

# "I Carried This Dream And It Came True"

As she celebrates a decade at the top, singer Susan Boyle tells us about following her dreams and her new UK tour

When she walked out on to the *Britain's Got Talent* stage with unkempt hair and wearing a gold lace dress, nobody watching could ever have imagined that 10 years later Susan Boyle would be a global superstar.

The audience and judges looked on disbelievingly as she told them how she hoped to make it as a professional singer – but Susan had the last laugh when her touching back story and amazing rendition of *I Dreamed A Dream* had everyone on their feet in admiration.

Fast forward a decade

appearances to ensure she always looks her best.

Yet it's clear that despite the changes, Susan herself is still the same touchingly warm, modest and funny person she always was. And as she gears up for a new nationwide tour, she hopes that her incredible story will inspire others like her, who maybe haven't had the easiest of starts in life.

"I like to think I'm an example for the underdog, for those people who had a tough time in life and really had to prove themselves," she says. "I'd like to be the beacon for that and show other people that it's

and lived alone with her cat, and after the *BGT* finals she was admitted to the Priory Clinic, suffering from exhaustion after struggling to cope with the intense attention.

She was bullied as a child and in 2012 was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, a developmental disability that affects how a person communicates and makes sense of the world. The diagnosis, she says, has helped her life tremendously.

"I understand myself a whole lot better now and I understand other people better too," she explains. "It's not really something

Susan's new tour – The Ten Tour – sees her performing live around the UK for the first time in six years and will feature a special guest, 2011 *BGT* winner Jai McDowall.

"We've put together lots of new songs and routines and I'm really looking forward to it," she says excitedly.

"I'm at my happiest when I'm performing. There'll be a lot of upbeat numbers and a lot of choreography. It'll be

totally different to the shows I've done before."

There are currently plans afoot to make a film of Susan's life, based on her best-selling 2010 autobiography *The Woman I Was Born To Be*, with no less than Meryl Streep tipped to play the singer. But Susan remains refreshingly untouched by her fame.

The "posh house", as she refers to it, was quickly passed on to a relative and

she returned to the house she grew up in.

"It's got a homely atmosphere and very sentimental memories of my parents. They're golden memories and that makes me feel secure," she explains.

"My life has changed enormously over the past 10 years. When you've travelled everywhere it's easy to forget where you come from, so coming home grounds me

– I've got roots here and it's a way of keeping a healthy balance in my life.

"When I'm at home I like listening to music, watching TV, going to the pictures, playing piano and meeting friends. I have a lovely life."

If anyone deserves that, then it's Susan. **WW**

Susan Boyle's The Ten Tour is travelling throughout the UK from March 3. For more information and to buy tickets visit [www.susanboylemusic.com](http://www.susanboylemusic.com)

## New Challenges

Susan has set herself two challenges for 2020 – to learn to drive, and also to learn how to ride a bike. "I've had a couple of driving lessons. I never learned before, I think I was a bit frightened," she reflects. "I was always saying, 'I'm going to do it,' so I've taken the plunge. It took a lot of thinking about, believe me!"



"I've bought myself a bike as well. I can ride an exercise bike, but I never learned to ride a bike as a girl. Better late than never. I've still got the stabilisers on. I'll have to take them off at some point, but I don't want to fall off and then come on stage for my tour in a cast!"

Professionally, a duet with Michael Buble remains top of Susan's wish list – she's sung with two of her other music idols, Elaine Page and Donny Osmond – and she also hopes to tour in America again. Otherwise, her remaining ambitions are refreshingly modest. "I want to take more exercise and lose weight," she laughs. "I still have the gold dress from my *Britain's Got Talent* audition, but I can't get into it!"

## "I still get nervous, but I calm myself down with relaxation exercises"

and the Scottish singer's life has transformed beyond recognition. Her first record became the UK's best-selling debut album of all time and she remains only the third act ever to top both the UK and US album charts in the same year.

Her success has earned her an incredible £22 million and she treated herself to a smart house close to the ex-council house she grew up in in West Lothian. The untidy hair is long gone – these days Susan is neatly coiffured – and there's a stylist on hand for public

possible to have dreams and fulfil them.

"Since I was five I dreamed of being in the public eye and singing to large audiences. I didn't have an easy life, but I carried this dream and it came true. You just need to stick at it and have determination.

"If I can do it, then others can. I was the underdog, but the underdog had a dream."

Susan (57) auditioned for *Britain's Got Talent* three years after the death of her beloved 91-year-old mother. She was 47, unemployed

you should be ashamed of – it shouldn't carry a stigma.

"I've mellowed over the years. I'm less likely to fly off the handle now. When you're young you tend to be a bit harum-scarum and do things you shouldn't, but when you're older you become more relaxed.

"I still get nervous, but if can get a bit of space before a performance I can calm myself down. I do a series of relaxation exercises. I do that for about 20 minutes and it helps enormously. I do it whenever I feel tense and everything's on top of me."



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Duetting with Donny