

## BOB GELDOF Biography

Pop star, poet, open-plan politician, living saint, devil's advocate, freelance genius, natural irritant, ubiquitous celebrity, media mogul, big-mouthed, gobshite. Who the hell does Bob Geldof think he is?

"In my head," says Bob Geldof, who spends a great deal of his time in there, "music is what I do. I know people are surprised when I say that. In fact, certain generations will probably be shocked that I make music at all.

"But music is central to who I think I am. I physically need to do it and I think I'm ok at it. I'm good at Bob Geldof type songs."

Listening to "Sex, Age & Death," Geldof's first album for five long years, you can sense this imperative at work in every track. Rarely has a record detailed such a complexity of emotion or attempted to deal with subject matter this difficult so honestly. And as usual Geldof has wrapped some of these songs in delicious melodies.

So much of Bob Geldof's life is a matter of public record. Dublin, punk rock. The Boomtown Rats, Paula, I don't Like Mondays, Africa, Do They Know It's Christmas?, Live Aid, the profanity, the pride, squaring up to Thatcher, schmoozing Mother Teresa, the knighthood, the sainthood, Is That It?, the curious facial hair, the mad Paddy solo albums, the dot.com millionaire, the loyal friend, the curiously compulsive radio presenter, the heartbroken husband-we can all measure our lives in terms of Geldof's extraordinary experiences.

As Geldof readily acknowledges, if his life story had been written as a Jacobean tragedy or an Italian opera it would have been rejected by the commissioning editors on the grounds that it was too unbelievable.

"My life seems so episodic and so extreme," Geldof wonders aloud, pacing the floor of his Battersea apartment where the majority of 'Sex, Age & Death' happened. "Plenty of guys join bands but they don't have number One Records. Plenty of guys do charity gigs but the whole world doesn't watch it and they don't get knighted and put up for Nobel Prizes for fuck's sake.

"Plenty of guys always have a bit of wedge in their pocket but I've always been either hopelessly broke or stupidly rich. Plenty of guys get divorced but not at some Shakespearean level of tragedy. What the fuck is going on?"

While life has undoubtedly been kind to Geldof, it has also been unfathomable cruel. The last five, heavily documented, years have seen him confront more than most mortals could honestly cope with.

Throughout this time, he wrote "Sex, Age & Death," as a confession, as a release and simply, as the man says, because this is what he does. "I can only ever write about that which happens to me or my response to situations," says Geldof. "So for who's ever interested, besides myself, this is the latest installment of the diary."

Although he remains notoriously reluctant to discuss the tragic three-way relationship between himself, his wife Paula Yates and her boyfriend Michael Hutchence, the ordeal now long over-casts a sad shadow over "Sex, Age & Death."

"I don't discuss these things because I literally can't," he continues uncomfortably. "I can't show you my soul. Some things are unsayable. But maybe you try to articulate the unspeakable in music."

Then, for a moment, the equally characteristic and dry Geldof humor surfaces, as ever prepared to mix comedy and tragedy. "So I have gone and made an unspeakable album!"