

GIGS

DAVID GILMOUR, GHOSTLAND

With that Pink Floyd compilation still echoing round the charts, Gilmour's profile as their guitarist and sometime writer is on the up. His part in last year's Robert Wyatt Meltdown was ecstatically received by old fans and new converts, and so he's reprising that by playing some Floyd, some Syd Barrett, a nice bit of Bizet and plenty of new material, aided by a gospel choir and special vocal guests. Support act and former Rising Stars include top sessioneers such as cellist Caroline Dale and folk singer star Cara Dillon. See Jools Holland, right. **Royal Festival Hall South Bank, SE1 (020-7960 4242).** Wed 16 & Thur 17 Jan, 8pm, £25-£45.

JOOLS HOLLAND ON DAVID GILMOUR



**Later...
presenter,
pianist and
champion of
world music**

David Gilmour (*below*) is a fantastic guitarist. He has an instantly recognisable style and sound. Of course, he is a member of Pink Floyd, one of the most popular and influential groups of all time. Pink Floyd shows are famous for being vast spectacles, but David's solo concert at the Royal Festival Hall last year during the Meltdown was completely the opposite: very stripped-down and intimate. It was pretty much an acoustic affair with cello, double bass, piano, percussion and a small gospel choir. Some people travelled from the other side of the world to hear it and they were quite surprised by how varied the set was. Gilmour played acoustic versions of Pink Floyd songs like 'Shine On You Crazy Diamond' but also shocked a lot of the hardcore Floyd heads by doing 'Je Crois Entendre Encore' from *The Pearl Fishers* by Bizet. We played some excerpts on my Radio 2 programme and they sounded great. I'm not surprised he is playing the venue again.

He has always been a versatile and very distinctive player. We did a great version of Screamin' Jay Hawkins's 'I Put A Spell On You' with Mica Paris singing and David playing a beautiful screaming blues solo over the middle of it. We first did that ten years ago for a film soundtrack but it's also included on my *Big Band Small World* CD.

I don't think Gilmour has any plans for Pink Floyd at the moment, but I think he might make a solo record similar to those stripped-down shows. *David Gilmour, Wed 16 & Thur 17 Jan, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (020-7960 4201).*

