

**Deloitte.**The Cambridge Union Society
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Cambridge, CB2 1UBEmail : pressofficer@cus.org**PRESS RELEASE – 03/03/2015 13.03.2015****Bonnie Tyler**

On Tuesday 3rd March, the Cambridge Union Society welcomed the Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler, most famous for her success in the 1980s with the two hit singles "Total Eclipse of the Heart" and "Holding Out for a Hero". The Speakers Officer James Hutt conducted a Q&A before opening up the floor to student questions.

Tyler was asked about her experience at Eurovision; she performed for the UK in 2013 with her song "Believe in Me", placing 19th out of the total 28 countries. She described it as a "great experience" but admitted that she thinks that the competition is "very political" in terms of countries block-voting for each other. "Unless they change the voting system, I think we have no chance at all," she commented, describing this as a "great shame".

She also spoke about her achievement of being the first female artist with an album to debut at #1 the UK album charts, "Faster Than the Speed of Light", which knocked Pink Floyd's "The Wall" off the top spot. James asked about the recent controversy over the Reading and Leeds festivals, which have come under fire for featuring only one female act across their headliners for the weekend. Bonnie said her own experience of playing at the festival was less than ideal, with her band trying to leave the stage after the audience began throwing bottles at them; Tyler candidly reported that she yelled "stay here, they're not that good a shot" at her band to try and stop them from leaving. She said, however, that she hadn't found that being a woman had impacted on her career opportunities.

One student asked about her iconic video for her hit single "Total Eclipse of the Heart"; Tyler replied that it was storyboarded by Jim Steinman and was a "huge production", with filming lasting two days and a total cost of around million pounds. "Total Eclipse of the Heart" was later nominated for Grammys for Best Song and Best Video.

She was also asked if she had seen any of the parody videos for "Total Eclipse of the Heart", saying that her favourite is the Lego version of the video.

Another member asked what her greatest struggle was in her career; Tyler recounted the story of how she recorded the iconic single "Simply the Best" two years before Tina Turner, but had little success with the song. She said hearing Turner's international number one on the radio was difficult, saying it was "a little bit depressing" but said that everything happened for a reason, citing the redecoration of her house as a healing process.

Tyler said that her favourite collaborative artist was Jim Steinman, and also said she had enjoyed working with Frankie Miller. The latter is now disabled, with Tyler currently working on an album as a tribute with other artists, covering his songs with all of the proceeds going to help his treatment.

She also revealed that she turned down a Bond theme, turning down the opportunity when she disliked the song; she reflected that this was a good thing in that the song, "Never Say Never", was one of the few Bond themes not to be a commercial success. Tyler admitted that she would love the chance to do a Bond theme if she liked the song enough.

Another student asked about how the music industry had changed during her extensive career; Bonnie said that the prominence of live shows and festivals has been a new development as opposed to the traditional measure of album sales.

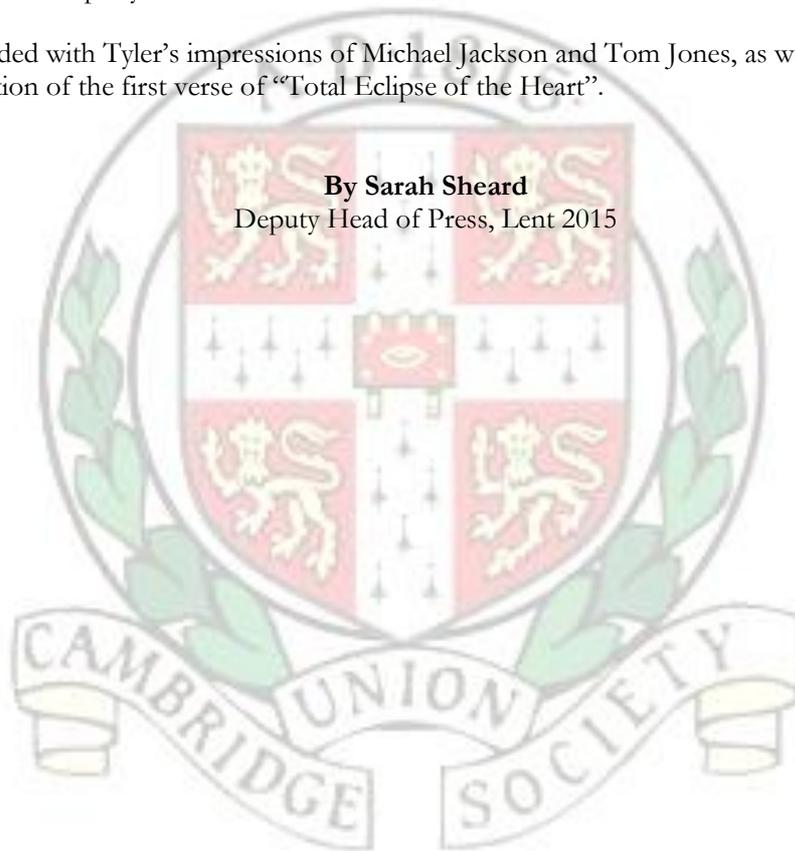
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“Germany has always been very loyal to me,” she said when asked her favourite place to perform, but said she also loved playing in New York and recently played at the O2 in the London. Her tour is travelling extensively around Spain, Switzerland and Sri Lanka, well into September of this year.

When asked what makes a hit record, Tyler simply replied “you’ve got to have that feeling”, revealing that she began crying the first time she heard “Total Eclipse of the Heart” and had “tingles” down her neck. Tyler described the most memorable moment of her career as performing at the Grammys in Los Angeles, saying it was simultaneously “terrifying” to sing live, walking down stairs in high heels. She reminisced about the rows full of “megastars” such as Diana Ross, Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson, but said that she “very much enjoyed” the after-party.

The event concluded with Tyler’s impressions of Michael Jackson and Tom Jones, as well as an impromptu, albeit brief, rendition of the first verse of “Total Eclipse of the Heart”.

By Sarah Sheard
Deputy Head of Press, Lent 2015

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