

MY DUBAI

Dave Crane

The hypnotherapist, TV presenter and entertainer talks James Brown, speaking Martian and karaoke

Catch Dave at the Madinat Theatre this weekend

How long have you been living in Dubai?
For 12 years now and loving every minute of it. The city just grows and gets more exciting every day.

Why did you move here?

I'd just had enough of living in the UK. I worked at the BBC and fancied a change, so I embarked on a world tour and got as far as Dubai. The city gets into your system very quickly and soon I was hooked.

What do you think is the best thing about the city?

I love the dynamism. I also love the positivity of our hosts. When HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announces a new innovation, you know it's going to happen and the world is watching and waiting.

The worst thing about the city?

I hate the traffic issues and the sheer selfishness of people on the roads. It's one thing to have so many nationalities living together, it's another to make them care about each other.

What's your favourite bar in the city?

I like different places for different moods.

Lately, I find myself gravitating to Chequers, the karaoke room in the Majestic Hotel. It's laid-back with great staff and mad fun.

Favourite restaurant?

The JW Steakhouse in the JW Marriott hotel. Sheer indulgence. For party nights, it still ends up with the Marriott Marketplace or Spice Island at the Renaissance.

When did you get into hypnotherapy?

Five years ago, I travelled to Las Vegas to learn stage hypnosis. I became a hypnotherapist, then a Master NLP Practitioner and more recently a Pranic Energy Healer and Life Designer.

What's the funniest thing that's ever happened on stage at a show?

Every show is completely different. I never know what to expect from the volunteers. The magic is in the people. When in hypnosis, people can play like little kids again, completely uninhibited, it's very liberating. When people start speaking fluent Martian, that always cracks me up because it is amazing

how their imagination interprets space talk. You have to watch a show to experience how incredible it is.

You're also a TV presenter, who's the most famous person you've met?

The late, great Godfather of Soul James Brown. Even though when he spoke, I had no idea what he was talking about 95 per cent of the time. Bruce Willis and Sting were very cool too. Most of the celebrities are very different in real life. Sylvester Stallone is shorter and Enrique Iglesias is taller. The Prodigy are crazy. Iron Maiden and Incubus were pretty normal and relaxed, whilst Robert Plant wasn't to be contacted or seen unless through his entourage.

What do you like to do in your spare time when you're not working?

I'm always working on new material for my seminars and hypnosis sessions. In fact, at the moment, I'm working on my first book and CD for those who really want to fast track to success.

YOUR DUBAI? Email a photo and why you should be our next *Ahlan!* star to mydubai@itp.com

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