

CAN WE PULL YOU FOR A CHAT?

THE COMEDIAN ON PODCASTS AND HER PAL VOGUE

JOANNE MCNALLY

With her quick wit and total lack of filter, Irish comedian Joanne McNally has built a career out of running her mouth. After years on the stand-up circuit, Joanne's star exploded in lockdown with the birth of *My Therapist Ghosted Me*, her confessional podcast with BFF Vogue Williams.

Now, Joanne, 40, is gearing up for her most high-profile challenge yet. She's going head-to-head against a panel of comedians on *Taskmaster*, where contestants compete in bizarre tests set by Greg Davies and Alex Horne. We caught up with Joanne to talk challenges, conspiracy theories, and what she really thinks of Vogue's husband Spencer...

Congrats on *Taskmaster*! Did you go in with a game plan?

There was no strategy. It was very much throw shit at a wall and see what sticks. Like pretty much everything in my life.

The challenges can be pretty intense – how did you find the more physical ones?

I'd borrowed a quite expensive jumpsuit from Vogue and I split the gusset and the underarms. I had to have it in to get tailored and all sorts! But I had an absolute ball. It's one of the most fun things I've done in my career so far.

Everything's really kept on the downlow for the contestants, isn't it?

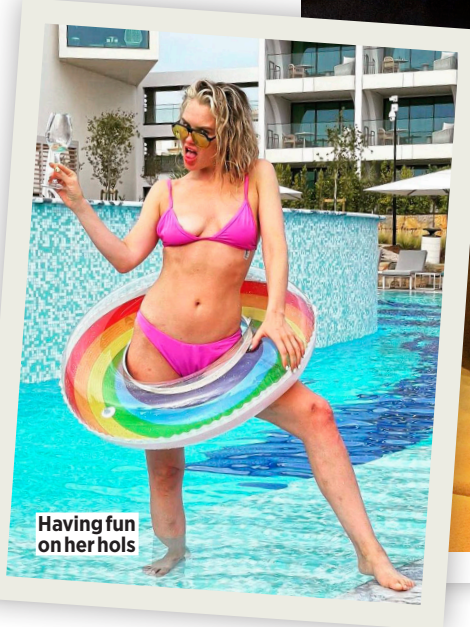
It's like joining the FBI or... what's the English one called? **MI5?**

It's like being in MI5, or a spy. It's like you've committed a crime and you're in witness protection. You know

nothing, you're being walked through places, you're not allowed to look at the task, they practically have a bag over your head, so you can't see anything and anyone.

A lot of people list Greg as a celebrity crush. Do you see it?

Oh, 100 per cent. Do you know why? It's because he's so funny and he's so



Joanne:
rising star

heat
news

With
BFF Vogue



globalPLAYER
**MY THERAPIST
GHOSTED ME**



that Avril was replaced by a doppelgänger called Melissa. How did you find your foray into investigative journalism?

It's tongue in cheek, but the Avril Lavigne fans are not happy with me.

It doesn't matter... Podcasts are a huge part of your career now – how did you and Vogue start *My Therapist Ghosted Me*?

When I moved to the UK, Vogue let me move in with her for a while. Before, I was staying in kennels, basically, because I had no money. And then she suggested the podcast, and thank God! It changed my career.

Was she living with Spencer at the time?

Oh yeah. Because I'm Irish, I think he thought I was the nanny. Like, "Who's this new woman in the house wearing all my dressing gowns, smoking my cigars and prancing around?"

How do you two get on now?

He's a lovely guy. I mean he's really posh, but we knew that. Can't hold that against him forever. ■

Taskmaster starts 9pm, Thur 28 March, on Channel 4 and catch-up

tall. And he's sitting on the big throne. Lots of power, there. Power is always sexy. **We've seen comedians Ellie Taylor on *Strictly* and Lou Sanders on *Dancing On Ice*. Which reality show would you give a go?** I think I'd love the jungle. **Really?**

I'm an absolute feral bitch. I'd eat anything, I don't care. I eat the same thing every day. I don't cook or anything like that. It'd be a dream to have someone hand me a bowl of rice. **Your new podcast *Who Replaced Avril Lavigne*? explores the wild internet theory**

I think they think it's very real, but it's not a serious podcast. I don't think Stacey Dooley's quaking in her boots quite yet. **What's the least sinister conspiracy theory you genuinely believe?**

I like a diet conspiracy theory and I'm susceptible to fake news. There was a Beatles replacement one, as well, John Lennon or Paul McCartney... It's kind of shocking that I haven't been brought into a cult by this stage. I mean, I'm not dead, I could easily end up in a cult, I've still got many years ahead. What was your question?

'I'm a feral bitch'