



# Miles Guerrini

Photograph © David Mitchell (dha-ib.com)

WE CHAT TO THE SINGER ABOUT HIS BAND, MUSIC AND PERFORMING ON THE WEST END

**Q. You sing with The Curious Little Big Band – what can you tell us about this?**

**A.** We aim to be the most danceable, theatrical and comic (in that order) covers band in the South West. Our musicians are talented and versatile and include my brother Guy who is head of music at Kingshill and Russell Blackaller, the ex-head of expressive arts there. The recent addition of the horn section has transformed our sound and added huge punch. A decade ago I was singing in West End musical theatre so we are trying to recreate that polish, spectacle and sense of occasion.

**Q. How did you come up with the name?**

**A.** Originally it was just Russell on the keys with me crooning big band numbers, but we were tiny. Then Guy joined us doing bits of singing, sax, occasional keyboards

(which allowed Russell to dust off his accordion), guitar and even some drumming. Then we were at one of Andy Hughes' solo singing gigs. Russell taught Andy drama years ago so we got talking and he said he missed his first love – the drums. Now all we needed was Nigel on bass and we were a proper band. We ransacked our brains for a new name and 'Curious' seemed to describe our strange blend of characters, style, unorthodox instrumentation and approach.

**Q. What kind of music do you do?**

**A.** A very eclectic range of loveable covers, from every era, that people can't resist dancing to.

**Q. What are the band's plans for 2014?**

**A.** We've got loads of bookings (even into July 2015!) and we're also doing a charity gig for Little

Hearts Matter on 3 October. Then I'd like to get into a studio to perfect some of our material and produce a CD, with visuals for YouTube.

**Q. How long have you been in Cirencester?**

**A.** I abandoned London for the beauty of the Cotswolds nine years ago.

**Q. What do you do when you're not playing gigs?**

**A.** My wife and I own Acorns Nursery School, which is a lifelong vocation. We are dedicated to creating the highest quality early years environment and education possible so there's always plenty of challenges to get our teeth into.

**Q. Favourite local beauty spots?**

**A.** Sheepscombe Valley and Painswick Beacon.

**Q. What local restaurants and shops could you not live without?**

**A.** We have loads of great places but Cafe Mosaic is a surprising foodie gem hidden inside the Woolmarket.

**Q. Guiltiest pleasure?**

**A.** Taking my boys out of Acorns on a sunny afternoon and escaping to the Water Park beach.

**Q. Proudest moment?**

**A.** Apart from being a dad? Well, I played Ritchie Valens in *Buddy* in the West End for two years and some of the finale moments were the most exciting and exhilarating of my life. I felt honoured and proud to be part of such a powerful production that meant so much to so many. Most of the music I've done since hasn't had the same sense of triumph to it, but CLBB is getting closer. **CL**

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**Tickets for the gig on 3 October are available on [thecuriouslittlebigband.com/tickets](http://thecuriouslittlebigband.com/tickets)**