

IRISH ACTRESS AND POP STAR
SAMANTHA MUMBA
INTRODUCES HER NEW NO. 1 WITH
HER HUSBAND TORRAY AT
THE COUPLE'S LOS ANGELES HOME

'Sage has completely changed my life. I'm just so in love with her - it's hard to even describe'



By the age of 17, Samantha Mumba had become a worldwide singing sensation with her breakout hit *Gotta Tell You*. By 2002, and at the age of 19, she had started acting, starring alongside Guy Pearce in the Oscar-nominated film *The Time Machine*.

After moving to Los Angeles in 2006, she had four further movies and six hit singles under her belt – but there was still one thing on her to-do list: starting a family. Happily, she can now tick that box, thanks to the arrival of her daughter Sage ten weeks ago.

"It's honestly like I'm holding her and thinking, 'I can't believe I get to keep you,'" says the Dublin-born singer, who's speaking exclusively to **HELLO!** in her home in California. "She's completely changed my life. I'm just so in love with her – it's hard to even describe."

Sage barely makes a sound as she snuggles against Samantha, oblivious to her father, Samantha's husband, US police officer Torray Scales, who's hovering close by.

"Honestly, I completely hog her," jokes Samantha. "Torray's so great – he will do anything and everything. It's more that I just like doing it."

BABY LOVE

Sage Tamanya Anne Scales was born at 6.45pm on 3 March, weighing 7lb 9oz. "Tamanya is a Zambian name meaning 'we



Samantha and her husband Torray Scales are clearly enjoying every second with their gorgeous daughter Sage (inset, above left). Wanting her arrival to be an intimate affair, the couple didn't invite visitors to the maternity unit, preferring to spend those precious first hours bonding as a family. "When we left the hospital we were so funny," recalls Samantha. "We drove home at about ten miles per hour"



Water baby: Sage enjoys some bubble time with mum Samantha. Life as a mother is a far cry from Samantha's professional life as an actress and pop star (far right, performing on BBC1's *Top of the Pops* in 2001), though she plans to return to work later this year, telling HELLO!: "I definitely want to do more acting"

want you' and Anne was my maternal grandmother's name," says Samantha. "I wanted something from both sides of my heritage for her and they're the same as my middle names."

While she looks the picture of contentment now, Samantha says that giving birth was hard. "I'm not going to lie – it was brutal," she says. "I'd go through it again ten times for Sage, of course, but it was so tough."

She was five days overdue when doctors decided to induce her. "When we found out I was being induced, Torray and I were like a couple of kids. We kept saying, 'Is this really happening?'" laughs Samantha.

"Nine months of pregnancy is the perfect time to prepare for what's coming, but I still couldn't believe it."

The labour lasted 22 hours and she was given an epidural only when in the final stretch. "Torry was incredible. He was with me the whole way, holding my hand, keeping track of everything. Then he cut the umbilical cord. I was shocked. Normally, I'd expect him to be a bit squeamish, but he was amazing."

Sage's safe arrival came as a huge relief to the couple, not least because just weeks earlier they

'Going through that labour together changed things - Torray and I are even closer now'

had been involved in a traffic accident, when a speeding truck crashed into the car behind theirs on a motorway.

"I looked in the rear-view mirror and saw this car flying through the air straight towards us," recalls Samantha, who was stationary at the back of a traffic jam at the time. "We couldn't move anywhere so they hit us. It was such a huge shock. I'd never been in a car accident before and it all happened in a second."

Terrified for their baby's wellbeing, Samantha and Torray were taken straight to hospital by ambulance.

"Thank goodness Sage was okay. I'd been wearing my seatbelt under my tummy, the way you're supposed to when you're pregnant, which helped. I did look a mess for a while, though – I had a big scab on my

forehead where I'd hit the steering wheel," says Samantha, adding that Torray suffered whiplash.

Amazingly, the family in the car that was initially struck was largely unhurt. "They had a four-year-old daughter and her toys had flown all over the road," says Samantha. "It's so lucky they're okay."

AMERICAN DREAM

Samantha and Torray met in a club in Hollywood in 2007 and celebrated their third wedding anniversary in February. "I liked him straight away," recalls Samantha. "His friends recognised me, but he didn't. He knew I was Irish so he took me out for huge pitchers of beer on our first date. I don't think he'd ever drunk so much in his life. The only problem was, by the end of the night, he was a hot mess and I was still fine. It was hilarious."

Samantha describes Torray as her best friend. "We have the same weird, twisted sense of humour. We just have fun together," she says. "But going through that labour together really changed things – we're even closer now."

Torray also has a son, Masen, 11, who lives with the couple and has, says Samantha, adjusted well to his new little sister. "Masen's really good with her and he's so helpful to me," she says. "He'll come



home from school and help me. I'll say, 'Can you hold her for a minute? I just have to run to the bathroom. I haven't been in four hours!'

"He's such a good kid and it's so important to us that he spends time with Sage. We're a blended family and it has to be comfortable for everybody."

Family ties also saw Samantha's mother Barbara fly to Los Angeles from Dublin four days after Sage's birth.

"Having her here for the first three weeks was amazing," says Samantha. "She taught me lots of little things and if I was panicking, it was great to have that extra wisdom."

Barbara also encouraged Samantha with the advice that, as Sage's mother, she knows best – words of wisdom that were "just priceless to me".

Sage will be seeing a lot more of her grandmother over the next few years. In July, after nearly a decade in the US, Samantha will return to Dublin and she hopes to split her time between her home town and London.

"I've got some work opportunities and it feels right to be near my family," she says. "I love being creative. I'm 32 and this is all I know."

"I've been doing it since I was 15. I love any outlet where I get to be creative, so I definitely

want to do more acting. I'm looking forward to it."

Initially, Torray will remain in the US, where he'll be finishing his master's degree in criminal justice, and the family will shuttle back and forth.

"I reckon it'll be four years or so, until Sage is old enough to be in school," says Samantha of the transatlantic lifestyle to come. "My mum keeps joking that Sage will have a really funny accent."

Despite enjoying a wonderful life in sunny Los Angeles, Samantha is excited about moving back to her roots.

"People just get me at home. In the States I feel like sometimes people look at me and think, 'What is wrong with her? What's she talking about?' But it's great here, too. When Sage is older I can take her to Disneyland and the beach, and that's amazing, so we'll be back."

"Sage is the first baby in my immediate family, so this is a really big deal to everyone. They're already fighting over who gets to babysit."

INTERVIEW: ANTONIA BLYTH
PHOTOS: JONAS MOHR

STYLING: JOEY THAO AT ONE REPRESENTS
HAIR: ROBERT STEINKEN FOR CLOUTIER REMIX
MAKE-UP: KIRA NASRAT AT ONE REPRESENTS



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