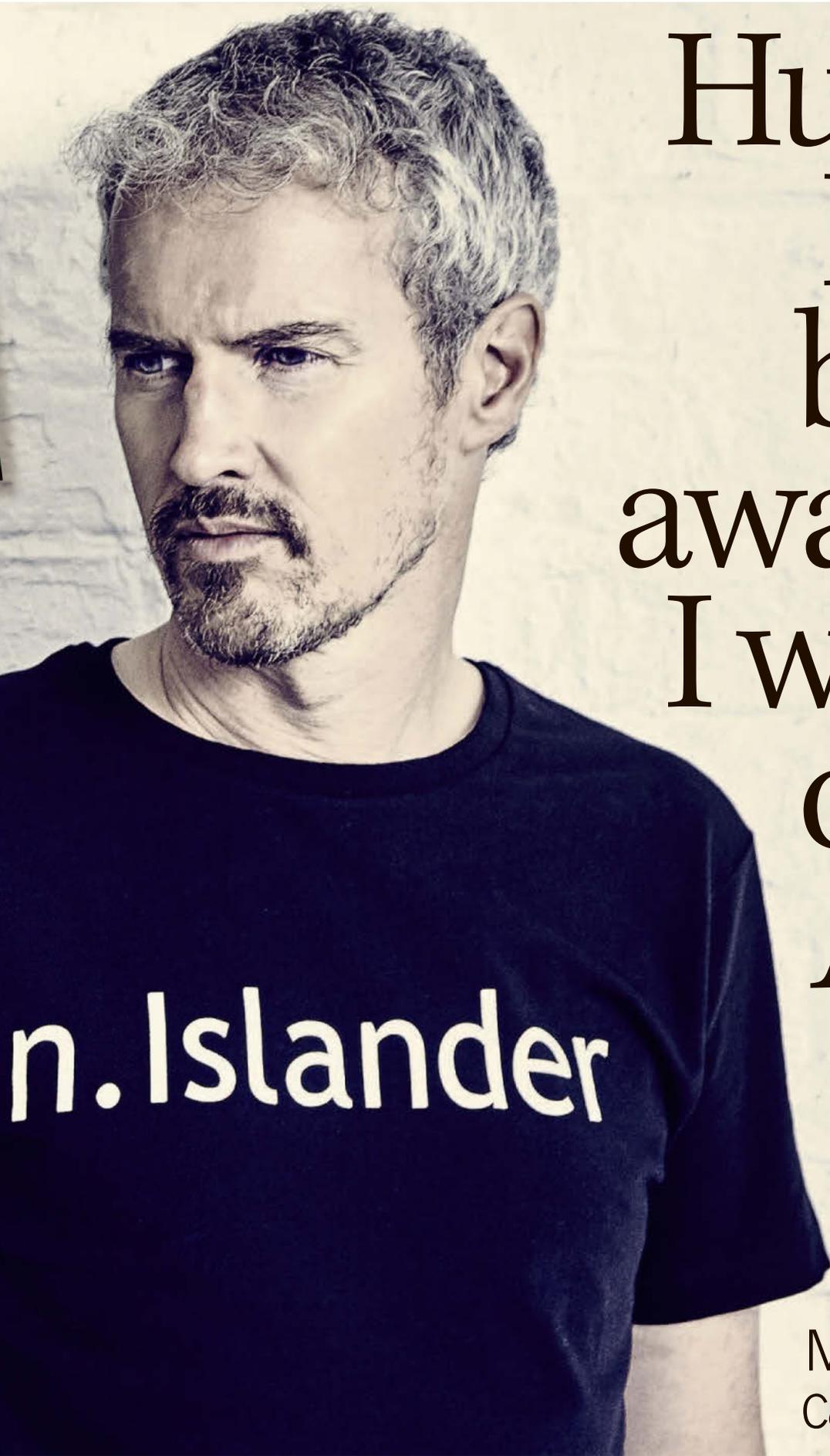


ISLAND CHILDHOOD AND PEOPLE WHO INSPIRED HIM



Hurricane Higgins blew me away when I was a kid on Mull. And the rest is history

Musician reveals phone call with snooker legend



INSPIRATION Kenny

Dad said I should call the band Mullteaser

Kenny Macintyre was one of Scotland's best known and most respected political reporters.

He only took up journalism in his 30s, compiling reports on "island life" for BBC Highlands.

Memorable moments include the time he goaded prime minister John Major into giving him an exclusive interview by telling him: "I hope your cricket team gets gubbed."

He also got a scoop with Margaret Thatcher when he appeared – mic in hand – from a lobby cupboard in an Inverness hotel where she had been staying.

After his sudden death in 1999, at the age of 54, Kenny was described by Tony Blair as "more than a journalist, he was an institution".

Colin said: "When my dad died, it was a huge shock. He was omnipresent on the BBC, so even when we were on Mull, we could always switch on the radio or TV and hear his voice."

"He inspired both my brother Kenny and I – and it's nice that with my brother there's another Kenny Macintyre on the airwaves."

"My dad supported my work as a musician, even suggesting the name Mullteaser might make a good name for a band."

Colin's first album, *Loss*, was a tribute to his dad.

preparing for a Mull Historical Society autumn tour, believes growing up on the island has had a huge influence on his career.

He said: "Writing this memoir helped me really see how the threads of home go across everything I do."

"I can see now how much the language of the characters from my childhood have influenced all the songs I have written, and are in my books too."

REM wanted to get me a bottle of Buckfast

“Michael Stipe saw me and said, ‘Are you Mull?’”

Colin and his brother grew up listening to amazing stories from those around them.

Now Kenny teases stories out of the country's top sport stars – and Colin has his own celebrity tales to tell.

He said: "I was signed to the same record label as REM, which is how I ended up performing on their tour."

"I remember turning up before the first show and they were sound-checking on the stage. Michael Stipe looked out and saw me watching."

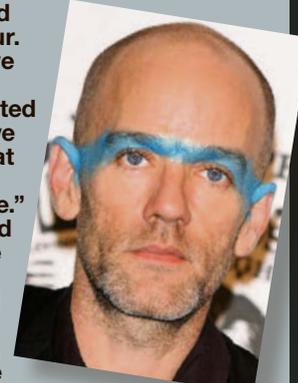
"He said, 'Are you Mull?' It was the first time anyone had

called me Mull – and when I said yes, he welcomed me to the tour.

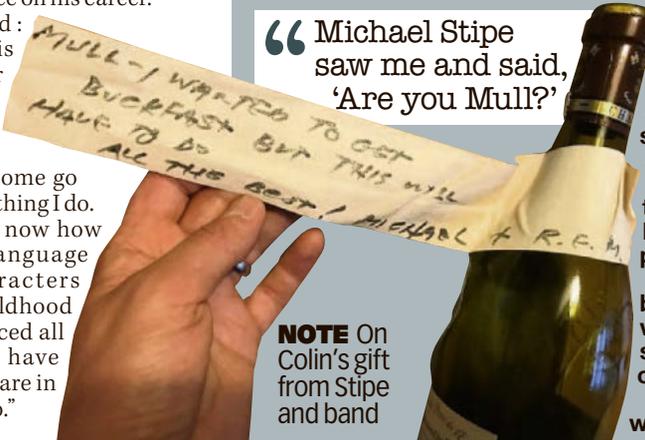
"At the end of the tour, he gave me a bottle of Chateauneuf du Pape. On it he had written, 'I wanted to get Buckfast but this will have to do.' For him to even know that Scotland was known for its Buckfast drinkers made me smile."

The first time Colin performed in the US, he was stunned to be told David Byrne from Talking Heads was in the audience and wanted to meet him.

He said: "As I walked on stage, all I could think about were those night in Tobermory when I'd mimed his words into my hairbrush."



TOUR Michael Stipe



NOTE On Colin's gift from Stipe and band