## 50 years on the telly: interview with BBC superstar **Basil Brush**

⊙ 18th June 2020

Ever since the 1960s, Basil

Brush the fox has been enter-

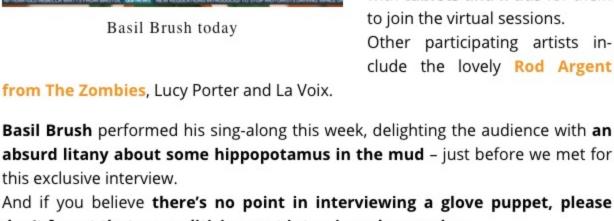
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taining millions of children and grown-ups on the British telly, running entire successful shows on the BBC and ITV, and apin pantomimes Boom! Boom!



Sessions is to cheer up care home residents during the Coronavirus lockdown through weekly virtual singing shows, whilst raising funds to provide



'Morning, Sir. First of all, thank you for the privilege. May I ask why

ing to the elderly care home residents?

help this charity initiative be successful?

to join the virtual sessions. Other participating artists include the lovely Rod Argent don't forget that our politicians get interviewed every day.

we can't take it any longer!" Ha Ha Ha! Boom! Boom! Only joking. But the whole idea of getting folks singing and bringing a smile to their faces fills me with joy at the prospect, and I hope I can bring a little bit of nostalgia and joy into the care homes for their lovely residents. Apart from donating to the campaign, what else can people do to

We hope that folks will give money and help the charity donate iPads and streaming devices so care home residents can watch the shows in their rooms, or together. Also, we would like everyone to spread the word so that more residents

you joined The Smiling Sessions and what you believe you're bring-

I decided to join The Smiling Sessions because they asked so politely and I thought "what a wonderful cause!". Also, anything that gets me singing gets my attention. I have been known to make grown men cry when I sing... cry "Stop it,

are aware of the songs available for them. Tell us something about the sing-along you just performed... I am sure folks love the songs I have chosen. The first one is a Flanders and Swann's song about a hippopotamus in the mud, Mud, Glorious Mud! And my second song is a tribute to Morecambe and Wise, it's Bring Me Sunshine, and I hope it will get everyone remembering and singing along and smiling of course because it's being sung by a real-life talking fox.

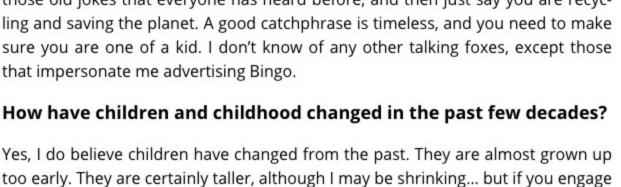
## I have been quite busy whilst be-

wanted to pose. The first is: have you learned anything worth mentioning during your 50+ years working on the telly? After 50 years on the telly, I realise you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Kids love those old jokes that everyone has heard before, and then just say you are recyc-

cuit that I didn't buy!

have been struggling with fundraising... momentum charity in South London, and then doing messages for the kids and nurses and raising awareness. Also, I became a mascot of the TW Flyers, which is a group of kids with learning difficulties that meet online every Sunday and play hockey, and so I chat with them and it's Boom Boom on... Zoom! I have been clapping my paws for the NHS and delivering groceries to some of my locals. I promise I have not munched on any Hobnob bis-

Now let us ask you a bunch of genius questions we have always



formed in front of Prince

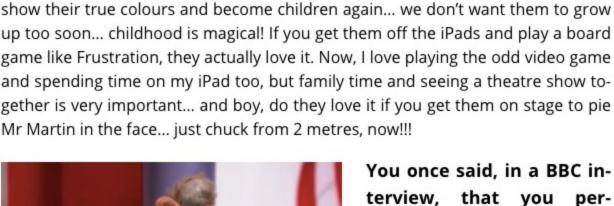
William and Prince Harry when they were kids. Is

this why they lost their

I did perform for Harry and Wills at Kensington Palace. They were

hair?

BBC legend...



about 5 years old then, I think so, I don't think I caused them to lose their hair... although one could be traumatised by a talking fox in your front room. But I

I love Mr Bean but I am not sure we have any sort of relationship... he doesn't

As for me and Mr Bean's teddy bear, on the advice of my lawyers, I am not going to say anything about me and a teddy bear other than to say that he's a stuffed

Well, of course, I support the side that is winning. Ha Ha Ha! Boom! Boom! I love

I think I'd heard that you love the Leicester City foxes, but I wanted

doubt it was me, so I accept no responsibility for the hair loss.

What's your relationship with Mr Bean's teddy bear?

toy and I am a real-life talking fox... he isn't real, 'Nuff said!

What football team do you dare to support?

the foxes, especially when they won the league.

What's your relationship with Mr Bean?

have much to say for himself, but I do love his movies.



calls... never mind, I am more of a golfer myself and I love Tiger Woods and maybe one day I could be his caddy or clubhead cover for his driver, or maybe not! Ha Ha Ha! Boom! Boom! What's your favourite outfit? My favourite outfit is the Greatest Showman outfit that I use in my touring shows. I love the green sparkle. I have a personal stylist, and the things she says are very

personal indeed, she0s leve Piorete, she works from the Theatre Royal in Windsor where I do my pantos... opposite the Windsor Castle... got great bins to rummage

back as a woman, yet... never say never! Basil Brush back in the days ...

What's your secret? Botox... anyone who thinks I



across the UK where he'd talk about life, sports and politics – everything while shouting his famous catchphrase Ha Ha Ha! It was intimidating for us to interview a star with such massive celebrity status, and the occasion for a chat has been a highly commendable charity initiative called The Smiling Sessions that the illustrious fox has just joined together with a bunch of fellow celebrities to perform virtual sing-alongs in favour of the elderly living into care homes and community centres. with tablets and iPads for them

How are you supporting your fox community during lockdown?

ing a furry furloughed fox. I have been creating online content to make everyone smile, plus I have been hosting quizzes to

help raise money for Marie Curie Nurses and other charities that

that impersonate me advertising Bingo.

## them in a theatre with a show like a pantomime it's amazing how quickly they

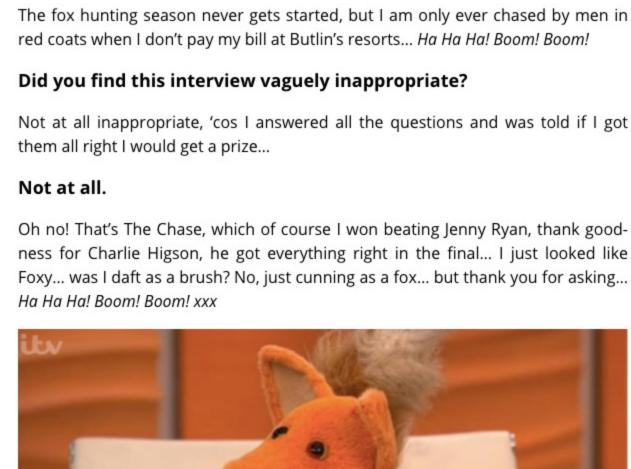


The fox hunting season has virtually just finished. Did you get an official invitation for it?

You're ageing quite well.

look old is talking out of their Botox... I get reinvented so to speak every few years like the doctor, but I am not coming

through.



Basil Brush