

## 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.

What happens when you mix the BBC with one of the North's leading veteran female stand up comics and just for good measure throw in lots of gossip from a live phone in with some real down to earth listeners; the answer is simple, you get the one and only Sue Sweeney and she joins me in the hot seat for a cuppa and a chat.

*If you think you can drink my tea and have your turn in the hot seat with me, you can send your contact details direct to*  
[news@theradiomagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@theradiomagazine.co.uk)

**Sue I hope the tea's good, for those who are trying to get into radio why don't you tell us the great story of your rise to the airwaves.**

I was a professional singer for twenty years which gave me the opportunity to travel to some fabulous places all around the world I started to dabble in comedy as I got older as I had lost my 24inch waist well ok 26inch waist. I thought there was an opening in the market for a woman in comedy and this would give me longevity in the business they call show, you have a shelf life as a female vocalist funny that doesn't apply to the men. Any hoo I embarked on a stand up show and I loved it and still do. This led me to being interviewed on the radio, BBC Tees. I took to radio like a duck to water, I guess it was right place right time and they offered me a slot on the grounds that I learn all the technology. I was with Tees for seven years until asked to join BBC Newcastle which is closer to my home the rest is history.

**I should say at this stage that you're an award winning stand up comic! Has this ever mixed into your radio show making you say something on air that you regret?** Each role I play in entertainment is very different and never do they mix... there's comedy stand-up and there's broadcasting comedy and there is a massive difference so you must be disciplined I do of course very often get tongue tied when I'm tired just today I said marden gania instead of garden mania the title of the program after mine ha ha you can only laugh.

**But things like that are what gives your show its charm and also giving you a great fan base. So what would you say has been the best and funniest fan mail sent to you over your years in radio?**

One thousand pounds in crispy new twenty pound notes, which the police returned to the owner saying thank you but Sue is not allowed to receive monetary gifts, the listener wanted me to buy some shoes as I have a shoe fetish tee hee.

**So you've never gotten any freebies out of your shows?**

That's not BBC policy anymore however I

once said I would love a ride on a Harley Davison and guess what, it was waiting outside after the show and it was breathtaking.

**As the ratings show, your programs have a lot followers who like to phone in so what has been one of your memorable calls to date?**

Someone wanting to book a holiday live on air, I actually strung them along for ages until I burst out laughing.

**Changing the subject a little, what are your views on the future of the radio world, where do you see yourself in ten years?**

Hopefully still breathing, I don't much think about the future I just enjoy the present, you stay in radio if your listeners want you there and if they don't, well I wouldn't wanna be there. I enjoy radio very much and I am always thinking about what my listeners would like to hear.

**Would you say that with your strong audience it makes you a local star and would you use this to your advantage?**

No never. I don't think of myself as a star, I wish, although I am nicknamed the Durham Diva. What you hear and see is what you get I'm very down to earth.

**Being one of the stronger BBC women in broadcasting who would you not want to work with from of the BBC radio rota and why?**

I work alone it would be nice to have a team of any sort, I don't hate anyone really I think everyone has a talent. I think I might clash with Jonathon Ross as I would be tempted to hit him with a few put downs.

**Sue you know it's always a great treat for me when you drop by for a cuppa and I can't wait for another night on the town with you (we do a lot of club gigs together) I wish you all the best for the future and as a little present please do me the honour of giving you a shameless plug.**

Ok my DVD is on sale in the shops now called 'She's a tonic'... you can hear me every weekend on BBC Newcastle Saturdays and Sundays from nine have a listen, my life is a soap.