

## **From MasterChef to mosh pit: Loyd Grossman turns punk rocker**

By Caroline Grant

As he sweats and jumps around the stage, he looks like a typical ageing rocker.

You may not recognise this famous 58-year-old punk thrashing out riffs on his guitar, but in reality he's known by millions and was a regular fixture on television in the late 90s.

It seems that TV foodie and sauce-maker extraordinaire, Loyd Grossman, has spiced up his image, ditching the impeccable suit and smart glasses so familiar from his time hosting MasterChef and Through the Keyhole.

Now the man with the distinctive transatlantic accent parades around on stage wearing a leather jacket, grubby jeans and the ultimate in rock and roll chic - loafers with no socks.

Grossman was famed for his unusual accent and elongated vowels, but now the father of two serves up tunes with his band across the country.

The OBE-holder has leant his name to a number of different pasta and curry sauces and is thought to have amassed huge wealth through his brand.

However, his image is far removed from that of a wealthy businessman.

Bizarrely enough this current line-up is a new incarnation of Grossman's previous group, Jet Bronx and the Forbidden who got together in 1975.

They even had a minor hit back in December 1977 and reached number 49 in the UK singles chart with Ain't Doin' Nothing.

But the New Forbidden have already penned plenty of tunes including Let's Play Lovers, Nothing Really Matters, Invisible Dream, Rock n Roll Romance, Chelsea and Ramona.

The rather unusual outfit features Grossman on guitar, Valentine Guinness on vocals, James Baring on bass, Charlie Wright on drums and Lou Slater on backing vocals.

The band is even putting out their first album for download in June, after performing dates across the UK. And those desperate to hear the five-piece in action can catch them on Saturday night live in Swindon, with a gig to follow next month in London.