

IN DVDS, BOOKS, TICKETS & T-SHIRTS! SEE P.23  
**FILM MUSIC CLUBS THEATRE FOOD JOBS**

# Venue

## LIFE

### CHANGES

HOW LOCAL PEOPLE ARE ESCAPING THE RAT RACE



THOSE WHO CAN TEACHING THE VENUE GUIDE

19 - 28 MARCH £1.50



PLUS  
**SHILIAN MURPHY ELLIE GOULDING**  
**FURIOUS FIVE AND KURTIS BLOW**  
**THE BRISTOL MUSIC SHOW RECIPES GALORE**

BRISTOL & BATH'S MAG No.911

### MIKE SALISBURY

From mechanic to wildlife documentarian and David Attenborough collaborator



"I started my career in the family firm, a small company that did horticultural machinery - lawnmowers, chainsaws, things like that. I went in as a mechanic and spent the next seven years there. Eventually they made me a director and I was going to these board meetings thinking, 'I know why they call them board meetings.' The thought of getting excited at a profit-and-loss account for the rest of my life - it just wasn't for me."

"I'd just got married and our first kid was on the way. I said to my wife, 'Look, my dream is to make documentary films. I'm in my late twenties, and if I don't have a job now I never will.' And with her backing, which was great considering it left us with no money, I gave up the job, the pension and the security. I was most nervous about telling my father-in-law I'd gone apoplectic at me for leaving away the family jewels, lectured me on my responsibilities with a child on the way. He backed me all the way."

"I'd had been freed from drudgery. A producer rang me and said, 'I've got one research job, and I've got one entertainment. We're starting a documentary with Michael Parkinson and I'd like you to do the research.' Though I wanted to work on a general history, I took the job on the door."

"Michael Parkinson' I started working for the science documentary. I made my way into the Unit in Bristol and worked with David Attenborough. I'd dreamed about

using my knowledge of science, but there was no room in photography and film. I'd been a mechanic for so many years, and I'd done a series in 'The Ice Bear', which was a break from the usual wildlife documentary skills and I'd been in the field. You're sick of going into something else, and the experience will come in very handy. Everything is useful."

Lydia Wildauer: ran away to join the circus



### LYDIA WILDAUER

Ran away from Austria to join the circus in Bristol

"After seven years working as a secretary and bookkeeper in an office, I started studying to be a wildlife biologist. At first I wanted to work with monkeys, but then I figured out that I really like wildlife management, and I ended up in the Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. I was catching wild boar for a project in the national park, studying the hunting of grouse, writing lots of papers. But I ended up spending a lot of time in the office, and it just wasn't giving me back enough."

"I became interested in performing when I did some clown workshops, first in Austria, and then in Cannes with [entertainer and clown] Jango Edwards. That was when I decided I wanted to go in this direction. It's great to see people laugh and enjoy themselves. Jango would say that if you're on stage and you make one person laugh, then this is enough, and it's true. It gives me so much more than sitting in an office and writing papers, though my family wasn't particularly excited, particularly my mum. She already had one shock when I left the office to become a biologist and study monkeys or something. She was really happy that I got a good job and was doing well, winning prizes and stuff, so when I said I was going to join the circus it was difficult for her. But I remember when I saw 'Slava's Snowshow', and at the end all the serious people with their ties and everything were jumping around and trying to catch balloons, like the whole place was filled with big children. They will never forget that, I think. I want to give people something like that."

"I'm now studying contemporary circus at Circomedia. My act is the Living Discoball. The character is called Monika,

a very conservative 40-year-old Austrian woman who gets picked from the audience. She's kind of an Austrian Susan Boyle. They get her to sing 'Are You Lonesome Tonight?' by Elvis Presley, and she gets very upset and can't finish it because she really is very lonely. In the second half she comes out dancing in a glittery silvery costume, thinking it's a dancing contest, but gets shot up in the air on bungees and spins around very fast. Poor Monika!

"You always have to give up stuff if you want to try new things. And if you're always afraid and go for security, you would never go anywhere. The older you are the harder it gets - I know, because I'm 40. But I believe if you do something you really want to do you will find a way to do it. People will see that you love it, and respond to that."

Lydia is... the Living Discoball!

