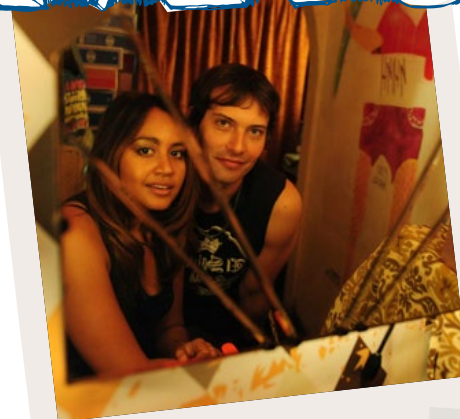


DADS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

HE COMES FROM SHOWBIZ STOCK, HAS TOURED WITH THE BANGLES, LOVES HANGING IN GAY CLUBS, IS ON TELLY WITH JESSICA MAUBOY AND LOVES WEARING SPEEDOS AND BEING A NEW DAD. MATTHEW MYERS MEETS JR REYNE.

DNA: Your dad is James Reyne, lead singer with Australian Crawl. A lot of children with famous parents often grow up in their shadow. Was that an issue for you?

JR Reyne: Not at all. My father always encouraged me to do whatever I chose to do. There was always music in the house and I'd pick up the guitar or drums or whatever was around from a very young age. I think it was in my genes. But growing up I was always told I could do whatever I wanted to as long as it brought me happiness and didn't bring unhappiness to anyone else. For the majority of my high school years I was a swimmer. That was where I wanted to go until about 15 when I decided to focus on music and acting. I love my father's music and recognise his songwriting capabilities. I'm a fan!



I really admire anyone who says, **Fuck you. I'm going to do what I want to do.**

You cut your teeth as an actor on *Neighbours* as Taj. Was that a good grounding?

Yes, that's where I learnt my trade. I'd previously hosted shows like *Evolution* and *G7* and dabbled in a few films but they were short spells. Being on *Neighbours* for a long time was perfect because I got to learn how to work on TV and with amazing actors who'd been in the job a lot longer. I started when I was about 16. Time flies when you're having fun!

Tell us about *The Secret Daughter*.

I play Dan Delaney, the hometown boyfriend of Jessica Mauboy's character Billie Carter. We live in a small country town where everyone knows one another, and are in a pub band together. We are artistically and romantically involved. I'm the lead singer and Billie's the back-up, but there are things that happen to change all that!

In real life, you have quite a few gay mates, is that right?

Very much so. In fact, most of my friends are gay. I just saw on Facebook that The Colombian Hotel [Sydney gay venue] is shutting down, which is sad. An old



flatmate and I had many a great nights out there. Actually, Stonewall is one of my favourite clubs in Australia. I'm always having fun with those guys.

Do guys try and pick you up in the clubs?

I've had a night or two at Arc where I've definitely been hit on, which is always a big compliment. That was more in my younger years. Now when I go out I think I have that "dad" energy. It's only been four months but I think I'm already like it.



JR AND JESSICA MAUBOY IN CHANNEL 7'S THE SECRET DAUGHTER.

WHO WOULD YOU GO GAY FOR?

“Bruce Springsteen. I caught some footage of him recently wearing board shorts. The man’s in his sixties and fit as a fiddle. I’d definitely try The Boss!”



Right, because you are an actual daddy now! How’s fatherhood?

Fatherhood is the most! Without being too mushy, it’s amazing, beautiful, rewarding and the most mind-blowing thing that has ever happened to me. He’s honestly such a little trooper and such a good boy... thus far! What really sums it up is that six months in it has changed my life in every way. It’s a love that you didn’t know existed, right down to loving a night’s sleep like you never have before!

You toured Australia with Pat Benatar and The Bangles. That must’ve been an interesting experience?

That was amazing. My band Rushcutter had come to a bit of a fizzle and I was planning to move overseas when I got a call saying they wanted me to open for Pat Benatar and The Bangles. Being an ’80s baby it was pretty amazing. Then a week later we were touring Australia, playing the entertainment centres. And I’m not just saying this to be a suck-up but

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I never felt the pressure of having a famous father. I love his music and recognise his songwriting capabilities. I’m a fan!

they were the nicest and coolest bunch of women you’d ever come across.

Who is your diva?

Oh, that’s a good one! I love these sorts of questions. Hmm... I’m going to say Bjork. What a cracker! She is unique, to say the least. Also Koko Taylor. She’s such an extremely powerful performer and person.

Who have been the biggest influences on your career?

There are many but pretty much anyone who has done something their own way. People like Freddie Mercury, Bob Dylan and Christopher Walken. People who completely stood on their own two feet. Look at someone like David Bowie, and I don’t think many can come close to him. In life we often hear a lot of, “you can’t do this” and “you can’t do that” and “you can’t make that choice”. I really admire anyone who says, “Fuck you. I’m going to do what I want to do. If you like it you like it. If you don’t you don’t.”

What I love about being in the creative industry is that when it’s great it’s great and sometimes it’s not. I personally thrive on that. I love the excitement of not knowing what’s around the corner but I know a lot of people



who don’t enjoy that. So I say, make sure you’re doing it for the right reasons. If it’s your passion, then never give up.

Here’s the classic DNA question: briefs, boxers or free balling?

I’m a boxer-briefs man. I was a freeballer for quite some time and then found out that it might not be ideal for many a different reason. I might have offended a few people in my skinny jeans days! I tried everything and came across a really good brand of boxer briefs and I’ve stuck with them ever since.

Speedos or boardshorts?

I mix it up. I love speedos. It harks back to my swimming days. I used to love sporting a good tight pair of speedos. In fact, I wore a pair today. I was at the gym and needed some sauna time afterwards. But it depends. If I’m in a social environment like a pool party, I’ll wear some shorty-shorts and if I’m down the beach I’ll definitely rock a pair of speedos.

MORE: *The Secret Daughter* screens on Channel Seven.

For more on JR Reyne: www.jrreyn.com

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