

Video: Madness frontman Suggs talks at Snowbombing 2008

By Beth Hardie, Mirror.co.uk 11/04/2008

Kicking off the 2008 festival season in inimitable style was Snowbombing 2008 in Mayrhofen, Austria and courtesy of Xbox, Mirror.co.uk went along to risk life, limb and sanity.

Combining snowboarding (or skiing for those born pre-1980) and seven days of musical mayhem was a genius conception and one which remains pretty-much underground but contagiously crazy.

Your stereotypical snowboarder attends, complete with luminous wigs, fancy dress - worn on and off piste - and a scarily hedonistic attitude.

Days are spent hurling yourself down the slopes like a rag doll and nights are spent throwing drinks down your throat while sweating to the sounds of the hippest new bands and DJs.

Amongst the youth and a forest clearing on the Friday night came festival stalwarts The Cuban Brothers and Madness - oh so apt for Alpine insanity.

We managed to pin-down a playful Suggs in a log cabin, post-gig, to hear about his penchant for 180s, his affliction of disco-legs and details of a one-off 02 gig.

Click player to see the interview.

Continues below...



Madness frontman Suggs
pic: Rex

During non-boarding daylight hours bands amused themselves in a singing-in-front-of-the-mirror style with Xbox 360's latest game, Rock Band.

Thanks to their new direction in music and film downloading, Xbox 360 or Xbox as they were branded for the week, were the event's music partners and chose the festival to showcase Rock Band, which basically allows the user to play their favourite rock anthems with friends and a virtual band using drums, lead/bass guitar and a lead singer.

Cue hours of entertainment with real rock bands playing Rock Band like their contracts depended on it and they were in front of an audience at Wembley in the guise of their childhood heroes.

Saturday saw the culmination of this particular pastime with a purpose-built stage a-top the mountain and the irresistible call of a Rock Band competition. The Dirty Shit'y Thongs were eventual winners and walked away with the coveted Xbox prize but not before a worthy challenge from Matt Horne of Gavin and Stacy fame.

You couldn't make it up.

Add a thumping street party, Arctic Disco held in an igloo high on top of a mountain, a million shot-size bottles of Jagermeister and a few memory blanks to the intoxicating concoction and you have been Snowbombed.

Picture gallery below... Coming next week... Snowbombing video interviews with Mike Keat of The Cuban Brothers and The Metros.



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