



# me

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Sade may write the lyrics, sing the songs and do the talking but meet her and her band and you'll find it's share and share alike.

Paul Simper talked to Sade about her beloved boys and found out just what they think of her.

### **SADE ADU (vocals and songwriter)**

#### **Who is the worst in the band at getting up in the morning?**

Stuart. Definitely. Mind, early on in the American tour I couldn't be woken one day. If you ask the band they'd probably say me. That day my phone was ringing and ringing and ringing, they were banging on my door, ringing the bell. Alf (Sade's bodyguard) thought I'd been murdered but finally they managed to let themselves in. I woke up with them all standing over me at my bedside.

Mmm, maybe me and Stuart come first equal.

#### **What did you think of Paul, Stuart and Andrew when you first met them about three years ago?**

Paul is just very mild-mannered. Some people think at first he's a bit offish because he's so cautious but straightaway I liked him.

Stuart, I thought, was very cocky. I admired his cockiness. He walked into our first rehearsal together in *Pride* and just played with astonishing confidence. He didn't know anybody else in the room but he just got on with it.

And Andrew is sort of amiable. A bit laddish!

#### **"They thought I'd been murdered."**

#### **How did you come to meet Leroy (who has been duetting with Sade on 'Never As Good As The First Time')?**

I met him in a West End recording studio. I actually heard him before I saw him. There was this creamy, creamy vocal coming down the corridor.

It's been great singing with a real singer because it really lifts your performance — everything seems so much more worthwhile. People like Leroy have just given everyone so much more confidence. They've really loosened me up.

It's very reassuring because

"Everyone associated with us is a little bit odd"

# my boys

everyone in the band is just so good at what they do. It does affect your confidence if you think there's a weak link in the band. It doesn't matter what anybody says, we've done our best.

## What are Paul, Stuart and Andy's faults?

Stuart is too dramatic. He's a real drama queen. Because he cares a lot he gets quite affected if I have a bad time. Rather than being calm and finding a solution he tends to get angry. Whereas Andrew's very rational and Paul is just a rock.

Paul Denman's fault is he's *too clean!* He'll wash himself away one day. It's hard to think of his faults. He's not too earnest. . . oh yeah, his Falcon hairspray. It stinks! (laughs) Andrew's problem is he's a fashion victim. He's a bit of a trendy. I don't know quite how this came about!

He is an individual but he does tend to go and buy himself ridiculous lamps because they're in a ridiculous shop that was in a ridiculous magazine that was sold in one of those ridiculous shops that sells those trendy magazines. (*Ridiculous!* - Ed).

## What did the boys give you for your birthday this year?

God, I can't remember. Stuart probably bought me about ten Ray Charles albums. Paul bought me a really beautiful Hoffman guitar which is featured in the 'Taboo' video. Gordon and Stuart both play the same guitars in it.

And Andrew gave me a ridiculously trendy lamp! . . . No, I think his was 'You can have those six jackets of mine that you took, Sade'. . . I'm not sure with him.

## Have you had any embarrassing moments on stage?

Not since I got my hair caught on Ray St. John's (from Pride) guitar in Southgate ages ago. Ray had his eyes shut at the time and didn't see what was happening. He pulled me everywhere! One other thing was on this last British tour Fido, one of the tour crew, dropped a pocketful of change just at the very quietest moment of 'Jezebel' which is the final number.

The worst thing was he tried to catch it so instead of falling all at once it came in stages. It was like a fruit machine pay-out. Trying not to laugh then was extremely hard.

## Do you have any superstitions before you go onstage?

No. What I'd always never done was go and sit in the auditorium but I did that at Radio City in New York. That's a bit silly though. It doesn't affect me that much.

## Who's the best at telling jokes?

I dunno. Everybody's funny in their own way. There are a lot of characters in the group, including myself I suppose, we're all fairly laughable at times. Dave Early (the drummer) tells funny jokes but you can't help laughing at somebody who trips up every three minutes which is Martin our percussionist.

"Everyone associated with us is a little bit odd."

## PAUL S. DENMAN (bass) Can you remember when you first met Sade?

Yeah, that was at the first Pride rehearsal I ever had. What had happened was their bass player hadn't turned up so Stuart and Paul who played drums at the time came round and asked me to do it.

'Shard' had one of these African scarf things wrapped round her head, a pair of jeans and a t-shirt. She was obviously very striking and after that I soon got to know her pretty well.

## What do you do that winds her up?

God, I dunno. I hope I don't do anything that particularly winds her up. . . oh yeah, she hates my hairspray! She calls me 'Mr Solidhair'!

## Is there anything she does that annoys you?

Yeah, smokes. It's bad for her (chuckles). I do try and discourage her - but without much success.

## Sade always introduces you onstage as "the nicest man in the room" - how would you

## describe her?

Oh God. . . 'The nicest woman in the room!' (creep!).

## What's the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you onstage?

When we played at The Fridge in Brixton Sade turned round to talk to the sound man and I didn't see her. I walked into her and banged my guitar on her forehead!

## What's your favourite Sade song?

It varies from day to day but probably 'Fear' or 'Is It A Crime'. They're both very dramatic songs. There are so many highs and lows in them.

## What birthday presents did you get from the others this year?

Andy got me a little travelling pack with scissors, sellotape, glue and stuff 'cos I like that kind of thing. I think Stuart bought me a Charlie Mingus album. I can't remember what Shard bought me. . .

## What do you miss about England when you're away?

Fish and Chips. I do, honestly! And me house and me girlfriend.

## What's the best thing about being in Sade?

It's hard to say. I just feel very lucky to have met everyone and being able to play the stuff we play. I've got so much freedom.

"She calls me 'Mr. Solidhair'."





**STUART MATTHEWMAN**  
(sax, guitar and co-writer)  
**When did you first meet Sade?**

About four years ago when I'd just moved down to London. I wanted to play with a band and I met her at the very end of Ariva. We both moved to Pride.

Bob (Elms) and Sade used to put me up at their flat and lend me clothes. They fed me for a year!

When I forgot the strap for my sax. That instrument's almost impossible to play without it. I had to run off stage just as this number was about to start!

**Do you have any superstitions when you play live?**

No. Paul used to have this little toy lion that he put on top of his amp for every show but we had nothing but bad luck.

**"Sade always thinks 'cos I'm a Northerner I've got no taste."**

**Is there anything you do that winds her up?**

Yeah, I never admit to being wrong in an argument.

**What about her winding you up?**

It winds me up but it's really a good thing... she's an incredible perfectionist. That can be a little bit tiring. You can't talk her out of not doing everything.

**Has Sade ever made any clothes for you?**

I don't think she's made any but she's certainly influenced me. Sade always thinks 'cos I'm a Northerner I've got no taste. I'll buy a shirt and then she won't let me wear it!

**What birthday presents did you get from the others?**

I got a plate with four eclairs on and a candle in the middle. We were in France recording miles away from anywhere. We just had a little party.

**Is she good at getting up in the morning?**

I think she's quite good at getting up but she's always the last down. That's because she's got so many bags to pack. There's always someone ringing her up.

**What's the best thing about being in Sade?**

I suppose the travelling part of it. Trouble is I never make the effort to get up and see anything on our days off...

**What's your most embarrassing moment on stage?**

**ANDREW HALE**  
(keyboards)

**When did you first meet Sade?**

I met her at Ronnie Scott's the first time she played her set. She was sitting at a table with Mel (Caplan, Sade's best buddy whose currently in charge of wardrobe). My first impression was that she was very down-to-earth. That wasn't a shock then but I'm sure it is to people who don't know her now.

**Do you have any habits that wind Sade up?**

Er... I think it's my designer lamps and 60s spy pad where I live. She loves to have a go at me about that. (Slightly hurt) I think all that's got a bit out of order!

**What birthday presents did they give you this year?**

Nothing at first because I kept it all quiet. But then I got this cake onstage. I was in the middle of this piano bit and Sade just walked off the stage. The next minute she's back with this cake which said "bet you wish you'd been a DJ...!"

**What does she do that winds you up?**

If you're reading a magazine and she wants to have a look at it you can bet you don't get it back (laughs). This is great. We're going to fucking hate each other when this comes out!

**The most we often see of you on TV is your hands. Do you bite your nails?**

Actually it's not just my hands. It's my ears. I was told I had the most famous ears in Brighton (where Andy lived) because the camera always went past them! Yeah, unfortunately I do bite my nails.

**What's the best thing about being in Sade?**

The friendship. It's a real family. And the music. You actually get to play the music you love.

**"I was in the middle of this piano bit and Sade just walked off the stage."**

**Have you ever played a Sade record when you DJ at parties?**

No way! I couldn't do that. I'd be too embarrassed.

**What about embarrassing moments on stage?**

The worst is that my trousers keep rising up above my cowboy boots on this tour. I look down and suddenly I look like one of those dodgy Texan cowboys.

