

NEW YEAR NEW LEADERS
OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

TV & RADIO LISTINGS:
4th – 10th January, 2014

CORRIE
"She doesn't want Steve's child!"
IS MICHELLE PREGNANT?

"Tina begs Peter to tell Carla the truth!"
CARLA SUSPECTS A RAT!

KIAN: "I'M NOT FIGHTING WITH BRESSIE AGAIN THIS YEAR..."

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

THE VOICE RETURNS...

KIAN, KATHRYN, JAMELIA, BRESSIE AND DOLORES GET VOCAL ON THE NEW SERIES

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The week's hottest shows

New Series
The Voice Of Ireland
Sunday 6th January, 6.30pm, RTE One

wants from the show this year, his new co-coach Dolores and what the other members of Westlife are up to these days...

TVN: Firstly Kian, how has Dolores's arrival affected the show?

We [Westlife] duetted with Dolores a long time ago when we sang for the Pope in 2002. So I'd know Dolores quite well but I hadn't seen her in a long time. She is brilliant. She's brought a completely different dynamic to the show; she's very spicy, she likes what she likes and she's not there to please anyone. She's there to find what she believes is the Voice Of Ireland, and we've seen some different contestants come

World of his own

Since being crowned King of the Jungle, Kian Egan has become one of the busiest men in showbiz, and that's after taking the best part of a year off following the emotional disbandment of Westlife after 14 years as one of the biggest pop bands in the world.

Now with barely time to gather his thoughts, Kian is right back to his duties on the rotating chairs of the Voice Of Ireland, and when we caught up with him he chatted about what he



Sing it loud!

Kian Egan, Bressie and Jamelia are joined by new coach Dolores O'Riordan for a brand new series of songs, spats and spinning chairs on The Voice Of Ireland...

through because of left. We've had some left-of-centre type singers before but these are left-right. **TVN:** You and Bressie are known for your good-natured bickering. Can we expect to see more of that?

Ah, not really. I said to him at the start, you can do whatever you want, but I'm not going down that road again. The panto stuff, barking at each other – we're kind of over it. There's still a tiny bit of it, but generally speaking, when we did the blinds it was a lot more fun. There's none of the feuding that the papers tried to make out over the years. That stuff makes me laugh.

TVN: It's now well over a year since Westlife disbanded. Has life finally got back to normal?

for you at last? Life is changing dramatically for me, all the time. Westlife went so well for so long I've kind of enjoyed a year of kicking back and doing very little. Mentally I needed the time off. But since the jungle things have completely changed again. I went in to that thinking it might be fun. Now all of a sudden I haven't got a day off between now and the end of February! **TVN:** Do you plan to continue to build a TV career in the UK on the back of I'm A Celebrity?

I love the television work and the possibility of building a career in television is really exciting to me. But I didn't expect that that would be the result of doing I'm A Celebrity. This is a whole new world for me; the papers tried to make out over the years. That stuff makes me laugh.

TVN: Nicky Byrne has been doing some presenting too – how do you think he did?

Yeah I saw some of The Hit and I thought he did really well. He's been very busy, writing and recording since the end of Westlife. He's a perfectionist though, and he's always wanted to be better. He's his own worst enemy like that. He might write an amazing song that would be a huge hit but he couldn't do it. **TVN:** Some people want to win The Voice because they want to be celebrities rather than musicians. What do you say to them?

There's a duality there for sure. You also get people who want to do it their own way. They want to sing a song that they wrote. **TVN:** We haven't seen or heard much from Mark Feehily since Westlife – where has he been hiding?

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Second chances

"This being my second time doing the auditions, I felt I was a lot braver in my choices"

Jamelia explains her new approach to coaching as well as plans for her own musical extravaganza on the new series...

Now in her second stint as a Voice Of Ireland coach, Jamelia is busier than ever, and reveals she's barely had a day off since the final of the last series. "I expected to chill out and take some time off after the final," she tells of in between filming the battles in Dublin's Helix Theatre, "but I've been so busy. It's great, of course. I'm really excited about the new series though. I'm hoping to debut my new single as part of the live shows in February."

Jamelia was riding high coming in to the audition phase for the new series, having coached last year's winner, Keith Hanley. She reveals Keith is busy working on his burgeoning music career and she's looking forward to catching up with him when he makes his homecoming performance later this series.

"I've been in touch with Keith sporadically since he won last year's final," Jamelia says, "and I'm really looking forward to seeing him again when he comes back. I understood it was about passion for the music."

rather than being horrible to each other. "We all wanted the same thing at the end of the day," she says.

with and a lovely guy too. "This being my second time doing the auditions," Jamelia muses, "I felt I was a lot braver in my choices. Last year, I stuck to singers in genres I was comfortable with but I've realised this year it's about more than that; it's about nurturing acts and listening to your singers. I would have avoided guitar guys last year, for example, but this year I have a couple on my team."

And like Kian and Bressie's truce, Jamelia is quick to dispel any myths about feuding among the coaches. "We did have some arguments last year," she says, "but we always understood it was about passion for the music."

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It's the dungaree boy himself, Keith Hanley

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The week's hottest shows

Don't let it Fade...

Dolores O'Riordan has enjoyed worldwide success as a solo artist as well as with much-admired Irish band The Cranberries. Now she's set to impart some of the wisdom she has amassed over the years to plucky Voice contenders...

The Voice Of Ireland lineup has changed quite a bit since the show arrived with most fanfare two years ago. From the original lineup, we first said goodbye to Brian Kennedy, who bowed out gracefully after one series so he could return to focusing on his own career. Then at the end of the last series, Sharon Corr did the same and that's who made room for the Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan who, despite a massively successful music career, has always had a reputation for being rather protective of her private life. She

has never courted controversy or publicity and so it seems quite a surprise that she would at this stage suddenly agree to join a high profile prime time talent show like this.

"Joining the Voice Of Ireland has given me a great opportunity to reconnect with Ireland and see first hand the amazing talent that this country can produce," Dolores said when we put that notion to her. My kids and family are the most important thing to me, and they're going to get a great kick out of seeing me on TV every week."

As lead singer with the Cranberries since 1989, Dolores has toured the world and amassed a lifetime of experience. It's this that makes her a shoe-in for the coaching role on the Voice Of Ireland, and you can be sure lots of the singers will be hoping to be selected for her team. She said that

the best way to learn is through experience, which she hopes to pass on to her singers as a coach. "Practical experience is the best way to learn anything," Dolores said, "be it cooking in a kitchen, driving a bus or in this case singing."

"Since my career began," she added, "I have picked up a lot of skills, like how to conquer nerves, how to react to an audience, perform and how to project your voice. These are the kinds of skills I can pass on to my team."

TVN: Bressie, what is the New Year bringing?

I have an Iron Man race coming up in May, so I'm just back from three weeks' training in

ended I did some gigs and took some time off, then went back in to the studio and produced another album called Simple Things with 14 Irish artists. It started out as an idea for a single, and of course I've been very vocal about my own mental health and we wanted to make something from that. I just hope

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Simple Things
Bressie talks training, depression and being one half of a 'celebrity couple'...

The year 2013 was a busy year for Niall Breslin, aka Bressie. He released his second solo album as well as a compilation album packed full of Irish artists entitled Simple Things, highlighting the issue of mental health among the youth of Ireland. It's a topic that has become something of a passion for him and he believes that while the conversation that's started is a positive step, we still have quite a way to go. Meanwhile, on The Voice, he's ready for more talent searching but agrees it's time to park the bickering between himself and Kian Egan...



Lanzarote. The training is very precise, how it's scheduled is very important so it had to be done. I wasn't just forcing myself to skip Christmas!

TVN: How was your 2013? It was busy! After The Voice

TVN: Do you have some singers earmarked to go to the live shows already? I don't. I've given up trying to guess how the public will vote. One thing I've always pushed, though, is that winning the show is great for someone, but they've still got a long, long way to go.

TVN: Will you be back to Kian and Bressie to sparring with each other in the Voice Of Ireland now? You know we've kind of chilled out with each other a bit more, and decided specifically for her team. She said that

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Move Over Danni!

It's time to welcome another star to the arena of talent show judges: the one and only Kylie Minogue!

While The Voice Of Ireland moves on to its third combination of coaches with the arrival of Dolores O'Riordan and the departure of Sharon Corr, it's The Voice UK mark II over on BBC next week with not one, but two new arrivals including Ricky Wilson, too.

"I'm very excited to become a coach on The Voice UK," Kylie commented when the announcement about her involvement was made. "I love the

show and have been an avid viewer of both series. The search for new talent is such an important aspect of the music industry, and The Voice UK gives us all a part to play in that."

You don't get to be as successful as Kylie without a significant amount of hard work and it's probably safe to assume that she'll bring all her experience, talent,

and work ethic to BBC screens on this new series. Don't you just know she's the one most of the singers will be praying they get as a mentor. Okay, the other coaches are pretty cool too but they're not Kylie!

And you know what else? We've been hearing rumours this past while about an overhaul of the X Factor judging panel and a possible return of Danni Minogue to the show. If that's true, this time next year we could be seeing the Minogue Sisters go head to head in a popularity war between! Also new to the coaching panel on The Voice UK is Kaiser Chiefs' Ricky Wilson, pictured above.

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