

BAZ

The World's Most Clueless Rock Star!



Once Upon A Time... he was the lead singer for pioneering prog-rock metal band **Hard Meat** - who had such a huge influence on the world's greatest bands including **Wang Chung**, **Mr. Mister**, **Mike + The Mechanics** and **Menudo**.

Starting in 1993 - many years before **Ozzy Osbourne** branched out and became a TV personality - Baz led the way starring in a series of 'video burlesques' in which he explored very unusual terrain for a rock star.

In each show, Baz reinvented himself. He became a rock 'n' roll chef, a keep-fit instructor, a corporate business guru and a movie critic. Special guests in his videos included the **Del Rubio Triplets** and **Cher**. He even made a memorable appearance on **Robin Leach**'s live talk show on the *TV Food Network*!

Then after two years at the bottom - Baz suddenly gave it all up. "Quit while you're behind!" was his reasoning. And Baz disappeared. Apparently taking his videotapes with him. All the shows and TV appearances he made between 1993-1995 seemed to be lost for all time. Leaving behind just a faint and slightly unpleasant memory...

It later transpired that Baz had taken his entire canon of shows and buried them deeply in a sealed secret vault as a time capsule to enlighten the people of the 31st Century.

Unfortunately, the vault wasn't that secret or that well-sealed - and seven classic Baz tapes were recently discovered rather prematurely and have been accidentally uploaded to YouTube.

So now the entire Baz legacy can be seen without waiting the thousand years that Baz - and Mother Nature - had intended.

VIEW THE WHOLE BAZ SERIES!

- **Baz #1 - Rock 'n' Cook With Baz!**

http://youtu.be/5En_xzYGVrU

- **Baz #2 - Rock-ercise With Baz!**

<http://youtu.be/qDLxGqvUDfU>

- **Baz #3 - Baz Goes Corporate!**

<http://youtu.be/yrfqweOHP94>

- **Baz #4 - Baz Goes To The Movies!**

http://youtu.be/IdTXjF_QVpM

- **Baz #5 - Baz vs Robin Leach!**

<http://youtu.be/6NvPNk5-Qas>

- **Baz #6 - The Best Of Baz!**

<http://youtu.be/cwtYL8GfOOs>

- **Baz #7 - Baz Sings Nirvana!** (with the Del Rubio Triplets)

<https://youtu.be/zjFWNa2bGEw>

***Baz was conceived, written, portrayed & produced by Martin Lewis - who should be blamed for everything.
Not just for Baz - but for literally everything...***



Timeline and mini-biography

Born in Wapping, East London - 24th July 1950

Name at birth: Basil Reginald Rickets.

At school (Clement Attlee Secondary Modern - in Hackney) he was nicknamed Spaz after a badly-botched operation to remove an in-grown toenail left him briefly crippled. He recovered the use of his big toe - and then re-named himself Baz.

1963 - Formed first band with a girl at school - Christine & The Keelers. Baz played triangle.

1964 - Changed girl-friends and changed the band's name to Mandy & The Rice Krispies. Baz played recorder.

1965 - Thrown out of school for smoking in a girl's lavatory while copying stolen exam answers into a notebook using the head-master's personal fountain pen. The band (by now called Diana & The Doors with Baz on xylophone - splits up)

1967 - Got job as tea-boy at Abbey Road Studios. Helped Beatles record Sgt. Pepper album. (Bringing them tea and sometimes biscuits) Resolved to become a professional musician and be the front man.

1968 - Formed Pregnant Insomnia - with Baz as lead singer and song-writer. Band is a 7 piece. Record first demo - "Miss Carriage" - but no record company signs them.

1969 - Hearing about forthcoming Woodstock festival - Baz persuades the band to go to Woodstock where they will offer to play. But Baz had misunderstood and the band arrives at Woodstock in **Oxfordshire, England** (20 miles from Stratford-On-Avon) They play for 3 hours - without an audience - then split up immediately after the set.

1970 - Baz forms a new band Hard Meat. They are a new breed heavy metal band. They go on tour with Led Zeppelin - and Baz teaches Robert Plant how to not sing.

1970 - 1982 Hard Meat tour the world many times and release several albums. including "Pleased To Meat You" "Broiled Alive" "Raw and Seasoned" "Live Poundin'" "Tenderized" and the concept double-album "Stick Yer Mouth 'Round This!" The band are moderately successful.

Baz is pals with all the stars of the day and helps their careers as an unofficial career counselor and guru.

He gives Rod Stewart his famous haircut.

He helps David Bowie pick out the dress he wore on the cover of his "The Man Who Sold the World" album

He suggests that Pink Floyd write a concept album about the manic depression of the Who's drummer.

He teaches Bob Marley calypso music - which leads to the birth of reggae.

And he has lunch with Johnny Rotten one day. Over a salad of wilted spinach leaves and raspberry-walnut-chives vinaigrette - he suggests that the singer leave the spinach in his teeth to help foster a rebellious image. This leads to the punk-rock look

1982 - Hard Meat goes limp - and Baz goes into rehab for bacon addiction. He attends the Betty Crocker Clinic - and is weaned off streaky bacon and on to Baco Bits (the methadone for bacon-olics)

1983 - Baz gets religion and - inspired by his hero - Sammy Davis Jr. - he takes up Judaism. Meets and has affair with Madonna and suggests that she record song about their love affair. ("Like A Virgin") Also advises Boy George on his look and Wang Chung on their name.

1984 - Records first solo album - "Young, Gifted And Baz". New metal bands such as Motley Crue and Poison pay tribute to Baz and Hard Meat as the inspiration behind their creativity.

1985 - Hard Meat reform for Live-Aid - playing live from Tasmania at 3am. Hard Meat record reunion album "We'll Split The Profits 50-50 - And Give The Rest To Ethiopia"

1986 - Baz teaches Sting about tantric sex. Sting subsequently claims that he can sustain an erection for five hours while making love to his wife. Baz responds "*yeah – but that's not as long as the TEN hours I can sustain an erection while talking about myself...*"

1987 - Baz moves to L.A. and hangs out as godfather figure to Axl Rose and Slash. Inspires most of the tracks on Guns 'n' Roses first demo. Later he plays triangle on 3 tracks on "Welcome to the Jungle" - though he's barely heard in the final mix.

1988 - Baz switches gears and makes his Broadway debut opposite Debbie Boone in a revival of "Rock Carmen" (a klezmer-pop version of Bizet's opera) The NY Times review says that the show suffers because Baz "*doesn't know if he's Carmen or Cohen*" - and the show closes after 3 performances. Baz takes it badly.

1989 - Baz retreats to the Himalayan Alps to meditate. He is distressed by the world situation - and decides to go on a hunger strike. He issues a press release announcing that he is starving for attention.

1990 - Baz is hunted out by a young musician called Kurt Cobain who wants some inspiration. Baz leaves India and moves to Seattle. On a shoestring diet he lives entirely on Alphabet Soup. While playing with his food one day - he writes the key lyrics to "Smells Like Teen Spirit" "*zzizzgarbar jugee garbba bajee garbar jargee bargar...*" Grateful to Cobain for breaking his writer's block he gives the lyrics to Kurt as a gift and refuses all credit for the song. He tells him that it's an honor to have inspired a talented young man.

1991 - "Smells Like Teen Spirit" sells ten million copies worldwide and Baz sues for copyright theft.

1993 - Baz discovers hip-hop and nurtures Dr. Dre. He lives in South-Central L.A. for 6 months and changes his name to Ice-Latte. He records a rap album "Liggers-With-Attitude" (A "ligger" is English rock slang for a freeloader) It bombs.

1994 - Baz comes up with an idea for a rock tour of girl singers - which he wants to call Baz-ooma-palooza. Sensitive to women - he changes the name of the concept to Hoota-palooza. He lines up sponsorship with a sanitary pad company - Lillets - and finally changes the name to Lillet Fair. He then abandons the concept.

1995 - Baz makes his TV acting debut - partnered with Erik Estrada in “Fish & Chips” a series about a British cop and an American cop who team up to enforce hygiene regulations in the Pittsburgh restaurant business. The show is a hit in Bulgaria.

1996 - Baz makes an album with a Balinese Nose Flute ensemble - playing all the hit of Flock Of Seagulls.

1997 - Baz announces his retirement from music - says he wants to dedicate the rest of his life to helping people. He plans to become the world’s first “De-Motivational Speaker”. “If I can teach people how to ignore what they’re told - then they have a chance to find out what they really don’t want. And that’s a big step in the wrong direction...”

1998 - Baz launches himself as the World’s first rock ‘n’ roll chef - with plans for a TV show, a book and a matching apron set.

1999 - Baz announces his ambition for the new millennium. He plans to launch a new magazine called “Context” - so that people can always be “quoted out of Context”

2000 - Baz decides to launch an online business - and tries to register a new sex website - Baz.orgy He is forced to change this to Baz.org

He develops and launches a new work-out program for S&M fans called Tai-Mee. The exercise comes from wriggling free of bondage ropes and apparatus.

He also develops a new philosophy called Baz-ism - drawing from the best of Eastern and Western cultures. He blends the Eastern wisdom of surrendering to the void - as expressed in the phrase “Let It Go” - with the best aspirations of American capitalism - as voiced in the exhortation “Go For It!” The mantra of Baz-ism is “**Let It Go For It!**”...

2002 - Ozzy Osbourne becomes a reality TV star. Baz realizes that if he continues his own career there could a be ripping in the fabric of the universe. Rather like the danger of the 1985 Michael J. Fox character Marty McFly in “Back To The Future” encountering his 1955 self. Potentially creating trouble in the space-time continuum! So Baz decides to discreetly disappear...

LIFE IMITATES (BAZ) ART! The origin of the Baz character

In 1993, humorist/producer Martin Lewis was engaged by Virgin Music USA - the music publishing division of Virgin Records - to create a series of short films to inform and motivate its staff about the latest releases of music by its composers - including Kurt Cobain, The plan was to show music videos of the various new recordings. Virgin wanted there to be humorous introductions for each video clip and some light-hearted interstitial material.

To fulfill this brief Martin devised the character “Baz” - ostensibly a heavy metal singer in the vein of Ozzy Osbourne - now going through hard times and trying to reinvent himself in various new roles. Rock ‘n’ roll TV chef, keep-fit coach, business guru, movie critic. He wrote all the dialogue and skits - performed the character - and produced each film in the style of a burlesque.

Four films were produced between 1993-1995. They were very successful and popular with the Virgin Music staff. Then a change in Virgin’s corporate management brought the series to an end

During this period, one of the inspirations for the character - Ozzy Osbourne - was still following his career as a rock musician.

It was not until 9 years after the first Baz film that Ozzy Osbourne and his family starred in three reality show TV series - “The Osbournes”. Ozzy also started doing TV commercials and cameo appearances on TV shows.

In a classic case of life imitating art, in many of his TV appearances Ozzy emulated guises and situations that Baz had assumed 1993-1995 - including that of culinary domestic god and exercise enthusiast!

Here’s an example of Ozzy in Baz mode – working-out: https://youtu.be/_n1YuA_AcmM?si=NjuMnACWgg8zg2n6

Despite the similarity in the content - there is no evidence that Ozzy saw the Baz films before his reality TV career!

In 2010 Ozzy and Martin Lewis teamed up on a project. Ozzy recorded a cover version of John Lennon’s song “How?” (from the “Imagine” album). Martin arranged for it to be released as a fund-raiser for Amnesty International. to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Lennon’s birth.

Lewis also commissioned and produced what has become an iconic music video for the song. As of 2024 the video has racked up over 8 million views on YouTube. https://youtu.be/awOcbVoS4yE?si=yP4Y_dBNJwveZwX0

Lewis chose respected filmmaker Ernie Fritz (director of the Bruce Springsteen documentary “Blood Brothers”) to direct the video. Fun fact: Though unrelated to his choice in 2010 - nine years earlier Lewis had engaged Fritz to direct the first of the Baz films in 1993.

The photographs below show the Baz character in 1993 - and Ozzy in reality TV mode in 2002. We also see Ozzy Osbourne and Martin Lewis together in 2010 - during the filming of their John Lennon tribute video.

1993



2002



2010

