



TARGET: Poor Suzi got bumped off when she appeared in telly detective series *Midsomer Murders*

ROCK WON'T STOP AS STAR HITS 70

Quatro's fired up



COMPETITION

WE have 10 CD copies of Suzi's latest album *No Control* to give away. For a chance to win, just answer this question:

Suzi had a UK No1 in 1974 with: (a) Devil Gate Street, (b) Devil Gate Drive (c) Devil Gate Boulevard?

Email your answer, plus your name, address and mobile number, to Star.Letters@dailystar.co.uk

The competition closes at midnight on Monday, December 16. Normal Daily Star rules apply and the Editor's decision is final.

THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW

POP LEGEND TELLS OF MURDER BIDS SUZI QUATRO



ROCK legend Suzi Quatro is telling me about the time someone bumped her off.

The second time, that is. Apparently, it had happened once before.

"It was in a *Midsomer Murders* episode," she explains, recalling one of her occasional forays into TV drama.

"I played a drugged-out, hippyish singer who got electrocuted.

"It was good. I enjoyed it. But I must admit, it was weird watching myself being carried off.

"I'd also been killed some years before that, in an episode of *Dempsey and Makepeace*.

"So, I don't know, maybe they're trying to tell me something!"

If they are, then Detroit-born Suzi, whose string of early-70s UK hits included *Devil Gate Drive*, *Can The Can* and *48 Crash*, clearly hasn't been listening.

Next summer she turns 70, but she's busier now than in the past four decades. Not playing victims in ITV murder mysteries, but doing the thing she still gets the biggest kick from - performing sweat-drenched two-hour gigs to packed houses the world over.

"I've had virtually no days off this year," she tells me. "I haven't stopped. I've done an arena tour in the UK. I've done two tours of Australia. I've done Germany, Scandinavia, Canada.

"I've been promoting my new album, *No Control*.

"And now there's the documentary about my life, *Suzi Q*. That's gone ballistic."

Mind you, it's pretty clear this frantic lifestyle suits her. She adds: "I must admit that on my last free day I didn't know what to do with myself."

Suzi has got a proudly old-

school approach to her job. "I love entertaining," she tells me. "I love it with every fibre of my being.

"In an audience of 10,000 people, if there's one person who's not smiling, I'll find them. I have an instinct for it.

"My father used to play in bands, and when I was just starting out I remember him saying two particular things to me.

"One of them was: 'What you're doing is a profession.'

"The other was: 'Whether there's 10 people or 10,000 in that audience, every single one of them has taken a dollar out of their pocket and paid to see you. So you'd better deliver.'

The Suzi we see on stage, in the trademark leather jumpsuit, wielding "a bass guitar that weighs more than me" isn't, she insists, just a character she plays. It's very much her.

"It's just the public part of me that I show," she explains. "I don't want to carry the ego of my performance into my life.

"It's always been a big thing for me, keeping my feet on the ground.

"I hope you can tell that just by talking to me."

She's right, I can. Which may explain why we end up talking *Scrabble*, Yep, as in the board game.

The off-duty, down-to-earth Suzi - the Suzi who'll gladly welcome you into her Essex home but insists you remove your shoes to spare her beige carpets - is a huge fan.

When she proudly tells me about the time when "I made Equinox - that was huge!" she's not answering some nerdy question about a concept album but revealing the highest-scoring word she's ever put down.

"It was all seven letters - and on the triple word score I thought: 'I'll never do this again for as long as I live.'"

But the day when Suzi Quatro gets to play board games to her heart's content, hanging up the leather gear and easing herself into retirement, is clearly some way off.

The gigging continues. Likewise, the recording.

She has just made a new album with Scottish singer KT Tunstall. On top of which, she's in great shape.

I know it's a corny old question to end with, but what the hell is Suzi Quatro's secret?

"My secret, Mike, is I don't give a s**t that I'm 69!" she cries. "Just accept it and enjoy it."



I love it with every fibre of my being

ACE OF BASS: Classic Suzi performance. Left, she's busier now than ever

- FILM:** *Damage*
- BOOK:** *Atlas Shrugged*, by Ayn Rand
- TV SHOW:** *I Love Lucy*
- ACTOR:** Daniel Day-Lewis
- COMEDIAN:** Don Rickles
- SPORTSPERSON:** Joe Bugner
- SPORTS TEAM:** Liverpool FC
- SPORTING EVENT:** FIFA World Cup
- SONG:** *When I Fall In Love*
- CHRISTMAS SONG:** *Silent Night*
- SINGER:** Elvis Presley
- BAND:** The Beatles
- FOOD:** Italian
- COLOURS:** Black and blue

SUZI'S TOP FAVOURITES

- DRINK:** Good red wine. Chateau Margaux 1982
- CITY:** New York
- HOLIDAY DESTINATION:** Hawaii
- BUILDING:** Empire State Building
- SCHOOL SUBJECT:** English Literature
- FIGURE FROM HISTORY:** Jesus
- ANIMAL:** Dog



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