



Kathryn, you're Jamelia wasn't intimidated at all,

both at the same time?

Transformation is gone to two days didn't even have to fight for. a week, The Voice is an hour-long slot and then you've the repeats. So There was a lot of talk on last year's it's quite Kathryn-heavy! But look, show about Jamelia and Sharon not to work on.

This is season three of The Voice, but what's your approach to the show? When I got the job first, I watched it, and each country and area have their own approach to the show. So I decided to take an Irish approach and for me that's being myself, having a bit of humour and supporting the acts. I really like people - I think that's one of my stronger points, so I wanted to make sure I was there for the acts and their families on the sidelines. There's also plenty of banter to be had between me and the coaches - plenty of slagging, so you would need to be thick-skinned for it.

Dolores O'Riordan has replaced Sharon Corr this season: what has she been like so far?

She is brilliant! I was quite starstruck when I first met her because I was such a big fan of The Cranberries. I didn't have the guts to tell her that when I was a teenager I went down to her house in Kerry and sat outside with my grandmother hoping to catch a glimpse of her that's how much of a fan I was. But she's lovely and a really sweet person.

Were the other coaches intimidated by her?

People were intimidated because she is such a rock goddess - poor Bressie was definitely bit starstruck too.

back on our screens and Kian had met her before so he this week with not one kind of knew her. So it was Bressie but two big shows; and me trying to play it cool around is it hard work to do her. Even her approach to the acts is amazing to watch, while the other Kathryn Thomas: I think it would coaches are almost down on bended be better all round if the shows knee for an act, Dolores just sits weren't running at the same time, back and waits for them to choose for me, but also because Operation her. She won so many acts that she

we have to do the shows when we getting along, so how have relations do them, I really don't factor in the been between Jamelia and Dolores? decision-making. It just means that It's early days yet so I couldn't really this time of the year is pretty hectic comment on it but I think they'll get but I can't complain. I've two very on well. Jamelia's well able to hold different prime-time shows that I get her own and once the heat's turned up and they're fighting for acts it did get really heated and this wasn't just Bressie and Kian but also Jamelia and Dolores. It will probably get more heated than it has done in any a lot of the Dutch and American other year because no one's afraid to versions to see how they were doing fight back or shout out what they've

> Have you ever met the presenters of The Voice elsewhere, like Holly Willoughby or Carson Daly?

> > I actually sent

Holly a tweet on

their first show and I didn't get a response back - not that I was expecting one! The Voice is absolutely huge in the States: it's kicking The X Factor's ass over there. Warner Brothers look after it over there, so I've been out to see their set and studio, which was

The show's had two male winners so far, but do vou anticipate a female winner this

really cool.

I'm hoping so! The men are strong this year but the women were really strong too, so we'll see!

# THE COACHES

New kid on the block.

The Cranberries' star replaces Sharon Corr on The Voice this year. She says of new role: "What I like about it is the candidates have to be over 18, so they're all pretty much adults. You're not looking at the person, and before the actual show begins, they audition a lot of people throughout Ireland and they select 100 for the show, so for sure everybody can sing. So it's really based around

"To me it looks like the world is going that way for young singers, and the future of music is going towards that kind of thing, and this seems to be quite respectful, given that it is about voices."

## Back in the red seat this year...

### JAMELIA (LAST SEASON'S WINNING COACH)

One of ther UK's most successful entertainers, Jamelia has been singing for over over 15 years after being signed by Capitol Records straight out of school at age 15. In 2004, she had top five hits from her album Thank You - the worldwide hit Superstar and See It In A Boy's Eyes, co-written with Coldplay's Chris Martin, which reached number five. Her UK success was emulated in Europe, where she was a continual serious chart presence, and in Australia and New Zealand where she reached number one. She won last season of The Voice of Ireland with her act Keith Hanley and was embroiled in a number of on-air spats with Sharon Corr, so we're excited to

Niall Breslin, or Bressie as he is now known, first came to prominence as lead singer and guitarist with The Blizzards. His first two albums with the band went double platinum in Ireland, and since 2010, he's been a solo artist and is now one of Ireland's most popular male personalities, and is an active charity fundraiser, taking part in triathlons. He won the first series with Pat Byrne and came third in the second series with Shannon Murphy.

see if her fiery approach continues this season.

Hailed as the King of the Jungle in I'm A Celebrity... in 2013, Kian will be coming to this season on a high. One guarter of Ireland's most successful boyband, Westlife, he's no stranger to playing to thousands of screaming fans. In the second series, two of his contestants (Kelly Mongan and Shane McLaughlin) reached the final so this year he's certainly going to be looking for the big win.

### WATCH IT! What Kelly Did Next, Thursday, RTÉ Two

The nation held its breath as Kelly Mongan, at nine months pregnant, took the stage in the final of The Voice of Ireland 2013. Over the course of four months the audience had watched her grow in confidence on stage and bloom in her pregnancy. Would she o into labour as she sang? Could she win ne competition? That night last April, Kelly idn't take home the prize of a record deal but she did win over the public and become the nation's sweetheart. Now that the competition is over a new one-hour observational documentary eeps the cameras rolling on what Kelly did next. This entertaining and insightfu

documentary shows how a young girl

balances family life and a blossoming care

