

# SPLITPOP

## It's all over for Britpop star Damon Albarn and his partner of 25 years



**THIS IS A LOW:** Damon on stage and, right, with Suzi

### DIARY EXCLUSIVE

By **Lottie McGrath**

BLUR frontman Damon Albarn and his longtime partner Suzi Winstanley have split after 25 years together, The Mail on Sunday can reveal.

Despite never marrying, the couple have been together since 1998 and have a 23-year-old daughter called Missy.

Friends say that Ms Winstanley, an artist, is 'absolutely devastated' at the relationship ending.

This newspaper understands that she told Britpop star Albarn, 55, to leave their Notting Hill home, although the circumstances behind her decision are unknown.

'Suzi is heartbroken at their relationship ending,' said a source close to Ms Winstanley.

'Even though they have been living in the showbiz bubble where so many couples struggle, they had been together for a very long time.'

'It is a really sad time for everyone involved.'

Despite her heartache, Ms Winstanley, 55, was in the crowd at London's Hyde Park earlier this month to watch Albarn perform with Blur as part of the British Summer Time festival.

During lockdown, Albarn spent a lot of time in South Devon where he owns a farmhouse which he has partly converted into a music studio. He recently spoke about how he had been struggling in his personal life, telling French magazine Paris Match: 'The last few months, the last year has not been easy.'

'But the music allows me to "bring out" all that. That is to say, it's the only way I know to overcome this sort of event. And it's cheaper than

therapy.' It's understood that Albarn wrote much of the most recent Blur album, *The Ballad Of Darren*, released last week and currently at No 1 in the charts, about his relationship with Ms Winstanley.

In a song called *The Ballad*, the lyrics say: 'I just looked into my life/And all I saw was that you're not coming back.'

Other lyrics hint that Albarn who is also known for virtual band Gorillaz, placed himself at fault for the breakdown of the relationship. The album's second track *St Charles Square* features the opening lines: 'I f\*\*\*\*\* up/I'm not the first to do it.'

On the track, *Goodbye Albert*, he sings: 'I stayed away/I gave you time/Why don't you talk to me any-

more?/Don't punish me forever.'

Albarn began dating Ms Winstanley shortly after he split from Elastica singer Justine Frischmann in 1998. She later went on to date Brett Anderson, the lead singer in another Britpop band, Suede.

Speaking about the reason behind her split from Albarn, Ms Frischmann said: 'I think it was hard for Damon when Elastica started getting some success in America.'

Neither Albarn or Ms Winstanley replied to requests for comment.

## Flurry of bets are placed on 'baby Idris' to be next Bond

From **Caroline Graham**

IN LOS ANGELES

ACTOR Idris Elba's younger brother Damson has become the latest name to be tipped as the next James Bond.

The Mail on Sunday understands that a flurry of bets have recently been placed on Damson Idris, 31, by punters who believe he may replace Daniel Craig as the iconic spy.

According to William Hill, Damson is now second favourite to bag the part, behind Aaron Taylor-Johnson.

A source said: 'This is the first time Damson's name has been linked with the role. It's come



**NEW 007?** Damson Idris

out of nowhere and it's ironic because for years Idris has been the one everybody said would make a great Bond.'

Idris, 50, best known for *The Wire* and *Luther*, has confirmed that he had discussions with Bond producer Barbara Broccoli - but said he now feels 'too old' to play 007.

From 2017 Damson starred in the FX drama series *Snowfall*, which ended in April. He has previously joked about the possibility of being asked to be Bond, saying: 'Oh, let's get baby Idris if we can't get big Idris.'

Other actors who have been tipped as the latest 007 include James Norton, Richard Madden and Tom Hardy.

By **Barney Calman**

HEALTH EDITOR

PRIVATE clinics are flouting Government guidance by handing over prescriptions of vital diabetes drugs to dieters who use the jabs to lose weight, a Mail on Sunday investigation has discovered.

Ozempic, also known as semaglutide, and others like it are relied on by roughly 400,000 UK patients with blood sugar condition type 2 diabetes. But in recent months a shortage has led health chiefs to issue orders to ration prescribing.

Alongside controlling blood sugar, Ozempic - given via a self-injection pen - leads to dramatic weight loss. In studies, some patients shed a fifth of their bodyweight after a year of using the once-a-week treatment.

Rumours that A-listers - including reality TV star Kim Kardashian - used the drug to stay slim spread on social media and demand is now vastly outstripping supply.

Earlier this month, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a

# Diabetics denied crucial jabs as obese Britons use them as slimming aids

patient safety alert, ordering all doctors and pharmacists not to prescribe Ozempic and similar drugs to only aid weight loss. It said: 'Existing stock must be conserved for use in patients with diabetes.'

But this newspaper has discovered online pharmacists still offering Ozempic for weight loss alone.

Manual, a men's health company that also sells hair loss and erectile dysfunction treatments, charged £230 for an initial one-month supply, increasing to £299 a month on subscription. The company requires a full-length photo and photographic

ID in order to verify would-be patients are the weight they claim to be - however messages to our reporter said that once this check was done, Ozempic was in stock and could be supplied. Our reporters were also approved for treatment by myBMI.co.uk after handing over £279, despite making it clear in an online consultation it was only going to be used as a diet aid.

In each case, we cancelled the orders before any medication could be sent out. Neither company responded when asked to comment on our findings. While there is no

suggestion what they are doing is unlawful, medical leaders have criticised the practice in response.

High-profile GP Professor Dame Clare Gerada said: 'Private providers should adhere to ethical guidelines and patients who need this drug for live-saving and life-protecting reasons should take priority.'

Novo Nordisk, Ozempic's manufacturer, said: 'We do not promote, suggest or encourage the off-label use or misuse of any of our medicines. We are continuing to work with MHRA and the Department of Health and Social Care to monitor the supply of our medicines and keep healthcare professionals updated.'

**READERS' ANGER AT ONLINE FIRMS FLOUTING RULES** Health Pages 50-51