

## Welcome to Entertainment News' latest newsletter.

Within Entertainment News we've welcomed back our Television Editor Kim Pidgeon from her sabbatical and welcomed, for the first time, Carla Battisti as Music Editor. You can get acquainted with Kim's travels and Carla's own journey to be our newest member. Also thank you to our guest writer this month Liz Barnes from Planet Rock for taking the time to tell us about a day in her life as a rock station presenter and producer.

If you've been following the launch of our showbiz videos over the last few months, you'll have watched exclusive interviews with the likes of Jon Bon Jovi, Spandau Ballet's Gary Kemp, Tinie Tempah and The Pierces - to name but a few. We've more to come over the coming weeks so if you haven't yet seen these videos, or you have and would like to feature them on your radio station's website, then get in touch for samples and further details.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and, as always, your feedback of the service is always warmly welcomed – it's your station that makes Entertainment News what it is!

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## Introducing Carla Battisti, the new Music Editor at Entertainment News!

Don't let the name fool you – I speak with an Irish accent, although I've been threatening to learn Italian for years.

I have been living in London for almost seven years; does that make me a Londoner yet? I have lived and studied in Ireland and America, and was residing in Texas during 9/11. I've also been to Hell and back, literally. It's on Grand Cayman Island, where I went scuba diving and felt very James Bond diving at night. I have a massive list of places I would love to travel to, but I guess that's why I love London so much. It's literally the world on your doorstep. I also adore second-hand books and usually have a biography on the go.

My baptism of fire into the world of music began with Stefan Dennis at Bangor Leisure Centre for his single Don't It Make Ya Feel Good.....how to follow that one, eh?

My music taste has since evolved and is rather eclectic. You can't beat a bit of a bop to pop, but I also like hip-hop, reggae, funk, rock and classical. I suppose everything apart from thrash metal.

Concerts I've been to over the years include James Brown, Dolly Parton, Kylie Minogue, Primal Scream, Orbital, Wu-Tang Clan, Jimmy Cliff and to be honest the list goes on.

I'm very happy to be working in a role where I can indulge my love for music and interview interesting people.



## Who is Jessie J? When did Elton John become a Dad? And who won Dancing on Ice?

These were just some of the questions I needed answering pretty swiftly upon returning to work at Entertainment News after taking a sabbatical to travel around South America. Having been given time off for good behaviour I'd been well away from the world of X Factor and Strictly, from film premieres and award shows and from who was topping the charts – for five months.



Back at work the team happily answered my constant barrage of who, what's, why's and when's...until I was back up to speed and could sing "Do It Like A Dude" with the best of them. Taking time away from the celebrity world was strange at first, especially as I left England amidst the finals of X Factor and Strictly – something which normally takes over my life around Christmas. Leaving everything in the safe hands of the good ship Entertainment News... it wasn't until I finished hiking the Inca Trail in Peru that I finally heard who'd won both competitions.

I've been back for about two and a half months now, with interviews in the bag including Simon Cowell, Tom Hanks, Ryan Reynolds, Mark Strong, the Bridesmaids cast, the Torchwood gang, the Apprentice lot, plus Peter Andre, Derren Brown, Carl Barat and Andrea Corr.

Getting to go away travelling was a brilliant, ambition-fulfilling adventure – But what's for sure having to return to work would have been a lot, lot harder if the job in question wasn't with Entertainment News – where luckily life here is also without a dull moment.



## Entertainment News Video Service

We have launched a video service to accompany the award winning audio service you've come to expect over the years.

Two bulletins are supplied Monday to Friday, for inclusion on your station's website, while two further videos are sent on a Friday for inclusion across the weekend. For more details, or to opt in to the Entertainment News video service, please contact Clare Stiles, Affiliate Relations Manager at GTN. Clare's email address is [clare.stiles@gtn.uk.com](mailto:clare.stiles@gtn.uk.com) or telephone 020 3301 4917.

## Here are just some of the stars interviewed by the Entertainment News team in recent months.



My day begins with the music news here at Planet Rock – we run our own bulletins throughout the day so even before I get to work I'm glued to my iphone on the commute, searching for leads. Once I arrive at the studios around 8.15am, I listen to interviews from the previous evening show for possible material, check the news feeds, social networking sites and band pages and then once the bulletins are written and produced, it's onto programme production.

We have a very strong team here at Planet Rock and we have all worked hard over the years to build solid relationships with artists so most days there will be interviews to book and record. Often, the interviews are for an episode of our flagship interview show, 'My Planet Rocks'. The hour long programme is a platform for artists to take over the playlist for an hour and play their favourite tracks. I've produced this show since I started at Planet Rock almost six years ago and I don't think I'll ever tire of hearing Ozzy Osbourne, Pete Townshend or whoever our guest is that week, talking about the music they can't live without and why.

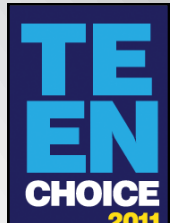
If there isn't a show or an interview to record, I'll be searching through the music release forecasts and tour schedules to see who we should be booking in the coming weeks and months and putting calls in to music PR's and record companies. I also co-ordinate our weekly playlist meetings so throughout the week I'll keep track of the new releases ready for the panel. All of this requires strong relationships with music PR's and record companies so evenings can get booked up with events, launch parties and gigs. Festival season is a good example of this – weekends become a blur during the summer but it's great to get out and gather as much content as we can, which can be used on air for news, programming and online.

In addition to this, I also present a couple of other shows – the weekday lunchtime 'Rockblock' and the weekend evening 'New Rock' show. With my producer hat on I also oversee some of our weekend programming including a show from Def Leppard frontman Joe Elliott. As he's often on tour, sometimes this can literally come from anywhere in the world!

I usually leave the office around 6.30pm if we don't have a guest booked in for the evening show. I'm a bit of a radio geek so I often have a listen to other stations on my way home. When I'm not at work I like to run and practice yoga but finding the time for those is another thing all together!



Here's a look ahead to the big showbiz events that Entertainment News will be covering in the next few months.



July:

*Wireless Festival* – The Black Eyed Peas, The Chemical Brothers and Pulp take to the stage at this year's event.

*Harry Potter world premiere* – the wizarding movie series comes to an end with a star-studded premiere in London's Trafalgar Square.

*Comic-Con* – the US's biggest comic book convention takes place in San Diego.

August

*Emmy Awards* – the best of TV is celebrated at a glitzy ceremony in America, hosted by Glee's Jane Lynch.

*The X Factor* – the singing competition returns for another year, but this time without Simon Cowell who's launching The X Factor USA. The new-look panel consist of Gary Barlow, Kelly Rowland, Tulisa from N-Dubz, and returning judge Louis Walsh.

*Teen Choice Awards* – celebrities will be coming together in America for the annual gunk-filled awards show.

*MTV Video Music Awards* – the annual glittering ceremony will be in Belfast this year, with major acts presenting, performing and picking up gongs.



September

*Mercury Prize* – the best album of the year will be unveiled.

*TV Choice Awards* – famous faces from the small screen come together for a ceremony recognizing the best of TV.

October

*Pride Of Britain Awards* – stars will be handing out trophies to heroes ranging from courageous children to extraordinary nurses and teachers.