Is it a 50-year-old bloke in very tight blue Lycra? Yes, it's all three. **buzz** presents TV's most unlikely superhero, **Jonathan 'Wossy' Ross**

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Standing in his superhero outfit, nonchalantly balancing a 1963 BMW bubble car weighing more than 500kg on one hand, Jonathan Ross is pondering his likely superpowers. "It would be great to be super-strong," he says, flexing his freshly beefed biceps courtesy of a New Year's training regime. "But at my age I'd settle for the ability to last the whole night without having to get up to go to the toilet. That's the superpower I need. I'd like to be Super Bladder Man." So now that he's 50, is he starting to feel a bit decrepit? "My eyesight's going a bit," Jonathan reveals. "I've got a slight astigmatism. But I think that's a good thing. It makes you think: 'Don't waste time.' If you're lucky enough that none of your immediate family are ill, you've got a nice house and you don't have to worry about the mortgage, then I think that's about as good as it's ever going to get."

With a 'W' for Wossy proudly emblazoned on his chest for our cover shoot, Jonathan is in a positive frame of mind. He rolls up at **buzz**'s secret superhero lair (okay, a freezing warehouse on the outer reaches of north London) with the roof down on his 2002 Ford Thunderbird, which was used by no less than Halle Berry in Bond movie *Die Another Day*.

Chomping on a cigar, the chat-show legend waves cheerily at some local lads who shout: "Wossy!" then slams his foot on the gas to show us just what this baby can do.

Six months on from his departure from his multimillion-pound 'golden handcuffs' deal with the BBC, Jonathan admits he's enjoying the freedom to pursue all manner of projects that weren't possible when he worked exclusively for the Beeb. He's introducing and choosing cool movies for digital French channel Cinémoi, writing scripts and comic books (his fourth comic is out next month), and easing his way back onto the tellybox.

This month there's already been *Stargazing Live* with The Sun Professor Brian Cox for the BBC, a prime-time magic show with Penn & Teller for ITV1 (and yes, he does tell us how that mobile phone ended up inside the fish but we are sworn to secrecy), and now he's back, back, BACK hosting the British Comedy Awards live on Channel 4 – the channel where it all started for him with *The Last Resort* back in 1987.



VIDEO EXCLUSIVE

TO GO BEHIND THE SCENES AT OUR SHOOT, CHECK OUT: [THESUN.CO.UK/VIDEO](http://thesun.co.uk/video)



Teabreak: Jonathan returns to his old home on C4 to host the British Comedy Awards

"I ADORE RUSSELL BRAND - BUT I DIDN'T GO TO HIS WEDDING"

The fact that it's a live show this year has particularly got Jonathan's juices flowing. After all, this is the awards ceremony famed for seat-of-your-pants viewing moments like Julian Clary proclaiming he'd just done something vigorous and unmentionable to the then-Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont, and Spike Milligan calling Prince Charles a "grovelling b**tard."

"I think it's great that the Comedy Awards are going to be live again," he says, dunking his biccy in his bespoke *Wossy* superhero mug. "Of course it would be a bit tragic to try to manufacture it to be edgy - I'm middle-aged now so none of my generation are teenagers out to shock any more, but because we're the punk generation I do think our default setting is still to stir things up a little and provoke."

He raises an eyebrow. "Although, as you know, that doesn't always take you to where you want to be."

It's the first wry nod to Sachsgate - the infamous prank-call scandal on BBC Radio 2 that nearly terminated the careers of both Jonathan and his partner in crime Russell Brand 18 months ago

- but the uproar that surrounded those events and his and Russell's departures from the BBC doesn't seem to have diminished his enthusiasm for controversial comedy, including the work of TV's latest shockmeister and Sun columnist, Frankie Boyle, and his show *Tramadol Nights*.

"I didn't actually see much of Frankie Boyle's show, but I think Channel 4 is right to do shows that make people think about the nature of comedy," Jonathan says. "A lot of people aren't going to like what Frankie Boyle has to say and they may not find it funny, but does that mean it shouldn't be on? Not necessarily. He's clearly a very talented comedian."

JR also hooked up recently with another figure from the world of entertainment who's been having a bit of a bumpy ride (literally) of late. Hello George Michael, previously of Wham!,

solo global megastardom, Snappy Snaps and HM Prison Pentonville.

"I've been to see him since he was released," reveals Jonathan, "and he's fine. We were actually talking about doing a TV interview but that's not going to happen yet. Instead he played me some new tracks he's recorded. He's been writing loads. One of the songs sounded like an instant hit."

"George is a strong man mentally. I think he would be the first to say that going inside may not have been a pleasant experience for him but it was a good thing. He seems to be in a good place now. I think he's in a mood to be quite revealing and share himself with his fans more than ever before."

The chat-show king

There's already been much speculation about who *Wossy's* guests will be when his new ITV1 chat show launches in the autumn. He says George may be one of them but Prince Harry - one of the early rumours to be his first guest - has definitely not been confirmed.

"As far as I know, we haven't yet approached anyone for the first show. We haven't even got a team working on it yet," he says. "I'm hoping

to meet Brad Pitt over the summer because my wife Jane [Goldman] knows him through working with Kick-Ass producer Matthew Vaughn. Hopefully I'll persuade him to come on."

And what of Russell Brand? Did Jonathan go to Russell and Katy Perry's week-long wedding marathon in India last October?

"I didn't," he says. "But I adore Russell. The one really good thing to come out of Sachsgate was the closeness Russell and I have as friends. We went through something quite peculiar together and because of that I know he's always there for me and he knows I'm always there for him."

"The reason we didn't go to the wedding was that it was the week that our eldest, Betty, was starting university. I felt it was more important that I was

focused on my first child going to uni. I knew they'd understand - and they did."

Betty, 19, is studying psychology, while 16-year-old son Harvey is focused on biomedical engineering. Only his youngest, 13-year-old Honey, seems to have inherited the showbiz gene.

"If any of them is going to go into showbusiness, it's Honey," Jonathan explains. "She does these monologues which have us in hysterics for hours in the car. She's almost like a stand-up comedian. She came up with this ancient hermaphrodite called Twosie, who speaks in a Southern American accent."

"Dropping Betty off at university was the most emotionally wrenching day. It was hideous. Jane was in floods. I was in tears on the way back. It was horrible! And now we've got to go through it twice more with the other two. But we've been very lucky. They're all just lovely kids."

Toys 'R' Ross

The biggest kid of all, though, is of course Wossy himself. A couple of days before the shoot, he invites *Wossy* to his Hot Sauce production office for a guided tour of all his collectibles and mementos.

Rare 1960s Marvel fan club pillows, a Steve Jones Sex Pistols T-shirt, 1960s Italian Joe Colombo furniture, a signed Rufus Wainwright Judy Garland poster, and a framed photo of wife Jane's bra ad ("The bra didn't actually do her any favours. She's got a much nicer shape than that bra.")

Kicking back in his Aladdin's cave of toys, Jonathan admits that he is a more relaxed soul these days - which is why he's talking exclusively to us after a decade-long stand-off with the press.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Jonathan on *The Last Resort* in 1987; with wife Jane, 40, and children Betty, Honey and Harvey, as the Caped Crusader; and with his partner in crime - and Sachsgate - Russell Brand



WATCH IT! WOSSY HOSTS THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS SATURDAY C4 9PM

WOSSY'S MOST MEMORABLE AWARDS MOMENTS

JULIAN CLARY VS NORMAN LAMONT (1993)

"When Julian made a really crude joke about Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont, I remember thinking: 'Wow, that's a bold joke', then thinking it was funny but worrying Julian would get in trouble. He didn't deserve to - the Comedy Awards isn't a family show."



A GAG TUTU FAR? (1995)

"We had Archbishop Desmond Tutu on the Comedy Awards one year. I made a rather lame joke about maybe some people might think he shouldn't be there but please don't bash the Bishop. Even as I said it, I thought: 'That's not one of my finest gags!'"



SPIKE MILLIGAN CALLS PRINCE CHARLES A "GROVELLING B**TARD" (1994)

"That, for me, was the best ever moment. It was shocking but at the same time very sweet because it was Spike dealing with the emotion of it. I love that there's room on the same stage for all of the old stars and Frankie Boyle, Ricky Gervais and *The Mighty Boosh*."



WHEN PATRICK STEWART ATTACKED HOST JAMES CORDEN'S "BELLY" (2010)

"I thought it was a bit odd on both sides when they traded insults on stage at the Glamour Awards. If you host an awards ceremony, you've got to let people say what they want about you while they're up there."



THAT GHETTO BONKERS OUTFIT (2010)

"Most of my awards outfits have been pretty bad. There was the one Dizzee Rascal picked for me for the Brits. Unfortunately what looks good on him doesn't necessarily look good on me."

