

# ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

## Damon Quinn

Damon Quinn began his comedy career as a lawyer at the Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast. To this day there are still those (mostly judges) who say he was much funnier in court.

In *Give My Head Peace* he plays Cal and moved on to play other stupid ones in *Dry Your Eyes* like The Leprechaun and Angry Steve. But acting is not enough for Damon. He also co-writes and is the producer of *Give My Head Peace* and *Dry Your Eyes*. He is not a Megalomaniac. He just has a lot of bills to pay.

## Marty Reid

Marty is best known for his starring role as the one and only Uncle Andy in *Give My Head Peace*. Needless to say he works tirelessly for world peace and justice, lives in a house made of jam and has an invisible friend called Brian who he consults with on a daily basis.

Contrary to popular belief, Marty sees the world as a means rather than an end which has led to many discussions with Green Peace members who live in a shed in his garden. Despite numerous eccentricities, he holds a clean driving licence and is available for light housework.

## Michael McDowell

Never in his wildest dreams did Michael ever believe he would end up on the stage - he had set his heart on establishing a Stalinist Marxist-Leninist dictatorship with himself as "dear leader" of the Northern Ireland people. Sadly, he has had to reconcile himself to the fact that he will never have a 100-foot statue of himself in front of Belfast City Hall.

Playing Billy the peeler in *Give My Head Peace*, he has become so absorbed in the part that there is good chance he may not turn up for the performance as he will be on sick leave.

## Tim McGarry

Tim McGarry is an ex-lawyer turned writer, actor and stand-up. He is best known for playing the part of Da in 73 episodes of *Give My Head Peace*. He also starred in many roles in the Hole in the Wall Gang's *Dry Your Eyes*. Tim writes and performs the weekly taxi driver piece at the end of BBC NI's politics programme *Hearts and Minds*. Recently he became the chair of the popular comedy panel show *The Blame Game* on Radio Ulster and BBC NI. He also finds time to do stand-up and after dinner speaking.

He is much younger than he looks.

## Olivia Nash

Acclaimed actress and comedienne, Olivia has been at the heart of Northern Ireland's entertainment industry for some 40 years. Star of stage, screen and radio, she has performed alongside many of the province's greatest comedians, including the inimitable James Young.

Having successfully toured throughout the US and Canada with the Charabanc Theatre Company, Olivia is perhaps best known for her starring role as 'Ma' in the smash hit BBC NI TV series *Give My Head Peace*. She has appeared in many films, including Sir Richard Attenborough's *Closing the Ring*; and enjoyed playing 'Demoness Vanity' in the Grand Opera House panto *Mother Goose*. Most recently she performed in two tours with John Lenihan in *The Happy Medium* and in Damien Gorman's Christmas show *Stars* in Ballycastle.

## George Jones

George Jones is one of Northern Ireland's most accomplished all round entertainers. Best known as a showband legend, TV and award-winning radio presenter, comedian and after dinner speaker, he began his career as a member of the band the Monarchs which included his boyhood friend, Van Morrison.

In addition to his many stage and radio successes, George has also hosted BBC Northern Ireland's *Town Challenge*; enjoyed repeated sell-out productions of *Do You Come Here Often?* tribute to the showband era; and performed in the acclaimed *On Eagle's Wing*. In 2007 he returned to radio joining U105 and now presents his own daily afternoon show. He recently celebrated both 25 years in broadcasting and the 40th anniversary of Clubsound with a sell-out performance at Belfast's Grand Opera House.

## Emma Little

Emma is delighted to be back working with the Hole in the Wall Gang; previously projects with them include *Dry Your Eyes* where she played the Communion Mum and Pregnant Teen to name just a few! She did the live tour of *Give My Head Peace* back in 2007 and has appeared in specials of the show as well as the McDowell Brothers' Special *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Radio comedy work includes *Stranded*, *The Ulster Way* and on *Make me Laugh*. Stage work includes *Classics in the Library* (Libraries NI), *Sleeping Beauty* (Braid 09/ Waterfront 07) Da (Arts NI), *What the Donkey Saw* (Lyric), *Have a Nice Life* (Pleasance, London), *Then They Came For Me* (UK Tour) and *Wounded Women* (Budapest).

