

increased aid to the Third World. Any squabbles that Roger and the band have had in the past are so petty in this context. And if re-forming for this concert will help focus attention, then it's got to be worthwhile.'

36 HE SAID NO TO DISCO when *Wall* producer Bob Ezrin tried to make Floyd music danceable. 'Bob told me to go to a couple of clubs and listen to what's happening. So I forced myself out and listened to loud four-to-the-bar bass drums and stuff – and thought it was God-awful!'

37 IT'S NOT JUST GELDOF HE CAN'T SAY NO TO. Gilmour appeared at London's Royal Festival Hall in 2001 at the invitation of old Soft Machine chum Robert Wyatt, that year's Meltdown Festival curator. In 1973, Floyd once played *Dark Side* twice in one day as a benefit for Wyatt after he had fallen out of a window and become paralysed.

38 HE PUTS HIS HAND IN HIS POCKET. When Gilmour and Mason relaunched Pink Floyd as a live act in 1987, they found no financial institution prepared to back them. The scale of show they wanted to put out required them to dip into their savings to the reported tune of a quarter of a million pounds each to put on the tour.

39 HE DISLIKES SPONSORSHIP. Though the 1994 tour was sponsored by Volkswagen to help fund bigger and better special effects, it was something Gilmour admitted later he would not repeat. Nor did he sanction the use of *Dark Side's* *Great Gig In The Sky* for a TV advert: this was written by Rick Wright and his business alone.

40 HE DISCOVERED KATE BUSH when she was just a teenager playing the pubs, and is said to have played uncredited guitar on her 1978 debut album, *The Kick Inside*. Since then he's contributed backing vocals on *The Dreaming* ('82), played on *The Sensual World* ('89) and appeared live with Bush in 1987 at Amnesty International's *Secret Policeman's Third Ball*.

41 HE DOESN'T FORGET HIS MATES. His friendship with Dick Parry, sax-player on *Money* and other Floyd classics, goes back to playing jazz in Cambridge pubs (the pair were once arrested by French police in the mid '60s for busking without a licence). He was brought in on *Dark Side* and has since been the band's sax player of choice. Gilmour: 'It's nice to involve your friends, people you have an empathy with.'

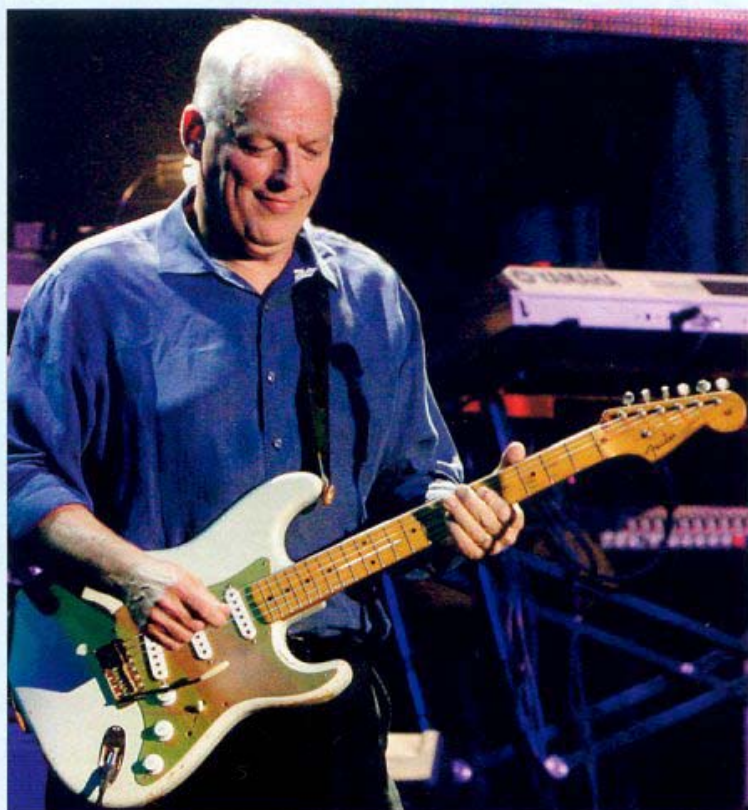


Photo: Micky Samnani

42 HE'S GOT THE COOLEST GUITAR EVER – a maple-neck, anodised-pickguard '54 Strat that carries the serial number 0001 and is rarely if ever seen in public, let alone played. Despite its serial number, it's not the first Stratocaster ever produced (Fender serial numbers being non-sequential) but is certainly from the first year of manufacture, the date June 1954 being stamped on the neck.

The instrument was originally owned by Leo Fender himself, who gave it to Seymour Duncan. Floyd guitar tech Phil Taylor acquired it in the early '70s for a reported \$900, selling it to his boss later in the decade: suffice to say he bought a house with the proceeds.

Gilmour continued this tactic by rolling drummer Willie Wilson from early band *Jokers Wild* into the *Wall* shadow band and onto his first, eponymous solo album with fellow Joker Ricky Wills (bass, later of Foreigner fame). His ultimate old pal's act came in London in 1994 when as a birthday present he allowed Douglas Adams, writer of *Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy*, up to contribute guitar to *Dark Side Of The Moon*.

43 CALL HIM DANGEROUS DAVID. Not content with flying the skies, in 1991 he took part in a Mexican sportscar road race, La Carrera Panamericana, with Nick Mason and band manager Steve O'Rourke. Gilmour managed to drive his C-type Jaguar off the road at 80mph. The guitarist got away with a few cuts and bruises, but O'Rourke sustained a broken leg.

This wasn't our man's first piece of daredevil driving. Rick Wright once

revealed that Gilmour 'drove a motorbike into a restaurant and out again, in a very straight bit of America, and most of the diners pretended it wasn't happening...'

44 HE'S A DESPOT BY DEFAULT. There have, by common consent, been three leaders of Pink Floyd: Barrett, Waters and Gilmour. However, the first two arguably abdicated the throne. Surprisingly, Rick Wright had been the man tipped to take the helm on the drug-addled Barrett's departure in 1968, but it's clear that Gilmour has ruled the roost since Waters' exit.

45 HE WANTED TO BE A BEATLE SO MUCH HE PALLED UP WITH PAUL MCCARTNEY. After playing on *Back To The Egg* album ('79) as part of the Rockestra and then contributing a trademark solo to the 1984 hit single *No More Lonely Nights*, he appeared at The Cavern with his boyhood hero to promote