

## Camp Clary finds life can be a drag

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The son of a policeman and a probation officer, Julian was raised as a middle-class Catholic. He actually wore a frock in public for his earliest role — as an altar boy in his local church. "I was quite religious but I think that what I was attracted to, frankly, was the glamour of it all."

Julian never went through the usual traumas experienced by many young boys who think they might be gay. "I never felt that. I never thought 'if only I was like everyone else'."

On the contrary, he says he "went to a lot of pains not to look straight. At around the age of 14, Not to attract other gay people — just to rebel."

He cites the fact that his elder sister was a professional dancer of the glamorous chorus girl ilk as "an influential factor" in his career, but while he was studying English and drama in college, he harboured ambitions to be "a proper actor".

It wasn't to be. "I just didn't get the work. I wasn't very good and I wasn't very versatile."

Necessity mothered the invention of his drag artist persona. He was out of work and went along to see a friend's ventriloquist's act. It was the start of alternative cabaret circuit in London and Julian decided to exhume his last role, a five-minute bit in a Christmas show playing an agony aunt called Gillian Pieface.

"I just did it so my CV wouldn't be blank for that time. She was a mother earth figure — with a big wig and a kalkan. Then the five-minute slots became 10 minutes and over the next couple of years I got better at it."

His big break came when he was talent-spotted for a slot on the third series of Friday Night Live. "I think they'd run out of acts," he says modestly. "They'd seen me before and they'd always passed me by so I'd thought 'it's not going to happen on TV.'"

"Anyway it went very well and they asked me again. And that's all it took, really. Two TV appearances and the work started pouring in."

He's wearing beautifully applied make-up now,

but only because he's just had photos taken. He doesn't cross-dress off-stage. "It's just the showbiz persona."

While the rest of the world goes drag queen crazy, Julian has taken to arriving on stage dressed as a man for his new show.

"I kind of thought I'd gone as far as I could go in terms of all that showbiz, glittery, glamour stuff, which I like."

"It's more to do with me getting a bit older and maturing a bit. When I started to do it all those years ago it was a daring, outrageous thing to do."

"But now it would be 'oh my God, he's not wearing a frock!', so it's come full circle."

The show he's bringing to Dublin, is, however, vintage vampish Clary. But he assures me that my mum would not be offended by the material.

"My mother comes. I do talk about being gay and gay experiences and stuff. But really it's just a very silly show. Very visual and glittery and camp. It's escapism for a couple of hours."

**W**HAT about that Norman Lamont wet balloon that sparked a furore in Britain? "I'm always trying to see how far I can go and that was an example of finding out how far you can't go," he says.

"I thought it was quite a good joke at the time and I was very surprised that it had caused such a lot of fuss."

He might be infamous, but fame isn't a big deal for Clary. "I did want to be rich and famous — at almost any price. It was a major fantasy. But by the time I was 20 I don't think I was bothered."

"I remember when I was getting well known — that excitement of your interview appearing in the paper and people getting to know who you were."

"But of course when it arrives it's not what you thought it was at all."

Isn't being rich and famous any fun at all? He relents a little to toss some of his famous flippancy my way.

"Oh, I'm not saying it's not fun. I can recommend it as a way of getting good seats in restaurants."

# Inside the

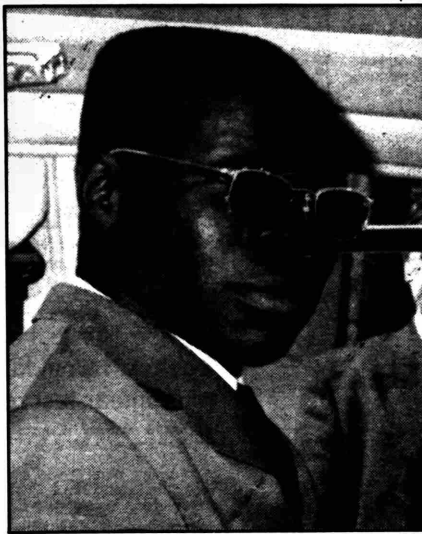
## Eamon Carr



meets the man who made his name as Steve Collins's 'ringside hypnotist' and finds a shrewd businessman who distrusts trendy new age philosophies



□ COLLINS: "Working with Steve was so good because my background is pretty varied," says Quinn



□ EUBANK: Defeated by Collins on both occasions

**S**O HERE he is. The man they've dubbed The Mindbender. The Svengali-like puppetmaster who pulled the strings that enabled Steve Collins deliver a world title and then retain it. And he looks... well... almost normal. Except most normal people don't have the hulking shoulders and impressive biceps of this former Mr Health And Strength.

A cross between a bearded Action Man and Ken (Barbie fame), Dr Tony Quinn oozes quiet confidence. His handshake is firm and his voice is a mesmeric burr.

Yet despite his jetsetting and globetrotting there's still an unmistakable Arbour Hill twinge to his accent.

Mention Tony Quinn today and people immediately think, 'Steve Collins'.

However before Cabra's Celtic Warrior came along, the name Tony Quinn was synonymous with Yoga.

Tony first became interested in the ancient esoteric art when he was about 10. "I was an only child," he reveals. "I used to have loads of time for reading and I used to go to the library so much that they gave me a pass up to the adult library."

"My great interest at the time was magic tricks. I found a yoga book and I used to have my mother help me stand on my head as a kid, just fooling around. I got very interested in the mental side of yoga."

This chance encounter with the mysterious East was to provide Tony with a cornerstone for a career that would expand into a business empire. But the potential wasn't immediately obvious.

"I didn't see it as a commercial thing," says Tony.

"I used to work as a PT instructor. I was involved with the Grafton Health Studio but that was destroyed in a fire."

"I was also involved in training models. There was man there who was very interested in yoga and he met a group of people who wanted someone to teach them yoga and he got in touch with me. I went from there."

Now Tony acts as consultant to the health centres and the health food shops that bear his name.

"Quite frankly I get paid royalties from it," he says. "That allowed me to go off and start from scratch. I have been studying all the time."

"It's a hobby of mine to do courses and study. I love new things. I set myself the task of trying to be the most qualified in the whole area of the mind. I've gone wherever I had to go. I did four diploma courses in America. I did two degrees. I did a few diploma courses in England and I did one degree and I'm in the process of doing another."

"I go wherever the information is and wherever the people are. I try to pick their brains, quite frankly."

His store of lore in subjects ranging from behavioural modelling to nutrition and weight training have made him one of the most sought after mentors in the area of human resource development.

"I train the person to take control of their mind," Tony explains.

"I feel that through their mind they can take control of their body. It's easier to get results with the mind than physically."

Because his interests go way beyond mere sports psychology, Dr Quinn enjoyed the challenge of working with Steve Collins, who for him was a perfect specimen.

"Working with Steve was so good because my background is pretty varied," he says.

"I'm very interested in anything to do with the mind."

But Tony offers a more complete package.

"I do weight training with him," he says.

"I do fitness programmes. The diets, particularly supple-

## 'I like black and white