

A FEW FACTS ON JOHN HANNAM.

John Hannam has been interested in showbusiness and the theatre since the early 50s, when he first discovered Variety, at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth. That love for the stage and its performers has never been lost. His enthusiasm for the business is as vibrant as ever.

John began writing on showbusiness for local papers on the Isle of Wight, back in the late 50s. By the 70s he had a regular Stage Talk column in the Isle of Wight Weekly Post, and had started to write for The Stage. This has continued in the form of reviews and features, for the past 30 years.

He also moved into radio in 1990, as a chat show host for 2007 Sony Gold award-winning Isle of Wight Radio, the South Coast FM station on 107 FM that can be heard into Hampshire, Berkshire, Dorset and Sussex and now via the internet, on www.iwradio.co.uk John Hannam Meets is now the longest running chat show in the country, with 18 non-stop years. Among the 800 famous guests who have appeared are Cliff Richard, Charlton Heston, Jeremy Irons, Johnny Paris (Johnny and the Hurricanes), Michael Winner, Bonnie Tyler, Elkie Brooks, Hazel O'Connor, David Essex, Les Reed, Merrill Osmond, David Gates, Michael Ball, Tony Hadley, Don Black, Bobby Vee, Buddy Greco, Victoria Wood, Suzanne Vega, Des O'Connor, Martha Reeves, Prince Edward, Francis Rossi, Bob Geldof, Katie Melua, Nik Kershaw and Dame Vera Lynn. He was also invited to the set of Coronation Street to interview eight of the cast, including Liz Dawn, Bill Tarmey and Helen Worth. Over the years John has built up a trust and understanding amongst stars, agents, press officers and managements. Those who will readily vouch for him include Phill Jupitus, Don Black, June Whitfield, Les Reed, Marti Webb and Roy Hudd. Recently Desmond Carrington used John's rare interviews with Matt Monro, Anne Shelton and Malcolm Vaughan on his Radio 2 shows.

John chooses his own guests and only interviews them because he really wants to – and not because of a programme controller or features editor. He has strong feelings about private lives being aired in public. He has never worked this way and all his interviews are on a professional-life basis. They are also all in-person.

He also writes for the Isle of Wight County Press, with a 40,000 circulation and over 100,000 readers, and reviews South Coast shows and contributes features for The Stage. His first book, I Was A Stage Door Johnny, with a forward by Bob Monkhouse, was published in 1999 by Coach House Publications. He also had his own Solent TV chat show, Hannam's Half Hour, on Sky.

Over the past thirty two years John has interviewed over 2000 famous people.