

# BILLY BRAGG

"I Hate Being In The Charts!"

**BILLY BRAGG** is the chap who's currently storming the charts with the oo-erly titled 'Sexuality'. But who the blustering thunder is he?!

## HE WAS A PUNK!

Billy Bragg was born in Barking on December 20, 1957 (ie, he's nearly 34!). Having left school, and after four years' worth of dead-end jobs, he decided to become a popstar, called himself, ahem, 'Billy Bonkers' and formed a punk band called Riff-Raff!

## HE WAS A SOLDIER (sort of)!

When Riff-Raff split, Bilbo signed up to the British Army, but hated it so much that he bought himself out of the tank division after a mere 90 days!

## HE'S HAD A NUMBER ONE SONG!

Braggsville recorded a cover version of The Beatles' tunelet 'She's Leaving Home', which was the double A-side of Wet Wet Wet's Number One 'A Little Help From My Friends', the 1988 Childline charity single.

## HE HATES BEING IN THE CHARTS!

"I don't write songs to get into the Top 40, I articulate something that I want to say. (Mr Bragg is rather well known for his strong social and political beliefs.)

● Having said that, I do quite like some of the stuff in the charts at the moment like R.E.M.'s 'Shiny Happy People' and The KLF, cos they've got attitude."

## HE'S KIRSTY MacCOLL'S MATE!

● "I've worked with her loads and I think she's got one of the best voices in British pop. I went out with her to see a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Royal Festival Hall last week. That was nice, and she gave me a lift home afterwards!"

## HE'S A BIG FOOTIE FAN!

● Billy is a keen West Ham United football supporter. While filming the video for 'Sexuality' he was kicking a football around the film studio and accidentally hit one of his video girlies on the head. That bit was cut out from the final vid!

## HE'S HAD ODD HAIRCUTS!

● "In the '70s my idols were David Bowie, Elton John and Rod Stewart. I was so into David Bowie that I took the record sleeve of his LP 'Aladdin Sane' to the barber's and got the hairdresser to copy his hairstyle on me! It could have been worse — I could have been into Kevin Keegan!" (Football player with rather fine permed hairdo!)