

# Ritchie Neville

## THEN & NOW

The 5ive singer, 44, shares his music collection with his daughter



**THEN, I WAS MOST PROUD OF...** My BRIT Award. I've got this real sense of pride, and it sits in my studio at home.

**NOW...** I tell my daughter [Ella, eight, whose mum is Ritchie's ex, Natasha Hamilton] every single day that she's the best thing I've ever done.

**I WAS OBSESSED WITH LISTENING TO...** Grunge, like Pearl Jam and Nirvana, or some kind of house music. I've got

very eclectic listening habits. When I was 15, me and my mate ran off to Glastonbury to see The Prodigy. I don't think we told our parents!

**NOW...** I really like some of Niall Horan's new stuff. And my daughter loves anything classic rock. She came in from school and was like, "Dad, do you know a song called *Smoke On The Water* [by Deep Purple]?" I like to call it musical education.

**BACK IN THE DAY, I USED TO FANCY...** J-Lo. I never met her, and if I had, I think I'd have been too scared to speak.

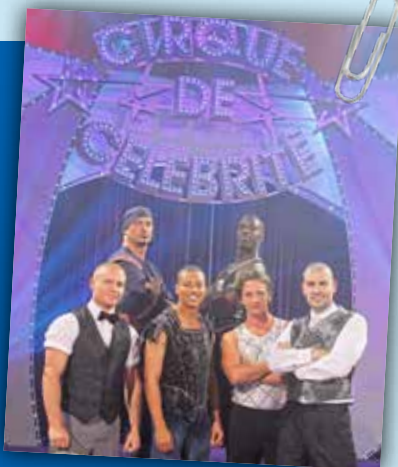
**NOW...** Emily Atack and Rita Ora.

**MY GUILTY PLEASURE USED TO BE...** Pop from the '80s, such as Erasure.

### THE CELEBRITIES YOU'D FIND ME HANGING OUT WITH WERE...

S Club 7, a few times, and Liam Gallagher. I suppose it was my contemporaries from *The Big Reunion* – B\*Witched, Steps, and Boyzone.

**NOW...** Funnily enough, the same! We just did a show with 911, B\*Witched, Big Brovaz and Liberty X, so we all had one too many drinks in the hotel bar afterwards.



**NOW...** It's Katy Perry. I love that album *California Girls*. I once had *Wide Awake* on repeat for literally eight hours.

**BACK THEN, I WAS WEARING...** Very baggy trousers. They were called UFOs, and I thought they were really cool.

**NOW...** Still jeans, but not baggy, not skinny, just in-between. I once had a pair of skinny jeans split onstage.

**BACK THEN, THE BIGGEST HEADLINE ABOUT ME WAS...**

When Jay and I got into a bar brawl in Dublin, we were on the front page of every single newspaper. Then the phone rings and it's Simon Cowell [their label boss]. He went, "You can't buy publicity like this, this is the best thing you've ever done!"

**NOW...** I suppose it's still that. I was done for being drunk and disorderly – which, to be fair, I was.

**BACK THEN, I USED TO THINK...** That I could do it all, but I was at my most internally insecure during the band – 17 is very young. I think I would have enjoyed it more if I'd have been 20 or 21 when I started.

**NOW...** I would tell my younger self, "Stress less and don't take as much crap from people." ■

