



# Mark Mehigan

WHILE HE remains unknown to a large swathe of the country, the multi-talented Mark Mehigan has his fingers in all sorts of pies. He's an 'agony uncle' on *Image.ie*, where his biography describes a "comedian and podcaster, author, Instagram matchmaker, aspiring Cilla Black, dating series host and dating columnist". Recently, however, he has been attracting attention courtesy of a relationship with RTE's golden girl, Doireann Garrihy, and so, inevitably, Mark now has a book out.

Mehigan's engagement to Garrihy has given the 34-year-old posh boy from Foxrock a big upgrade in the public profile stakes among a certain coterie, which is something that had eluded him – but not for the want of trying.

The loud and lairy Jack of all trades has started to feature more prominently online and in the mainstream media thanks to the publication last month by Gill Books of *This Is Not a Self Help Book... But It Might Just Help You*. Falling into the increasingly popular (for publishers anyway) recovery genre, it deals with Mehigan's alcoholism, drug use, panic attacks and eventual sobriety. The former St Michael's College alumnus has already had whirls to promote it on Brendan O'Connor's RTE Radio 1 show and in the *Irish Times*.

Curiously, Goldhawk can't unearth any reviews of the book but it is safe to say that the, er, work, is probably best suited to devoted fans of Mehigan. Over the 300 pages, he treats readers to the minutiae of his rise to mediocrity, tales of drink- and drug-fuelled high jinks, and his ultimate decision to become sober in October 2021.

The book is written in the same frantic and frenzied tone with which listeners to his podcast will be familiar. A tolerance for self-absorption is strongly recommended for would-be readers.

One familiar name flying the flag for the book is, of course, Garrihy, who began dating Mehigan in November 2022. Given that the book is centred around his personal story and he has a pretty modest 57,000 Instagram followers (compared to Doireann's 326,000), Gill Books must have been thrilled with Garrihy's support.

Indeed, the 2FM and *Dancing With The Stars (DWTS)* presenter was chosen to interview Mehigan for Eason's "in conversation" event at The Sugar Club last month, with the admission fee set at €30 a head. It was win-win all around, as Eason and Gill got Garrihy's star wattage and there was little danger of her asking awkward questions.

Mehigan is now a staple feature of Garrihy's social media and he turns up regularly on her podcast, *Doireann and Friends*. Her unbridled adoration for "bae" and the stream of inside jokes between them can, unsurprisingly, be hard to stomach.

The couple met because Mehigan's cousin, Jon Jon Mehigan, was producing Garrihy's breakfast show on 2FM and she attended one of his comedy gigs. They are now engaged and Mark has moved into his fiancée's house in the Dublin suburb of Castleknock.

Meanwhile, the future Mrs Mehigan's promotion of her "bae" on social media continues to give him quite the leg-up towards achieving the fame he has clearly long coveted. (When Mehigan was interviewed by former 2FM pre-

senter Louise McSharry for her podcast, she opened by informing listeners that it hadn't "gone down well" when she told Mehigan she wasn't familiar with him until he started going out with Garrihy.)

Mark initially fancied himself as a musician and, aged 18, moved to Brighton to do a songwriting course but dropped out after a year. Having been briefly involved in an internet channel called Balcony TV, Mark returned to Ireland. Through connections in the music scene here, Mehigan was invited to set up a Saturday club night by the co-owner of Andrew's Lane Theatre, Anthony Remedy.



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In 2012 he was involved in a business called Brooklyn Zoo, which threw hip-hop parties and appeared to be quite successful for a time. (The business filings were made by the legal firm Pearse Mehigan & Co.) Mark apparently made "crazy money", which was splurged on boozing and five-star hotels.

He admitted to arriving at the airport drunk on a couple of occasions and jetting off with a pal to the first place available and he told the *IT* that he had "thousands of euro" stashed under the bed at that point.

Mehigan met former Westlife star Mark Feehily backstage at the Oxegen festival and "badgered" him with songs and demos, which paid off when Feehily flew him, then aged 22, to New York to write music for a solo album.

After that promising start, Mehigan looked to push ahead with his own solo career, which stalled when the release of an EP with a Scottish label called Numbers never materialised.

He then switched hats to pursue a comedy

career, having been recording monologues in a "deadpan" version of himself on Facebook in 2014, which had started to attract attention.

When Mark's music career failed to take flight, he handed his *CV* into production companies and creative agencies. One short-lived job was as head of an electronic robot costume company, which Mehigan says he left before he could get sacked for his drinking binges.

Aged 27 and with an embellished *CV* containing fictitious qualifications, references and work experiences, Mehigan landed a job at BBC Comedy. The woman doing the background checks was disarmed when he promised her tickets to a non-existent Westlife gig and he was soon installed at the Beeb, creating social media campaigns for scripted comedy programmes such as the *Gavin and Stacey Christmas Special* and *This Time with Alan Partridge*.

In 2019, the *Mark Mehigan's Sunday Roast* podcast was established, charging subscribers from €4 to €16 per month. It covered subjects under titles such as 'Tight People are the Worst' and 'Influencers Doing Charity Work'. After a few months, the podcast was bringing in more than the BBC job and brands were taking an interest in sponsorship. Mehigan duly decided that his future was in comedy and he moved back to Dublin in February 2020, just before the Covid pandemic hit.

Mark now has a new podcast on the GoLoud app, *Mark Mehigan's Weekly Roast*, which features Mehigan "navigating his way through modern Irish life, whilst lightly roasting every aspect of pop culture. [It] promises to be the perfect blend of comedy and sincerity, combining his storytelling skills, captivating stand up talent & viral social roasts".

It features listeners sharing voicenotes with Mehigan, often using voice-altering devices to disguise their identities. In the recent round-up of the, er, "best of" bits from the show's first season, a segment was devoted to difficult co-workers. One contributor talked about his colleague sniffing the seat of a female co-worker's chair when she left the room, while another discussed his colleague picking scabs off his head and placing them in a little receptacle on his desk.

Meanwhile, there is presumably more mileage to be wrung out of the 'journey to sobriety' tale and, of course, there is a book to flog. The forthcoming nuptials with Garrihy should garner a lot of attention and pulpy magazine covers, thus keeping Mehigan's mug in the public eye.

When it comes to the fame trajectory, however, as Garrihy's star continues to rise, our hero may have to settle for always being the bridesmaid.