

# NUMBER ONE

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# AFTER THE

# Bandana

**It's all change for the 'Nanas. Now that Siobhan's opted for a life of domestic bliss, new member Jacquie O'Sullivan is launched into the quagmire with the new 'Nanas single 'I Want You Back'. And who else would Jacquie confide in at the moment of truth, but Paul Simper. Pictures by Tim Roney.**

## JACQUIE O'SULLIVAN'S

### INTIMATE DETAILS

**Born:** I was born in Hendon, London, on August 7, 1960.

**Do you have brothers and sisters?** Yes, I have four brothers — two are twins — and one sister. They're all older.

**Did anyone ever stick your head down the loo at school?**  
No never. I was hard (*chuckles*). I came from a long line of hard people.

**Did you used to get in trouble at school?**  
Yes I did. Quite a bit of trouble fighting and the like. Mostly it was just hitting people over the head with things.

**How would you be punished?**  
They used to expel you for a day for fighting. Also there was the ruler and the strap — a leather strap across the back of your hand and legs. Not very nice I can tell you.

**Who was more strict, your mum or dad?**  
Probably my mum. She never used to hit you, she'd just send you to bed or not let you out for a week. Take something away that you wanted.

**Were you close to your brothers and sisters?**  
Not very 'cos they used to stay drinking with their mates in Burnt Oak while I went 'up West' (*puts on Vera Duckworth voice*) to the big discos, y'know. Actually the outfits we're wearing for this video were from about that time. The first disco I ever went to was The Bandwagon in Kingsbury where Bob Elms (*trendy writer*) and Marilyn used to go. That was just before punk. Marilyn used to wear big hairy mohair jumpers and Bob Elms used to dress like Bryan Ferry. And I'd dress like the Roxy Music army girls in the background (*titters*). And me and Bob used to *date* a bit.





# Split...

## How did you discover how babies were made?

Someone told me babies were made by kissing and so I was really really disgusted when I discovered how it was actually done. I'd say "my mum would never do a thing like that. I was definitely conceived through the mouth."

## Did you ever want to be an air hostess?

No, but I wanted to be a bus conductress because I really liked the tickets!

## Did you have Saturday jobs?

I worked in a Wimpy – for one day. I got sacked 'cos I had a sugar lump fight in the kitchen and it sprawled over into the actual restaurant. And I worked at Sketchley's, the dry-cleaners.

## What was the first thing that went through your mind when you were asked to join Bananarama?

Well how it came about was one day Pete Waterman, who I'd once worked with with The Shillelagh Sisters, phoned me up and said would I like to make a lot of money very quickly. So I said "yeah!" and went down to see him. He said this band needs a singer – I thought he meant a backing singer – and then Hilary (*Bananarama's manager*) came in and said who it was. I just couldn't stop giggling and nodded my head at everything they said.

## Do you own any Bananarama records?

No (*more laughter*).

## What was on your wall when you were a kid?

David Essex. He took up most of it. And the Jackson 5. Sarah and Keren are big David Essex fans as well. I was convinced I was going to marry him for years. Then one day recently I saw him at a film preview and he looked all grey and haggard – eugh noo!

## What was the first time you ever performed in front of an audience?

When I was about five or six I used to put on shows down the bottom of my road by the Electricity generator. Me and my best friend then, Karen Sharp,

used to do it with slide projectors. We'd sell lollipops and do opera!

## Can you remember your first snog?

Yes, I can actually. I didn't know how to do it and the boy said "shall I put my tongue in your mouth?" I said "ooh no I don't think so". So we just slobbered around a bit. That was it – and I had a cold sore. So it wasn't very pleasant.

## Is there anyone you would be knock-kneed about meeting?

There's quite a few actually. Definitely Bryan Ferry. And Robert De Niro. But David Essex was the only one I sent letters to. Never got any replies.

## What was it like doing your first TV appearance (in Germany) with Bananarama?

Pretty nerve-wracking but enjoyable. It wasn't as hard as I thought it was going to be. My knees kept knocking together and I forgot bits of 'I Can't Help It' but we laughed through it. I haven't done anything for quite a while since The Shillelagh Sisters so it gave me a taste for it again.

## What's the true story behind all these "KINKY JACQUIE" rumours in the gutter press?

Basically I used to work at a rubber and leather club. Just on the door wearing nice dresses – designer rubber – and checking what the customer's wore. So the papers got hold of that and said I was kinky. But I'm not at all. I categorically deny it!

## Have you spoken to Siobhan since you joined the 'Nanas?

No I haven't at all. But I'm sure she wouldn't be upset that it's me.

## Do you have any more skeletons in your closet?

Well I have warned the band that I used to go out with Adam Ant. That's the only other thing I'm dreading. I can't imagine what they'll say about that. Dear old Stuart Goddard. That was in the early days of Adam And The Ants. A whole crew of us used to go and see them and I'd get up on stage and dance around like a lunatic (*laughs*). Eventually he got one of his roadies to come and ask me out!

## BANANARAMA - THROUGH THE AGES

'81 The 'Nanas are formed in London. Their first single out is the curiously named 'Aie A Mwana' which is Swahili.

'82 The 'Nanas first big break. The Fun Boy Three ask them to do backing vocals on 'It Ain't What You Do (It's The Way That You Do It)' which gets to Number Four. Better still the FB3s help out on the 'Nanas' own 'Really Saying Something' which gets to Number Five.

The same year they have another Top Five hit with 'Shy Boy' and get a chance to act out *The Sound Of Music* for their 'Cheers Then' video.

'83 Back in the charts again with 'Na Na Hey Hey' and then it's time for the old dayboo album 'Deep Sea Skiving' which comes complete with a soon-to-be Bluebells hit 'Young At Heart'.

'84 A dream comes true as the girls get to meet Robert De Niro who's heard about 'Robert De Niro's Waiting'. They meet at Kettner's in Soho and then go on for a booze-up at the Zanzibar.

The 'Nanas second album, 'Bananarama', appears with a more serious set of topics – 'King Of The Jungle' concerns the soldiers in Ireland ("he's gonna make another martyr") while the single 'Hotline To Heaven' is about heroin addiction.

'85 The 'Nanas have their first hit in America when 'Cruel Summer' appears on the soundtrack to *The Karate Kid*.

'86 It's all go this time with the 'Nanas' first American Number One 'Venus'. To celebrate this Siobhan chases Sarah round the garden with a stick at some flash party in Hollywood. Keren is back at the hotel nursing the first Banana-baby-to-be, Thomas.

The third 'Nana album 'True Confessions' also sees the girls' first collaboration (apart from 'Venus') with Stock, Aitken and Waterman.

The single 'A Trick Of The Night' has a killer programme made round it for *In At The Deep End* which also features a classic video interpretation of The Beatles' 'From Me To You'.

'87 Keren enters '87 with Thomas. With boyfriend Dave at home, acting nanny, it's soon back to work and the release of many people's fave 'Nana song 'I Heard A Rumour'.

Between dressing up as convicts and showgirls Siobhan nips off to a wee chateau in France to marry Dave Stewart. Another Banana-baby is due.

The year ends on a high note for Sarah and Keren as they get to bathe in asses milk (sort of) and fruit for the 'I Can't Help It' video.

'88 A barnstorming start to the New Year as the 'Nanas steal the show at the BPI Awards when they introduce the Albert Hall to the delights of well-greased lads.

