

» In Person with Farryl Purkiss

The singer-songwriter talks about heaven on earth, Natalie Portman and learning to play

Age 26. Born in Umhlanga, Durban.

Based in Cape Town, but "I don't stay anywhere for more than three weeks."

You were voted one of SA's sexiest men this year. "It's not like I entered it or anything. They call you and say you've been selected and there's nothing you can do about it. I think I was the smallest guy there!" **Your dream date?** "Natalie Portman. I'd marry her without ever meeting her."

Worst job? "I worked at a butchery when I finished school. I wasn't the guy that cut up the meat; I was the skivvy. I ate a lot of biltong, drank coffee and made *boerewors*." **You must love a braai then?** "Heaven on earth? Sitting on a balcony in Camps Bay having a beer and a braai, watching the sunset."

Where did your music career start? "My first-ever gig I opened for a band called Perez, who were at the height of their fame. Just before I went on, literally just before, I was sick." [Since then Purkiss has gigged with Ben Lee, Missy Higgins, co-written a track with Jack Johnson and his single, "Better Days," is in the Australian charts.]

How did you learn to play guitar? "My neighbour's brother played but never wanted to teach us, so we'd sit outside his window and watch his fingers. We couldn't hear but we could see his hands, and we'd mark the strings on a piece of paper and go and copy it. If it made a cool sound, we thought it must be a chord!" **Next up:** A tour promoting his debut album, *Chapter One*, including London, US, Canada and Japan. Visit www.farrylpurkiss.com.

Most of the songs were written for myself, and now people are entertained by me pouring my heart out on stage. It's quite an odd concept.

