

theweekender



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the man to go
to in a fix

Pages 26-27

GARDENING OUTDOORS NOSTALGIA WEEKEND TV

GULZHAN'S APPEAL IS UNIVERSAL



■ KIMBA SLEMMERHAYEN

WHEN singer Gulshan
Slemmerhayen walked
onto the stage to sing
at a charity gig last week, she wasn't
just a performer.

She had just raised their debut
single, *Time To Cry*, at Royal's
M&M's arena.

There's also getting ready to
play live and record at a gig on
Thursday as one of Edinburgh's
newest live acts, The Ink
at Winton Park.

From Page 15
 voice captured him, I suppose," she giggles.

Romanos blossomed through a shared love of music and the couple married. They now have a son, Ryan, who will be two next month.

Their band Kinky Dinkies, which played cover versions, attracted attention from all over the world - all of whom were based at the oil and gas field where they all worked.

"We played all the classics - Mustang Sally, All Right Now, Texas and Sheryl Crow. We also played traditional Russian songs which were very popular," adds Gulshan.

In recent years, Paul and

"We played all the classics - Mustang Sally, All Right Now, Texas and Sheryl Crow"

GULSHAN IBRAHIMA

Gulshan have been writing their own songs which are now the focus of their live sets and are being performed every time they are played by the new members of Universal You.

Base player Dull Philip, of Theora, Madlathas, says that the songs, with their strongly male/female dynamic, have inspired him.

Dull has been playing in bands since he was 17 years old, but became disillusioned after his last band, called DJM DJM, lost Romanos.

In the mid-2000s, DJM DJM had a big profile - their single



'No-one expects me to be the singer in a band'

ROCKER: Gulshan off-duty, and fronting Universal You during a recent gig at renowned Edinburgh live music venue Bannerman's.

Donk was a Top 40 hit, they played T In The Park and eight-part Single Minded at Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations at The Mosaic.

But then things changed and Dull and his bandmates ended up

playing cover versions as a resident band at a venue in Glasgow.

He joined Universal You after answering an advert placed by Paul and Gulshan on a website aimed at musicians.

"I got such a buzz out of live performance and I love making music," enthuses the 43-year-old who shares his Harris home with his wife Julie and their three children. "It's great to be playing again."

Dull played his first gig with Universal You last weekend at a charity benefit in Edinburgh in aid of charity SCPT The Pilgrimage Trust which takes disadvantaged children to Lourdes.

"The energy was really great

and I think that the band is really starting to gel," says Dull.

"We are far from the finished article and we are going to continue to get better.

"I think we're a good mix of musicians and it's nice to be playing with people on the same level. I think we are a mature band and we're not pretending to be anything we're not."

Guitarist Steve Donnelly, of Huddington, agrees that Universal You have an original sound that is in pleasant contrast to the sound of the museum - but of bands like The Verve and their chosen.

The 23-year-old, who cites The Eagles, Eric Clapton and BB King

"I think we are a mature band and we're not pretending to be anything we're not"

DULL PHILIP

as influences, also says audiences will enjoy the fact that Universal You boasts the melody produced by two guitars.

He adds: "In the short term, people can expect to find us playing more gigs in Scotland.

"I think we will be concentrating on getting a good local following in Edinburgh and Glasgow and then taking things from there."

■ Universal You will perform at The Ark at Waterloo Place in Edinburgh on Thursday. For more information on the band, visit their website at www.universalyou.co.uk.

