

EXCLUSIVE!
PAUL HOLLYWOOD
GIVES HIS VERDICT
ON THE **BAKE OFF**
FINALISTS

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TV LISTINGS

X APPEAL

HOW SHARON OSBOURNE REJECTED HER SON JACK'S PLEA IN ORDER TO SAVE HER X FACTOR REPUTATION

AN IDIOT
ABROAD STAR
KARL PILKINGTON
ON WHY HE WILL
NEVER GET
MARRIED



ALL THAT SHAZZ!

X FACTOR EXCLUSIVE

Sharon Osbourne on saving her marriage to Ozzy and why this X Factor will be her last...

WORDS PAUL SIMPER PHOTOGRAPHY ITV/NICKY JOHNSTON

When it comes to 'F' words, the best ones to describe Sharon Osbourne are frank, funny, fearless and filthy. But the fabulous Mrs O reveals a gentler side today, as she talks to TV Magazine at ITV studios, high above the River Thames on London's South Bank.

You see, she's also forgiving, as *The Sun* revealed recently when Sharon told how she's forgiven her husband of 31 years, her beloved Ozzy, after he spectacularly fell off the wagon in 2012 and nearly wrecked all she held dear.

"I probably wouldn't be here today if he'd carried on drinking," confesses Sharon, 61. "I simply wouldn't have had the strength to do a big show like *The X Factor*."

"But now my husband is working through an addiction recovery programme, our lives are better and the whole family is so proud of him because he is trying really hard. That is all you can ask of anyone."

The couple lived apart last year after she discovered Ozzy, 64, was abusing alcohol and drugs again after being clean for seven years. He returned home to the family's LA house in June and is working towards sorting himself out. Sharon reveals their three kids Aimee, 29, Kelly, 28, and Jack, 27, have been supporting their dad every step of the way too.

WE ARE FAMILY

"Jack totally understands what Ozzy has been through because he works a 12-step recovery programme [for his addictions]," says Sharon. "Kelly's been in and out of treatment, and Aimee gets it too. They understand. But it's hard when you love somebody and you see them going down the wrong path. It's always painful. But there's also great pride when that person you love picks themselves back up and you start all over again. That makes you closer as a family."

While we're thrilled to report today that Sharon's wedding ring is firmly back in place after what she has described as "one of the worst periods in our turbulent marriage", as a mum of three who's had her own battles – surviving colon cancer and then taking the precautionary step of having a double

mastectomy – Sharon is not about to let Ozzy completely off the hook.

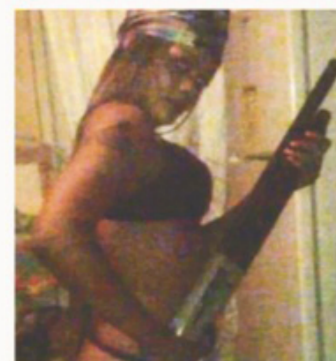
"I had to give it three months before I put my wedding ring back on," admits Sharon, who also sold Ozzy's £500,000 fleet of sports cars in 24 hours last year after one of his pub crawls. "You have to have these little milestones. I've told Ozzy: 'When you're sober for a year, you'll get a car again.' You have to work before you get it all back."



Ozzy and Sharon prove they're very much back together at a bash in June

BACK WHERE SHE BELONGS

With her marriage on steadier ground, Sharon has thrown herself into her work. And it has proved to be an inspired move by *X Factor* supremo Simon Cowell to bring back the former judge for *The X Factor*'s tenth anniversary series. With her rock 'n' roll irreverence, she's brought out the naughty side in all of her fellow judges – old pal Louis Walsh, Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger and even Mr Sensible Gary Barlow.



ON HER FINALIST LORNA SIMPSON, 26, POSING ON FACEBOOK WITH A RIFLEGUN
"She didn't break the law or shoot anyone. Everybody's done something they regret. I'm sure Prince Harry regrets going to that party dressed up as a Nazi."



ON SINITTA REVEALING SHE WAS ONCE PREGNANT WITH SIMON COWELL'S BABY
"She absolutely adores Simon – I think he's probably the love of her life. You can never say whether someone was right or wrong in that situation because love makes you do crazy things."

However, we'd better not get too used to Mrs O's antics. As she shows us cute videos of her one-year-old grandchild Pearl on her smartphone ("She gets more talkative every day. She is just a joy.") and frets about missing a performance by Pearl's dad Jack on *Dancing With The Stars* (the US version of *Strictly*) – it's obvious that this will very much be a one-series-only return.

"This is the first week I've missed watching Jack perform and I'm feeling really guilty about it," says Sharon. "The first time I watched him dance on the show, I felt physically sick. If you want someone to climb a mountain or play rugby, Jack's your man – but he's never been the guy to start the party on the dance floor. I was so nervous for him and he's doing it to prove a point. I always think there's a reason for everything and the reason that Jack got multiple sclerosis is so he can spread the word."

Touchingly, it's Jack who gives his mum the toughest time about taking on too much work.



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

What items does Mrs O bring with her from her LA mansion to feel more at home in the UK?

HER DOG
"She's a Pomeranian. Isn't she gorgeous? She came over to Wembley Arena for the auditions. She liked it. She was involved."

FAMILY PHOTOS
"I'm obsessed with my photos. I like to wake up and see my family. Dogs, kids, everything. I always keep them in my dressing room for the live shows."

SCENTED CANDLES
"There's a French one I like called Rigaud – it's green, soft and it's absolutely gorgeous. It smells of Christmas."



The Osbournes supporting Jack on *Dancing With The Stars* last month



Sharon with the Overs (l-r) Shelley Smith, Lorna Simpson and Sam Bailey

COVER FEATURE

"He was the one who didn't want me to do *X Factor*," she reveals. "But I said to him: 'I've just got to end this nicely.' I want it to go full circle. I don't want my reputation to be that I left a show two weeks before the season started [she quit the series in 2008 when she couldn't face working with fellow judge Dannii Minogue again], which I did. Jack gets that. But I've also promised him that this is it."

The show and her fellow judges will miss her. Where last year the panel was notable for mealy-mouthed bickering between Gary, Louis, Nicole and former judge Tulisa Contostavlos, this time there have been all-night parties and outrageous comebacks at some of the more deluded contestants, with even nice, polite Gary telling one act: "F*** off, you're rubbish."

When asked if that's acceptable, she gives a low down dirty chuckle: "Of course! Why is it that contestants can give us all the verbal in the world? It's like they can say what they want to us, but people think we're out of order if we give it back."

"And I've had some great nights with the other judges this time. We stayed up all night after Bootcamp at Gary's hotel – just me, Nicole, Louis and Gary."

OVERS AND OUT

Naturally she has a few complaints too. She doesn't like her category's name and, fiercely loyal as a friend, she is not impressed by the way her best buddy Louis has been treated on the show over the past few years.

"I think calling my category *The Overs* is very, very demeaning," she says. "I don't like it – I never have. When I hear *Overs*, I always think of OAPs. After all, one of the contestants [Lorna Simpson] in my final three is only 26. 'As for Louis, it really annoys me the way he's had the piss taken out of him. He's got an incredible knowledge of music dating right back to the Sixties. He's really, really good at what he does.'"

With the live shows having only just started, there are still plenty of Shazza shenanigans for us to look forward to. But when she does finally depart, Sharon has no doubt as to who should return in her place. "Simon Cowell should be on *The X Factor* here in the UK, not the US," she says. "I think the show has peaked in America but here it's a tradition. Simon's English. He's not like me – I've been in the States since the 1970s and I'm an American citizen. *The X Factor* is his baby. This is his kingdom and he needs to be back in his home."

• *Unbreakable* by Sharon Osbourne is available now (E20, Sphere)

"CALLING MY CATEGORY THE OVERS IS VERY, VERY DEMAISING"

"I HAD TO GIVE IT THREE MONTHS BEFORE I PUT MY WEDDING RING BACK ON"

WATCH IT! *The X Factor* Saturday & Sunday 8pm ITV