


In the hot seat... Jordy Cernik


With the world being the way it is we all need a little light-hearted fun and banter, so I have embarked upon a mission to find out more about our UK radio presenters, going deep into their crazy pasts to find who the people behind the voices are.

This week I have a real lady of the air waves stepping into the hot seat for a chat. It's the one and only 'Nikki Elise' from 'Kiss 101 & 105 -108'.

Welcome to The Pigeon Loft Nikki, I always like to start off with a nice easy question to make you feel relaxed. So tell me, have you ever used your star status in a diva fashion to get your own way - the 'do you know who I am?' line?

No I have never said that and I never will. Although I have heard that other people pretending to be me have to get in clubs or just on the train. I get texts and emails from people who think they've been chatting to me all night and I was on the other side of the country.

You are known as a bit of a "babe" in radio land and have a following - has this ever worked in your favour in getting interviews, getting your own way on a show or at one of your live gigs?

I didn't know I was! But I would say that I probably have a following from my love of music and DJ'ing. The only thing that has won me big interviews with people like Dannii Minogue and Tiesto is hard graft and making yourself known to people in the music scene.

That shows, with your status as one of Kiss Radio's top presenters. What has been your biggest 'Kiss Moment'?

Escape into the Park with Kiss does Summer. It is a 25,000 people event and the sun always shines on us. I enjoy doing the interviews with the stars backstage and the party goes. Plus there's a rather enormous set in the Polly Sexual/Godskitchen Arena. It's brilliant as I love a challenge and it's always quite empty early on perhaps a few hundred or a thousand sweaty peeps. When I finish it's totally rammed, back to front, side to side with about 5,000 people going crazy. No one that walks in that giant marquee will walk out and that's always been my policy, they are my house rules.

So if that's up there as your best job what has been your worst?

The toughest shift was the 2-7am, 5 hours in the middle of the night. I

developed full blown insomnia and could only sleep for three hours at a time and then I spent a year or so undoing my insomnia. I loved it as it was my first big show but I don't like the way it made me feel, like I'd been hit by a truck every day. These things toughen you up and I feel proud that I've worked really hard to get on in my career. I never got any freebies or had it easy, proper hard graft was essential. You say you never got any freebies, now DJs are known for their blagging powers. There must be something you got free from being on air?

A long time ago I blagged myself a mini white beer fridge it's cool and sits outside near my mini swimming pool (or - er - a giant paddling pool depending on how you look at it!) In the summer everyone wants to come round.

Is that an invitation? I'll bring the Brown Ale and pies! I have to say it sounds like you've had a real ball as a presenter so how did it all start?

I landed an incredible trip to Beijing when I was at college working in China Central Television. When I got back I heard that this new radio station had started up and I thought, 'right I'll have me some of that too!' I went in there with jet lag and met the boss who was impressed with my transatlantic schedule and I started working with Vibe FM. Initially as a volunteer, then I worked up from travel presenter & breakfast producer to present the pre-breakfast then co-present breakfast, then my own shows.

All that and you still have time to spend your weekend gigging at live events, a DJ that can really mix! So as a well done present from The Hot Seat I'll give you the one and only 'shameless plug' so let us have it Miss Elise.

Find me in the afternoons on Kiss 101 & 105 -108 Weekdays, 12-3pm. Or www.totalkiss.com/nikki or check out my DJ videos and pics on www.nikkielise.co.uk.