



# GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE

*From pop star to reality telly favourite, we snuggle up with **George Shelley** for the low-down on love, leap years and being a Leo*

Before heading Down Under for a stint in the jungle, George Shelley was best known as a member of boy band Union J, which were put together on *The X Factor* in 2012. But since the 22 year old's Australian adventure on *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!*, he has won the nation's hearts with both his on-screen sobbing and his flirting with *TOWIE* star Ferne McCann. Time to find out more...

## WHAT DID YOU FIND THE HARDEST WHEN YOU WERE IN THE JUNGLE?

The hardest thing was only living off 600 calories a day. In the first four days, I withdrew from sugar and caffeine, so I was having headaches and tummy rumbles. It was a massive shock to the system.

## WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHANGE YOU NOTICED IN YOURSELF?

I got so emotional and the hunger pangs were insane. It did improve my confidence though. I struggled socialising with people I didn't know before the show, but when you're thrown into a situation where you have to get on and talk to people, it really helps. There was no hiding place and you had to be yourself.

## YOU'RE QUITE A TECHIE. DID YOU MISS ALL OF THAT IN THE CAMP?

I thought I would miss my mobile phone a lot more than I did. I missed my car or rather the ability to get out of the space we were in and just go somewhere else. I missed having a watch as well. I made a camp sundial so I could keep track of the time.

## AT HOME, WHAT'S THE ONE DEVICE YOU USE THE MOST?

My TV. It has everything, like my social media apps. When I'm at home, I switch off from my phone and just watch the telly. I'd love to be on a TV show like *The Walking Dead* or *American Horror Story*.

## HAS *I'M A CELEB* MADE YOU WANT TO DO MORE ADVENTUROUS THINGS?

I'm a massively outdoorsy person anyway, so I want to go on that Bear Grylls show where he takes celebs away with him. I'd love to do that or I'd like to see the Seven Wonders Of The World, but I don't know if I have the time as I'm busy with Union J. We're working on our third album and touring Asia.

## 'FERNE AND I HAD BANTER, WE ARGUED... IT'S FIERY, BUT SEXY!'

## WAS ALL THE INTEREST IN YOU AND FERNE HARD TO DEAL WITH?

Not really. I get why people were interested. I think everybody liked seeing us be happy together. We're not saying we're a couple. It's not a 'showmance'. We are so close, love each other's company and have similar aspirations. We're going to have a fruitful relationship, regardless of whether we work together or if we're boyfriend and girlfriend.

## WHY DO YOU THINK YOU HIT IT OFF?

We are both Leos, so it was a very fiery relationship. We had banter, we argued, we made friends again... it's fiery, but sexy! We don't want to rush into anything and being in the jungle together made it really intense.

## WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL VALENTINE'S DAY?

I think it would be to go to a beach in Cornwall and have a lovely picnic under the stars. Or I'd love to go backpacking in Costa Rica. Me and Ferne have talked about going to India too, so that will be one of the Seven Wonders crossed off my list.

## ARE YOU A ROMANTIC?

I am, but I get a bit awkward when it comes to doing romantic stuff. I like my girlfriends to be my best mates and if it gets too soppy, then, for me, it gets a bit eww. I prefer sexy to romantic.

## DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO DRESS UP FOR A DATE?

Yes, I do. You should always look good anyway because it gives

you confidence and if you feel confident, then you feel good too.

## WHAT'S THE BEST OUTFIT TO WEAR FOR A CINEMA DATE NIGHT?

Something comfortable, like a onesie. I love going to the cinema in the day wearing my PJs or a onesie and cuddling up!

## AND, IF YOU'RE GOING OUT FOR DINNER?

Something classy because we'd be going somewhere nice. I'd wear a shirt, skinny jeans, boots and maybe a blazer. For the girl, I think a nice dress, maybe with her legs out. I'm a bit of a legs and bum man! If we're going clubbing afterwards, then she needs her shoes to be comfy, so we can dance and have fun and she won't moan about her feet hurting!

## WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP FOR CLOTHES?

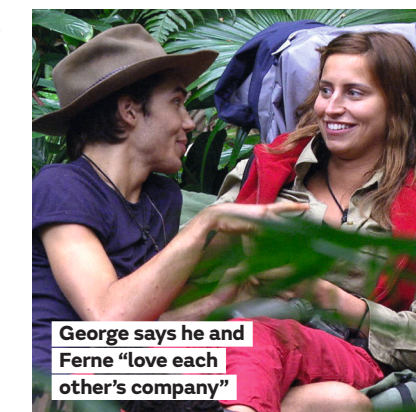
I hate shopping, but I love clothes from All Saints and The Kooples. Topman is good too.

## IT'S A LEAP YEAR THIS YEAR... HAS ANYBODY EVER PROPOSED TO YOU?

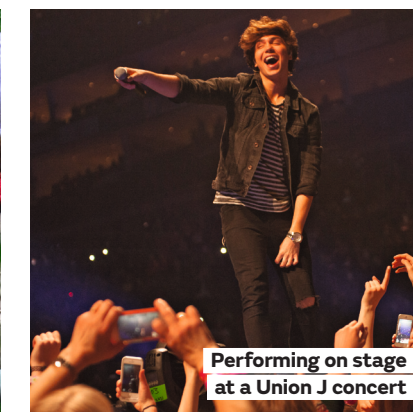
I did have a mum of a fan who asked me if I would marry her daughter and get her pregnant... Seriously! I said no!

## PHEW! WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR EXTRA DAY OF THE YEAR?

I will be celebrating my auntie's birthday, actually, because it only comes around once every four years!



George says he and Ferne "love each other's company"



Performing on stage at a Union J concert

PHOTOS: ITV/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK, PHOTOSHOT