

# DIAMOND REVEALS ALL IN BOOK ON STAR-STUDDED CULT TV SHOW

## Robbie really loved being a

## ...he still shows off his joystick



SHOWTIME... programme was huge hit

By **STUART CULLEN**  
Games Correspondent

**GAMESMASTER** legend Dominik Diamond is lifting the lid on the cult show – and reveals Robbie Williams insists the Golden Joystick trophy he won on the programme is the best award he’s ever received.

Dominik is writing a book on the telly hit after a Kickstarter fund smashed the £45,000 target in just over 24 hours.

And pop icon Robbie – who has notched up a record 18 Brit Awards in his 31-year music career – has already played a major role.

Dominik, 51, says: “Robbie Williams was kind enough to write the foreword for the book.

“We were very honoured as he was a great guy from the show. When Take That were on in the early 90s, they were professional and nice, but Robbie **WANTED** to win! He would’ve killed Jason Orange for that Golden Joystick.

“No spoilers for the book, but Robbie’s foreword actually goes on at length about how much the Golden Joystick meant to him, compared to the countless MTV awards.

“I can reveal that Robbie genuinely has had the Golden Joystick on display in every house he has ever lived in – and, trust me, and that boy’s had a few houses!”

### ‘Me, Robbie and Noel at T In The Park after-party’

Dominik – who is from Arbroath but emigrated to Calgary in Canada with his family in 2009 – will celebrate the show’s 30th anniversary next year with his tome GamesMaster: The Oral History.

It ran from 1992 to 1998 on Channel 4 and saw guest stars from Eric Burdon and David Coulthard to Samantha Fox and Jo Guest bid to win the coveted Golden Joystick.

Dominik says: “I always knew the show was still something that people would remember fondly because there is barely a week that goes by when someone doesn’t get in touch asking about it.

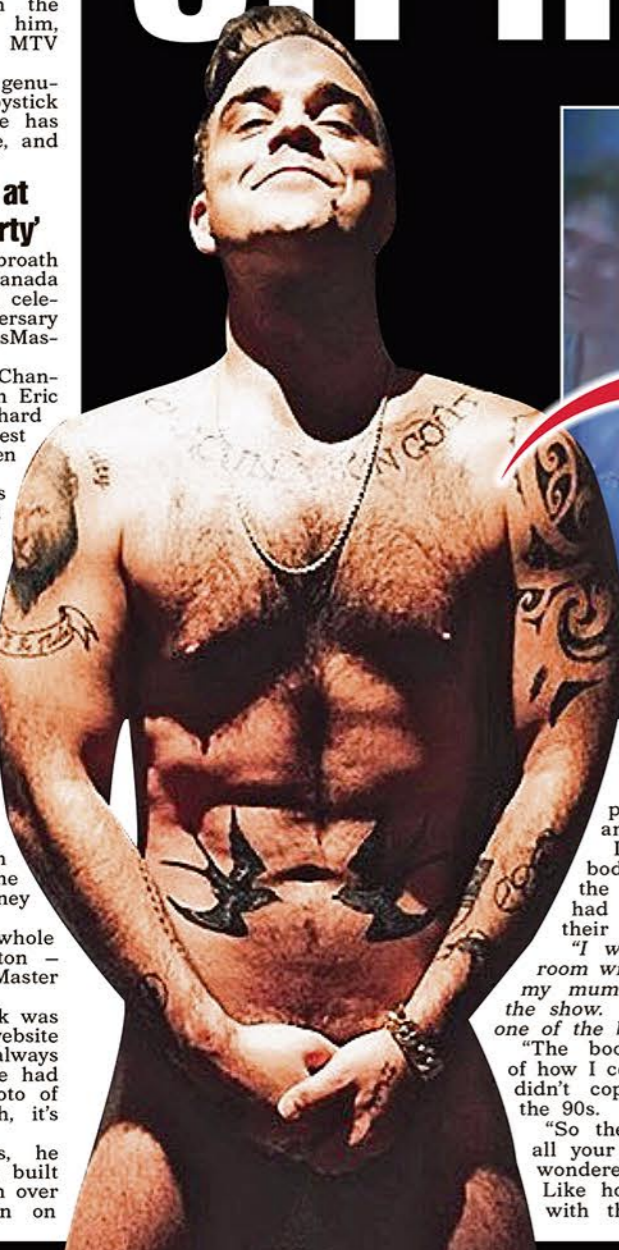
“But to write a book about it – and which is one of the fastest-funded in Kickstarter history – was something we really had no idea would happen or that the success would be that instant.

“To fully fund it in just four minutes over a day was just beyond our expectations.” The cash may have been quick, but the evolution of the book has been a long journey after a superfan suggested it.

Dominik explains: “The whole idea was from Jack Templeton – who was the original GamesMaster stalker.

“When we did the show Jack was the first person to run a website for GamesMaster, so he was always in touch with us asking if we had a screenshot of this or a photo of that. And we were like, ‘Oh, it’s Jack again.’

“Bizarrely, over the years, he didn’t give up and we slowly built a friendship. I’ve kept in touch over the years and he was keen on



NAKED AMBITION... pop legend Robbie won a coveted Golden Joystick



marking the 30th anniversary.” The finished book promises high-jinks and revelations. Dominik says: “Everybody had a story. It was the best fun they’d ever had working in TV in their lives.”

“I was literally sharing a room with my little brother in my mum’s house when I got the show. Then, BAM! – it was one of the biggest shows on telly.” The book is also the story of how I coped, or in most cases didn’t cope, with the rest of the 90s.

“So the book’s all that and all your questions you’ve ever wondered about the show. Like how did they come up with the graphics? Or how

did Patrick Moore become GamesMaster? “There are stories I’ve told about my life, but what’s great is there are so many things in this book that are other people’s stories that I was part of.”

“Having reheard people’s memories, it turns out I enjoyed the 90s twice as much as I thought I did.” The star quit the media spotlight to become a **FARMER** in a bid to see more of his wife Phoebe and their three kids Molly 22, Charlie 16 and 15-year-old Honor 15.

Now he hopes writing the book is a new chapter. He says: “I’ve had two parts to my career – the first being TV and radio in the UK. “You have to work really hard and I missed out on a lot of my kids’ lives. I

am lucky I have an amazing wife who was able to be a full-time mum but I really missed out. “That’s was half the reason we moved to Canada. I was going to retire. We had a wee farm in Nova Scotia and I was going to make up for the time I’d missed.”

“But, unfortunately, we ran out of money so I had to start from the bottom in radio as a complete unknown. Luckily, I got to climb to the top but again it’s hard work.” GamesMaster attracted a who’s who of celebs and offered Dominik the chance to meet some of his heroes.

He said: “What I loved was that people came on the show and, as a result, I ended up hanging out with them – sometimes in the most random situations. “Jimmy White came on. I loved snooker and he was a big hero. Then fast forward a couple of years and I’m in Tenby, West Wales, opening up some arcade on a holiday camp and I go into the hotel bar and this Cockney voice says, ‘GamesMaster!’



FAME GAME... GamesMaster made Dominik a household name



### NAUGHTY ZOE IS PUN TO BEAT

**DOMINIK** admits one of the biggest laughs on GamesMaster was trying to ram as many double entendres in as they could – and the smuttier the better. The “game” led to countless complaints from parents, but Diamond admitted they had a special defence.

He said: “The show that was meant to be the last ever was at the end of series six. We actually had an offence-meter on-screen. “But what’s great about double entendre is that your ultimate defence is ‘No, that’s not what it means and if you think it’s something dirty, that’s your problem.’ We used that when all the parents wrote in about them.”

However, Zoe Ball, left, beat them at their own game with her dirty retorts. Dominik said: “To have her on GamesMaster in those iconic leather trousers as the quintessential 90s Zoe Ball ladette and up for innuendos was something. Every time we had a female guest on, I would ask if they minded if I pushed it a little bit. Zoe was like you ‘Do your best, sunshine, and try to keep up



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