

Adam & Joe

They make their TV show from a bedsit using *Star Wars* models and pieces of sticky back plastic. MARK BLACKLOCK gets domestic with the terrible twosome

In reality do you live together in Eric and Ernie-like domestic bliss?

Adam: We never have. We used to make the show out of my place in Brixton Hill but it quickly got too

"This was...arecord that...yougotby...sendingasongoff...toNashvilleand...gettingthemtorecordit..." He also had a copy of *Metal Machine Music* by Lou Reed, which regardless of whatever any music nerd or member of Sonic Youth tells you, is unlistenable bad noise. He claimed to be into it though. If it was anyone else, I would think they were just being silly. Stereolab had a copy too. I think they were just being silly. It's hard not to poop your pants doing those things, because we generally do it with people we really admire, and unless you're a crazy art prankster, you don't want to fuck off your heroes. It's tough though, when you're dressed in riot gear and talking in crappy comedy copper accents.

Are there any toys you'd really like that you don't have?

Adam: There was a very primitive video camera that came out in the 1970s, aimed at kids, that produced a weird pixilated black and white picture. It used regular magnetic audio cassette tape! They took it off the market after a while, but now groovy underground film types sometimes use them if they can find them. They brought out something similar recently but it was just a camera you connect to a TV. Fuck that. I want to record onto audio tape. You can record pretty much anything on that shit. Sound, pictures, memories, thoughts, your soul. **Joe:** One of our friends who's been buying or blagging every single gadget known to man for the last 20 years swears he's got a copy of the film *Easy Rider* ON A VINYL RECORD! And somewhere at the back of a cupboard in his house is, he swears, a machine capable of getting a moving picture from it. Unsurprisingly we've never actually seen this machine, but our friend absolutely positively swears it exists. In fact he can't even remember what it's called. Philips Cinescratch? The Sony Dustydisc? Whatever, I want that toy and I want it now. The ultimate toy would give you ten seconds of ecstatic pleasure then the next moment you'd drop dead with explosive boredom. A faulty sex-toy perhaps.

What's the future of telly? Indie, amateur?

Adam: Reality in TV is where it's at. TV is such an unreal medium and people are so wise to it that the promise of something real, however spurious is always going to be tantalising. You can see it in the way comedy is shifting from just straight gags to shows like *Brass Eye* and *Big Train* where the laughs are about getting uncomfortably close to the absurd ways people really behave. So I guess people making their own shows probably fits into that. But even when you've got rid of the crews and the lights and the processes that make TV so unlike reality, it's still very hard to capture any kind of truth. Unless you use monkeys. More shows will be monkey based in the future. Naked monkeys playing darts. Live TV is pretty much there in fact.

Joe: What? Capture truth? Who wants to capture truth? There's enough of it around already thanks. You should get out more, sonny. The future of telly is killing, cooking and eating children. Live, 24 hours a day, hosted by the lovely Ulrika Johnson. And maybe Ainsley Harriot for the cooking part.

What does the future have in store for Adam and Joe?

Adam: No idea. We're making it up as we go along. Can't you tell? I can still mix a good cocktail, so I can always go back to bartending. It would be great to make a film though. And an album of bad songs. And meet David Bowie. And go to the moon as long as it wasn't at all dangerous.

A new series of the Adam and Joe Show begins in the New Year ■



crowded with lights and all the stupid shit we fill the set with. Our boss Fenton Bailey at World Of Wonder TV deserves much of the credit/blame for getting us our show, as he picked our tape out of the *Takeover TV* rejection bucket after it was labelled 'pretentious bullshit' by a researcher. Luckily Fenton loves pretentious bullshit. When the first shows went out, Channel 4 just assumed we lived together and when we told them we didn't, they just thought, "Aw fuck it, it sounds right." TV eh? A tissue of silly lies and naughty deceit.

Joe: Yes we do. Adam and I have lived together since we were three years old and are very much in love. We were both abandoned as babies on the streets of Brixton and raised by winos. For five years we lived hidden in a Wendy House in Woolworths, occasionally venturing out to scavenge for pick-n-mix. We finally stole enough cola bottles to build a realistic looking house in the burnt-out ruins of a riot-torn street. Since then we have loved and supported each other through thick and thin, never being afraid to show our affection by touching each other indecently in public.

Would you ever move out of Brixton?

Adam: After the last series Channel 4 gave us a bit more money, so we spent it on moving from Brixton to a flat in beautiful Borough, where we do everything now. We have an edit suite there and have been able to stretch out a bit more, which we hope is reflected in the scale and scope of some of our new Toy movies. If you saw *Toyantic* on the first night of Film 4, you'll see things have got bigger for us! Bigger bits of cardboard! More glue! Extra long sticky tape! THE BIG TIME BOYEE!

Are you enjoying life as rich and bitter superstars?

Adam: We only recently started to make more money than we did when we had McJobs and even that's not much. I guess that's the problem with doing most of the show ourselves. We're not bitter though. We'd be arseholes to complain. We certainly don't feel like superstars. And it's not like when Kate Winslet says "Oh, I don't feel like a superstar, I'm just a normal person." She's still trying to cling to the Titanic of her normality, we are desperately trying to sink ours. Whenever we go to a party where there are photographers, we always get yelled at; "Out the way you two, it's Jonathan Rossi!" Just cos we don't have big tits. Well, I do, but they're hairy and there's no market for that. Fuckers.

Joe: Yes. Now please fuck off, I've got money to count.

What's the strangest criminal record you've encountered?

Adam: Mark E Smith of The Fall had some very odd ones. One called *Blind Man's Penis* by J. Trubee & The Geeks. We asked him about it but that stage of the evening he had almost stopped communicating in an orthodox way. He stared at us for a very long time and then started saying a couple of words very quickly every 20 seconds or so.

"Bigger bits of cardboard! More glue! Extra long sticky tape! THE BIG TIME BOYEE!"