

In the closet with

Midge Ure

The legendary Ultravox musician still rocks a cool look – just like in his Vienna days

Words and styling by Tricia Welch

Midge's career as a singer/songwriter spans over three decades as a member of Slik, Thin Lizzy, Rich Kids, Visage and Ultravox. Also co-creator of Band Aid, Live Aid and Live 8, the multi-award-winning, platinum-selling artist is currently on his nationwide Breathe Again tour and will be part of the 80's Invasion tour in 2016. Born near Glasgow, Midge, 61, lives near Bath, has four daughters and is married to Sheridan Forbes.

How would you describe your style?

That's hard because it's not something I'm conscious of, but it's definitely not about fashion. In Ultravox, I wore 40s clothes from Oxfam, but we were using hi-tech equipment so it was futuristic and retro at the same time.

What is the style legacy of the Blitz club you helped instigate in the 80s?

Blitz was all about people raiding their grandmothers' closets and turning up in weird combinations of retro clothing with really modern make-up and hair. It was a massive UK movement involving fashion, photography and image, and was individual style at its best. It inspired the creation of high-street fashion that we see today.

Is your style much the same now as it was back then? Yes, it's always had that timeless but slightly retro feel. The great thing about being a musician is that no one dictates what you wear. If I wanted to dress like a cowboy, no one would question it.

Which colours suit you best? From Johnny Cash to The Beatles, there's something about musicians and dark colours that works. But I like to inject a splash of colour with an accessory and I lighten up a little in the summer.

What do you think of men's fashion today? Not much. The trend is for short jackets and shirts with tiny, flyaway collars, both of which I hate. I even find it hard finding jeans I like.

Where do you shop for clothes? I hate shopping, but I know what I like and can find it in Adam Shener's shop Adam of London on Portobello Road.

Do you own anything made to measure? Before I was successful and still living in Glasgow, I had a bright red jacket with a stand-up

Midge wears a leather biker jacket that was a vintage find from Byres Road in Glasgow. His fringed scarf is from Tootal and his straight-leg jeans are from Next

collar made, just like the one James Dean wore in *Rebel Without A Cause*. **Who is your style icon?** Fred Astaire. He had immense style right down to his high-waisted trousers held up by a tie, not a belt.

"I wore a bright red jumper with batwing sleeves on The Tube – what was I thinking?"

