

Quick Chat



'I'M NOT INTERESTED IN FAME OR ME AS A BRAND'

JAMES BLUNT

THE BRITISH CROONER TALKS ABOUT HIS IMAGE, LIVING IN IBIZA AND HIS LOVE LIFE

Before James serenaded us on stage at the Skywards Dubai International Jazz Festival – where he jazzed things up (excuse the pun!) by jumping into the crowd and planting kisses on unsuspecting fans – the 35-year-old singer/songwriter sat down for a chat with *OK! Middle East*. Wearing a neon pink Timex watch that he “picked up somewhere in Hammersmith in London” and a sentimental gold ring, the former British Army officer opened up about his extraordinary life as a romantic ballad hit-maker...

So how are you finding Dubai?

Hot! It's my first time here – I've got a good friend who lives here and he loves it. There are lots of impressive buildings but I haven't seen too much of the place yet.

Are you friends with any of the other artists performing at the Jazz Festival?

John Legend is a good friend.

You're doing a 14-month tour around the world. How's it going so far?

It's great fun. I have a party every night and lots of hang overs!

What's the best city to wake up with a hang over?

Anywhere where there's a shower nearby!

Are you fans of fellow British artists Lily Allen and Adele?

I haven't had enough time to listen to



Adele but I've heard she's really good, and I know Lily. I've met her a few times. She's a sweet, fun girl.

Talking of fun, you live on the party island of Ibiza...

I love living in Ibiza, although I only get to spend about two months per year there – I live in the North part of the island, which is tranquil and full of Spanish cuisine and culture. Lots of artists and poets live there. On the other end of the island you've got all the clubs so I can easily dip into the shallow side of Ibiza. When my tour finishes, I'm looking forward to going back and having some more shallow times!

Ibiza has also inspired your writing...

Yeah, the lyrics for *1973* were inspired by a girl who I met in Pacha, one of the island's best clubs, that opened in the same year.

You've had two hit albums already. Has the success gone to your head?

I don't think so. I've done rather well in a short space of time but it's too early for me to be pigeonholed as successful – I've only done two albums.

Will you work on a third one after your tour ends?

No, I'm retiring [Laughs]. We'll see. Hopefully I'll get the inspiration I need. I'm lucky because I get to travel and see so many different cultures. Relationships, death and lost love are great inspirations obviously.

How's your love life at the moment?

Anyone free tonight? [Laughs]. I'll take any offers going!

Come on James. You've got lots of pretty girls lusting after you...

Photoshop is a great thing! And I guess they might like a few of my songs as well.

What's going on with you and British socialite Verity Evetts?

That's just gossip. I'm not interested in sharing my private life with everyone under the sun! I'm a musician and care about moving people with my music and that's it!

Do you ever feel any pressure to live up to a rock star image?

Are you joking? Look at me! Do I look like I care? The music industry is obsessed with image and I fight against it. I'm not interested in fame or me as a brand. I don't see myself as a celebrity. As humans we shouldn't focus so much on the 'self'. There are wars going on, and more important things in life. **OK!**

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