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**[bbc.co.uk/eurovision](http://bbc.co.uk/eurovision)**

## The Eurovision Song Contest 2006

- **The Eurovision Song Contest 2006 at 8pm on Saturday 20 May on BBC ONE (and BBC Radio 2)**
- **Boom Bang-A-Bang – 50 Years Of Eurovision at 10.35pm on Tuesday 16 May on BBC ONE**
- **The Eurovision Semi-Final 2006 at 8pm on Thursday 18 May on BBC THREE**
- **Daz Sampson's Eurovision at 10.45pm on Thursday 18 May on BBC THREE**

Daz Sampson enters the history books this year as he becomes the 50<sup>th</sup> UK Eurovision performer to take to Europe's biggest stage in The Eurovision Song Contest 2006, the world's biggest music show. Celebrating another big anniversary, Eurovision legend Sir Terry Wogan prepares for his 35<sup>th</sup> Contest and guarantees to add his inimitable style and finesse to the proceedings in Athens. So get your pens at the ready and join more than 160 million people worldwide to watch Europe's greatest, glitziest spectacle!

Following a landslide victory in this year's *Making Your Mind Up*, Manchester-based rap star Daz Sampson beat off tough competition from Kym Marsh and Antony Costa to secure his place at Eurovision 2006 with his totally original, show-stopping performance of *Teenage Life*. This is the first time Britain has taken a rap song to Europe since *Love City Groove* over a decade ago – but will Europe get down with Daz and crown him king?

To mark 50 years of Eurovision for the UK, BBC One kicks off the celebrations with a one-off special presented by Sir Terry Wogan. *Boom Bang-A-Bang – 50 Years Of Eurovision* is a chance to relive the best and worst moments of the Contest from the last five decades and features Sir Terry's favourite memories and anecdotes.

BBC Three raises the curtains on this year's hottest competition with the *Eurovision Song Contest Semi-Final*, live and exclusive, with Patrick O'Connell providing his irreverent and incisive commentary.

And don't go anywhere as BBC Three follows the excitement of the semi-final with a one-off special documentary, *Daz Sampson's Eurovision*. This 60-minute, intimate special follows Daz's two-year journey to Eurovision, from the time he stormed the charts with his smash-hit record *Kung Fu Fighting*, through his victory in *Making Your Mind Up*, to the road to Athens. It reveals everything you ever needed to know about the music industry and what it takes to represent the UK at Eurovision.



BBC Radio 2 also gets in on the act, as usual, as Ken Bruce gives his usual witty, pithy and informative commentary on the Contest from 8pm on Saturday 20 May.

The official BBC Eurovision website at **[bbc.co.uk/eurovision](http://bbc.co.uk/eurovision)** goes fully interactive this year, giving users a chance to view the Contest's final live on their PCs on Saturday 20 May. In the build-up to the big day, the site will also be constantly updated with behind-the-scenes exclusives, news, gossip, interviews and games. Want to know what happened backstage at the semi-final and who's making friends ... or enemies? Log on for everything you need to know about this year's competition.

A traditional family favourite – the *Eurovision Score Chart* – also makes a welcome return. So head to **[bbc.co.uk/eurovision](http://bbc.co.uk/eurovision)** and print out the Daz-themed card ready for the great night!

### **Boom Bang-A-Bang – 50 Years Of Eurovision/ The Eurovision Semi-final**

**Boom Bang-A-Bang –  
50 Years Of Eurovision  
10.35pm on Tuesday 16 May  
on BBC ONE**

The King of Eurovision, Sir Terry Wogan, celebrates 50 years of Europe's biggest, brightest and best music event – The Eurovision Song Contest – in this one-off special.

*Boom Bang-A-Bang – 50 Years Of Eurovision* takes a look at the scandals, the dresses, the tears and the tantrums. From ABBA to Jemini, Brotherhood Of Man to Bucks Fizz and Tatu to Sir Cliff, it's a chance to relive the best and worst of Eurovision. Sir Terry also shares his personal favourites, as well as never-before-seen footage of the first-ever UK entry from 1957.

This look back at the world's greatest musical extravaganza is also a journey through the history of television, revealing how production and performance have evolved over the last five decades – from the first-ever Eurovision in colour to television's first Europe-wide televote. It also reflects the changes that have shaped Europe during the life of the Contest. Communism has fallen and the Eastern Bloc countries are now strong players in the Eurovision circus, making voting more political than ever before.

The special also features a live performance from UK Eurovision hopeful Daz Sampson and an exclusive sneak peak at some of his competition.

**The Eurovision Song Contest  
Semi-Final  
8pm on Thursday 18 May  
on BBC THREE**

Exclusive to BBC Three, this curtain-raiser to the 51<sup>st</sup> Eurovision Song Contest final comes live from the historic city of Athens. With the UK guaranteed a place in Saturday's grand final, the programme is a great chance to preview the competition.

Even more musically diverse (and jaw-dropping!) than the final, Eurovision's third semi-final pits Ireland's Brian Kennedy against Belgium's dance diva Kate Ryan, Finnish rock monsters Lordi and Icelandic glamour queen Sylvia Night ... among others.

With the help of your televotes, 10 songs will qualify, joining 14 other countries for Saturday night's grand final. Eurovision aficionado Patrick O'Connell brings his incisive wit and warmth to the proceedings and, for the first time, live cameras take us exclusively backstage and we report on Daz Sampson's preparations for the big night.

## Eurovision goes interactive

Eurovision has gone fully interactive for 2006! Fans can indulge themselves with video previews from each country in the run-up to the big night and then watch the final live on their PCs, play *Buzzword Bingo* with Patrick O'Connell, chat with Daz on the messageboards and access tons of exclusive content. Visitors to the site can keep up with Daz and Sir Terry in Athens by reading their blog [online diary], which will have exclusive, behind-the-scenes photos and gossip. But most importantly of all, they can also download the school-themed scorecard before the big night!

Other highlights include:

- **The Euro Years: a witty and concise look at the history of Eurovision**
- **Daz tells us what Terry really thinks of the song**
- **All the latest news and gossip**
- **Wallpapers, screensavers, quizzes and the chance to win Eurovision goodie bags**
- **Eurovision pictures you've never seen before, and really need to!**

A traditional family favourite – the *Eurovision Score Chart* – also makes a welcome return. So head to [bbc.co.uk/eurovision](http://bbc.co.uk/eurovision) and print out the Daz-themed card ready for the great night!

## **Sir Terry Wogan celebrates his 35<sup>th</sup> Eurovision Song Contest**



Thirty-five years ago, a fresh-faced young Irishman who'd recently joined the BBC from Radio Telefis Eireann (the Irish National Radio and TV Service) was asked to report on a then-serious music competition in Dublin for BBC Radio. Back in 1971, fewer than 2,000 made up the audience at the competition at the Gaiety Theatre to cheer on the likes of Clodagh Rogers, who represented the UK with *Jack In The Box*.

The competition was, of course, The Eurovision Song Contest, which last year celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the young Irishman was the legendary Terry Wogan – now Sir Terry Wogan, following last year's knighthood for services to broadcasting, writes Jane Dudley.

In 2006, Daz Sampson is the man flying the flag for the UK with *Teenage Life*, a rap with a chorus of schoolgirl backing singers, in a Contest of 37 acts (including semi finalists,

of which 10 will go through to the final) in Athens. The Contest will take place at the Olympic Stadium Indoor Arena before an audience of 18,500 and a global television audience of 160 million.

Sir Terry is rather modest about his part in Eurovision's success in the UK; the TV show achieves audiences of up to 11 million, many of whom tune in for Terry's anarchic, tongue-in-cheek commentary and his knack for saying exactly what audiences are thinking. "I've carried the British public with me with my views of it and that it is something you should enjoy rather than take too seriously.

"My first Eurovision was following on from Dana winning [with *All Kinds Of Everything*, as opposed to transsexual Dana International who won in 1998 with *Diva*] – I'm not entirely sure of the year but it's indicative that it was held in an old music hall with about 1,500 people and 18 countries. The presenters sat in the Royal box at the side of the stage. Compare that with Copenhagen [in 2001], with about 35,000 people – I might as well have stayed in London because I was so far away from the stage I couldn't see a thing!

"They once had to jam cameras and sound equipment and commentators' boxes and all the rest into a tiny little theatre – and now look what it's like, particularly in Scandinavian countries."

Following a disastrous few years for the UK in the competition – Jemini famously scored "nul points" in 2003, former *Fame Academy* student James Fox came 16<sup>th</sup> in 2004 and, last year, Javine came 22<sup>nd</sup> – Terry believes that we really

are in with a chance this time, providing countries vote for their favourite song rather than their “neighbours”. “I think we’ve got to do something different and Daz’s song is certainly different. It depends on how countries like the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia see rap. I would’ve thought that rap is probably only in its infancy in some of these countries, but pop music – that’s distinct from Eurovision music – tends to be fairly universal. So I think Daz is going to do pretty well.

“There’s no point in us continuing to try to ape, as we did last year, the Middle Eastern drum machine. Nobody expects that from us. In fact, listening to the Greek winner last year, there wasn’t that much difference between the Greek entry and our entry. There was the same drum machine, the same rhythm.”

The voting in the last few years has been a little erratic, to say the least, with neighbouring countries giving each other the coveted “douze points” and the larger countries, including Germany, France, Spain and the UK, finishing bottom of the heap.

“Our problem is the problem of all Western European countries – we’ll find it hard to get votes. It’s entirely significant that the four countries that support the Eurovision Song Contest the most are the four countries that came last, last year. We could all have been relegated if it wasn’t for the money! The fact is the Eastern European countries still see themselves as a bloc and they’re so used, traditionally, to voting for each other that they’re not going to vote for anyone else.

“It’ll take, I think, a few years for these countries to get used to a democracy and the fact that they don’t have to vote for their next-door neighbours, otherwise they’ll be invaded! It’ll be a little bit, I think, before Western European countries have a chance of winning.”

With 37 participating countries this year, the voting process will, once again, be a major part of the Contest. However, due to a change in the rules, it won’t take up quite so much airtime. “I think our viewers got a bit bored last year,” says Terry. “There’s no logic to having semi-finalist countries voting, it’s ridiculous. I think what they’re doing, because it’s extremely tedious, is they’re sweeping through the earlier votes, and then we’ll see the last few, for eight, 10 and 12 points.”

Terry admits that, after all these years of presenting the Contest, he does, occasionally, get slightly annoyed by the voting: “If I find myself getting irritated I have to pull myself together, but you can’t help getting irritated. Someone said, after Serbia and Montenegro withdrew this year, emphasising again the political nature of the Contest [the Montenegrin panel of judges was accused of tactical voting when a Montenegro band won so, rather than restaging the show, they decided to pull out altogether], why don’t all the songs withdraw and we’ll just have the voting! It’ll be the usual thing, Cyprus will vote for Greece, Iceland will vote for Denmark and all the Scandinavian countries will vote for each other.”

Despite this mild irritation with the Contest, Terry confesses that he wouldn’t have it any other way: “People say to me, ‘Do you like the Eurovision?’ Do you really think that I would go to all the trouble of travelling to the most obscure places in Europe to do something like this if I didn’t love doing it? You have to love it. It’s the same reason I get up at 5.30am to do a radio show. I love doing it. And as long as the public and the BBC enjoy what I do, I’ll keep on doing it.”

## Daz'll dazzle 'em



When Daz Sampson stormed to victory on *Making Your Mind Up* earlier this year, eyebrows – and even some people's blood pressure – were raised as Daz and his group of young female backing singers rapped, sang and danced to *Teenage Life*. His song has become the most talked-about UK Eurovision entry in years, and, reveals Jane Dudley, that's exactly how Daz likes it.

"I always knew I was going to win it, it was my destiny to win and I know that I'll do well in Greece," says the confident and opinionated 31-year-old, who is no stranger to pop success. He's had hits as the MC in Bus Stop, including the 250,000-selling debut single *Kung Fu Fighting* (featuring Carl Douglas, who recorded the original); with Rikki & Daz (a duo formed with John Matthews, who co-wrote *Teenage Life* with Daz), including *Rhinestone Cowboy* (*Giddy Up, Giddy Up*); and with Uniting Nations on *Out Of Touch*, which sold over 100,000 copies.

Daz is a big fan of Eurovision and confesses that he entered the competition once before, in 2003, but didn't make it through the selection process. "What happened that year?" he muses. "Jemini," he says, referring to the duo who scored "nul points" for their song, *Cry Baby*. While Daz knows that his success depends on the votes of the 30-plus nations taking part (semi-final countries who don't reach the final also have a vote), he is certain that he won't repeat Jemini's disastrous fate. "I can 100 per cent guarantee that I'm going to do a lot better than the last three or four years, that's for sure. Obviously, it's going to be difficult, there's going to be some great songs out there, but if I do what I know I can do, my performance will be top-notch."

*Teenage Life* was actually written around the time of Jemini's Eurovision flop, says Mancunian Daz. "It sat in my studio for about three years. I wrote it to be a hit record. Bizarrely enough, every record company in the country turned it down. Then Richard Park [former *Fame Academy* headmaster and one of the UK's Eurovision selection committee] heard something that I'd said about north-west music and how I loved Eurovision and that I wanted to be the saviour of it and he said, 'Tell Daz to put his money where his mouth is'. So I sent in *Teenage Life*."

The song features a backing group of teenagers (a bunch of 16- to 18-year-olds who perform in school uniform) who Daz recruited via a friend in the business. "Their manager is a good friend of the guy who makes my pop videos. I came down to London to see them and said, 'they're in', straight away. Obviously, the girls will be under tremendous pressure because they've got to sing that amazing hook live and deliver it the way they did at *Making Your Mind Up*."



“We’re talking about maybe launching them as a band on their own because there’s a huge gap in the market for role model kids, almost like the Fast Food Rockers did. It’s all ifs, buts and maybes but obviously, I’m a businessman, I’m an entrepreneur, and I think they’d be a great role model girl band.”

Nothing fazes Daz. He’s not worried about performing in front of such a vast crowd (there will be a 18,500-strong crowd at Athens’ Olympic Stadium Indoor Arena), having performed with Bus Stop in front of 100,000 when France won the 1998 World Cup, and he’s not worried about the biased voting that tends to dominate the Eurovision Song Contest these days: “There’s a mass of political voting and it takes some loudmouth Mancunian like me to eradicate that! And I’m deadly serious. For me, this is my World Cup final and I don’t want politics being detrimental to my chances of winning what I consider is the greatest musical competition in the world.”

Daz’s love for the competition goes back to the early Eighties when Bucks Fizz won Eurovision with *Making Your Mind Up* and he believes the secret of the show’s success is that it is fantastic Saturday-night entertainment. “I was put in front of Eurovision when I was four and I’ve been hooked ever since. People say they don’t watch it but I know there will be 10-12 million Brits watching that night and even people who don’t like me and what I stand for will still want me to do well.

“If I don’t win there will be nobody more disappointed than me that night. But if I win it’ll be phenomenal. Wouldn’t it be great having next year’s final in Manchester with me hosting it? I’d insist on Manchester and I’d want to be in it, very much like Johnny Logan [who represented – and won for – Ireland twice, in 1980 with *What’s Another Year* and 1987 with *Hold Me Now*]. Let me defend my crown and I’m sure the public would want their champion to do the same!”

## Daz Sampson biography

**“This might sound funny to some people but representing the UK at Eurovision is the pinnacle of my 10 years in the music industry.”**

So says Daz Sampson, a veteran of the dynamic UK music scene, as he embarks on his greatest personal and professional challenge yet.

Daz first found fame as the MC, songwriter and ideas man in UK dance group Bus Stop. Their debut single, *Kung Fu Fighting* featuring Carl Douglas, sold 250,000 copies in the UK and was a major international hit. But, like a pop Pied Piper and with as many pseudonyms as Prince, Daz was soon on to other projects, including Rikki & Daz's collaboration with Glen Campbell on a new version of *Rhinestone Cowboy*, which reached No. 12 in the UK.

After these hits, Daz returned to his other great love – dance music – and immersed himself in the vibrant Liverpool house scene. Determined to make the next *Call On Me* (Eric Prydz), he heard Hall & Oates's *Out Of Touch* sampled on a video game and formed yet another new band, this time called Uniting Nations, to release a single that went on to sell over 100,000 copies in the UK. Further hit singles, an album and awards followed, making the band the UK's leading commercial dance act with hits in Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Poland, the Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia & Montenegro, Belgium and Croatia.

But through it all, Daz yearned to get back behind his beloved mic and make great pop music under his own name. So he gave it one last shot...

When Daz heard that the BBC were looking for potential Eurovision songs, he realised his greatest ambition might finally be within his grasp. Daz calls *Teenage Life* his “masterpiece” and, after romping to victory on the BBC's smash-hit national final, *Making Your Mind Up*, in March, it's clear the UK public agree. As a rank outsider and against strong opposition, Daz, along with his now-famous school choir, captivated the seven million watching and won by a mile.

Daz says he's not like recent UK entries: “I'll shout about the Eurovision Song Contest – it's the greatest music show on Earth!” he proclaims. So let's make Daz's dream come true and see him bring home the Eurovision crown to the UK with *Teenage Life*.

By the way, if you're wondering about the lyrics, “Mr T” (short for Mr Tommony) was a teacher who told Daz his dream of becoming a pop star wasn't realistic and “Avy” stands for Avondale High School, his old school in Stockport, where he grew up.

Oh and Mr T is now Daz's biggest fan!

**Patrick O'Connell**  
**biography**



Service. He has been heard as a reporter or a presenter on other stations around the world, including 50 US stations which broadcast *The World*, Radio New Zealand, ABC Australia, Radio Canada, London's LBC 97.3 and Radio Scotland.

Paddy's other presenting credits include: *Flashmob – The Opera*, *Naked City*, *Spencer Tunick*, *Celebdaq*, *Liquid News*, *HardTalk Extra*, *Seven O'Clock News* (BBC Three), *World Business Report*, *Oscars Special 2006* and *Making Your Mind Up*. He has also enjoyed guest appearances on shows including *Richard And Judy*, *Headjam*, *100 Best Cartoons* and the BBC's *Never Mind The Full Stops*.

On TV, Paddy has knelt at Bill Clinton's feet to steady a microphone and was challenged by Bill Gates to debut the X-box.

He was listed among the top 40 gay men on TV by *Attitude* magazine, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

He was the Wall Street anchor for the BBC and was due for a meeting at the World Trade Center on the day of the attacks on the USA in 2001. He reported on the attacks, presenting the news coverage on the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup> from New York, and covered the aftermath until leaving New York in 2003.

Having witnessed terrorism and Wall Street boom, bust and sleaze, Paddy changed direction. He currently presents BBC Two's *Working Lunch* and BBC Radio's *Broadcasting House*, and is about to jet off to Athens to present BBC Three's coverage of the semi-final of the Eurovision Song Contest.

He began his broadcasting career in radio, working for local UK stations for five years, and was hired for the launch team of BBC Radio Five Live and the launch of *The World* from WGBH in Boston and BBC World

## Teenage Life lyrics

### Teenage Life

**Performed by Daz Sampson**

**Written by Daz Sampson and  
John Matthews**



Now hear this

What did you learn at school today?  
That's what the teachers used to say  
But they don't know  
Don't understand, do they?  
Why do they always give advice?  
Saying "Just be nice, always think twice"  
When it's been a long time since they had a  
teenage life

What did you learn at school today?  
That's what the teachers used to say  
But they don't know  
Don't understand, do they?  
Why do they always give advice?  
Saying "Just be nice, always think twice"

When it's been a long time since they had a  
teenage life

Dwelling on the past, from back when I  
was young  
Thinking of my school days and trying to  
write this song  
Classroom schemes and dreams  
Man they couldn't save me  
Cos my days were numbered when I signed  
down on "Avy"  
Teenage kicks running out what could we do  
I still show respect to my boys who made  
it through  
And getting told off Mr T how my life would be  
Then giving him a signal  
So everyone could see  
Sunshine and shade  
Those girls I'd serenade  
Thinking of those Sixth Form chicks that  
misbehave  
Hoping that those days would go on and on  
for ever  
Every day something new  
Just friends running together  
But suddenly school ends  
Your teenage life gone  
All your mates are growing up now  
They're moving on  
And now I'm looking back  
I'll tell you what I know  
Do you listen to your teacher?  
No I don't think so

"What did you learn at school today?"  
That's what the teachers used to say  
But they don't know  
Don't understand, do they?  
Why do they always give advice?  
Saying "Just be nice, always think twice"  
When it's been a long time since they had a  
teenage life

Now if you treat the kids fine, together they  
will shine  
Ooh ooh ooh shine  
And if you give the kids time, they won't do  
the crime  
Won't do the crime

Now my bad old ways  
Were during my school days  
Messing on those grade A's  
My life is just a haze  
I'm going through the struggle  
Five ten and kicking back  
So I could lock my flow  
Lace it up now on the track  
Oh yeah I felt the pain  
Whilst chasing all the fame  
I'm being told I'm nothing  
Just a player in the game  
But now I walk tall  
Stand proud for you to see  
I'm driving these fast cars  
It's five stars for me

"What did you learn at school today?"  
That's what the teachers used to say  
But they don't know  
Don't understand, do they?  
Why do they always give advice?  
Saying "Just be nice, always think twice"  
When it's been a long since they had a  
teenage life