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THEATRE

Swing when you're winning

11:54am Wednesday 9th June 2010

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By Graham Moody »

Robbie Williams once famously tried to go from singing pop to singing swing and wasn't overly successful, unlike former Strangers frontman Paul Roberts.

The singer, who voiced the punk band for 16 years until 2006, plays the part of Frank Sinatra at Fairfield Halls next Wednesday when celebration of swing show Strictly Swing comes to town.

"I had a lot of great times with The Strangers but it was time to call it a day and I didn't want to continue in doing rock in that kind of way."

Paul Roberts

"You have to be able to make the transition as a singer and I think I have done that and just want to succeed in it," says Roberts.

"It is great music to sing and I grew up in a house full of Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, my father was a bit of an aficionado.

"it's a genre of music that I don't think has ever diminished.

"It is quality and people have kept it alive like Tony Bennett and Michael Buble.

"Bennett started after the war and is still going strong today and Buble is a young buck and a great performer.

"Robbie Williams famously had a go too so it has never gone away and it is something different.

"The show is a lot of great songs and there's a story too with Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby in a New York bar together.

"It's a bit of a laugh and we all get on really well."

Roberts, who has also written four albums with his band Soulsec and is planning on taking his Great American Songbook show on tour, released five albums with The Strangers before leaving amicably four years ago.

"I had a lot of great times with The Strangers but it was time to call it a day and I didn't want to continue in doing rock in that kind of way," he said.

"I toured the world and was on television and wimbledonguardian.co.uk/.../8209501....



Champagne drinkers (l to r): Paul Roberts as Frank Sinatra, Jim Whitley as Nat King Cole and Chris Vincent as Bing Crosby

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Incompetent Merton social worker struck off

An incompetent social worker who falsely accused families of prostitution and shoplifting, made racist remarks about colleagues and service users and took sick pay from one employer while secretly working for another, has been struck off.

20.07.2010

radio all over the world with them and went to a lot of interesting places and met a lot of interesting people.

"They were great times but I had to stop.

"Something like that lasting that long is quite successful."

Strictly Swing, Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, June 16, 7.45pm, £15.50. Call 020 8688 9291 or visit fairfield.co.uk.

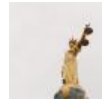
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A woman charged with hitting her son at a parents evening has been cleared of assault.



Win tickets to this year's Community Shield between Chelsea and Man United!

The Comet has teamed up with local McDonald's franchisee Gary Adams to offer readers the chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to this year's FA Community Shield between Chelsea and Manchester United. Each winner will receive two tickets to the annual curtain raiser for the Premier League season at Wembley Stadium, to be played on Sunday, August 8.



Conroy weighs up Conference offers

Defender Jay Conroy says he is considering four contract offers from Blue Square Premier clubs.



Scouting for Girls singer enjoys a good tip

Chart-toppers Scouting for Girls' lead singer Roy Stride will prepare for this Saturday's Ben & Jerry's Nuts About Fair Trade Festival by taking a trip to the tip.



Dame Vera Lynn inspires Hayley Westenra

When it comes to influences, Hayley Westenra is very different to other 23-year-old singers.



Lee Nelson tops bill at Warehouse comedy previews

In preparation for next month's Edinburgh Festival, eight of the countries top comedians descend on Warehouse Theatre next weekend to preview their offerings for this year, including chav hero Lee Nelson.



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