

## Paul Potts

**See here two articles, “The Potter of Tiny Feet,” and Find Your Inner Paul Potts” that spell out the journey from humiliation to dignity that Paul Potts has traveled. Both articles are downloaded from <http://www.paulpottsofficial.com/news.html>.**

### **The Potter of Tiny Feet**

*The Mirror, 19th June*

Britain's Got Talent winner Paul Potts yesterday revealed an even bigger dream - having a baby.

He and wife Julie-Ann, 27, could not afford to raise kids while he spent years as a struggling singer and salesman.

But Paul, 36, tipped to make millions, said: "Now we can think about a family. That would complete things."

When childhood bullies made his life a nightmare, Britain's Got Talent winner Paul Potts turned to opera for comfort.

As a lonely schoolboy Paul had to endure the taunts of thugs who called him cruel names and made him feel embarrassed about coming from a poor family.

Now the man dubbed Pavapotty by the nation who took him to their hearts has had the last laugh thanks to his TV triumph.

But Paul, 36, recalls sadly: "I was bullied and music was my way around it. I'd wear uniform even when it wasn't compulsory. It made me different. I felt isolated.

"The truth was Mum and Dad couldn't afford lots of clothes. Kids can be cruel and if you wore casual to school and wore them outside as well, they would take the mickey. That's why I had the uniform.

"Music was my way out of it, my way of escaping the bullies. It was a bit like my private world."

Sister Jane Webb believes his ordeal spurred him on to stardom. Jane, 34, said: "Kids would call him names like 'Smelly', 'Potty' and 'Wee-Wee'.

"It knocked his confidence. He felt he'd never achieve anything and all he did was useless.

"Singing was his way out. It meant he could escape the taunts. I think it made him more determined to succeed."

He is now tipped to make millions and last night was in talks with Simon Cowell.

The struggling mobile phone salesman, who racked up £30,000 debts as he pursued hopes of stardom, knows his triumph has transformed his life for ever.

But he hopes the win, and his £100,000 prize, will now let him fulfil an even greater dream - starting a family with beloved wife Julie-Ann. Fighting back tears, he said: "Without the show we would not be able to afford children. We discussed it and we can barely pay what we have to pay. We've no money in the middle of the month, let alone at the end. I'm £15 overdrawn now and don't have an overdraft. I have direct debits that are

going to bounce. Now I've won, we can start thinking about starting a family.

Julie-Ann added: "Everybody wants to start a family at some point and it's obviously something we have discussed previously. This will definitely make it easier." Devoted Paul, of Port Talbot, South Wales, now plans to pamper Julie-Ann, 27, as a reward for sticking with him through the tough times. He said: "Julie-Ann deserves a nice reward for putting up with me because I'm a pain in the neck.

"She's been my rock. We have not been able to afford to go away for a long time. I went to Kenya with Carphone Warehouse and she was jealous, so hopefully we'll go on safari."

Insurance worker Julie-Ann, meanwhile, whom he married four years ago after meeting her in an online chatroom, is still glowing with pride at his overdue success.

She beamed: "Never in my wildest dreams did I think he would win. It's fantastic. I'm going to stand by him now all the way. I know I'm not going to see much of him for the next few weeks but it's worth it.

"He's following something he's wanted all his life. I'm so pleased for him. He deserves it." The Nessun Dorma singer is also thinking of treating himself to one minor luxury and put his newly-acquired money where his mouth is - by getting his teeth fixed.

He explained: "I want to smile naturally without feeling self-conscious. When I was 14 I ran into scaffolding and one of my teeth went up behind my nose and got damaged.

"I had a crown put in but it got damaged and the bridge came out. I haven't had the money to deal with it."

No one would begrudge his rise to fame given the problems he has overcome.

Doctors treating him for appendicitis four years ago found he had a tumour.

He said: "I was in a high-dependency ward while they removed it. They were giving me morphine because the pain was incredible.

"I found out the tumour was so rare it was sent around Europe for doctors to look at."

BUT just four days after returning to work after a lengthy lay-off, he was mown down by a car while riding his pushbike.

He said: "I shattered my collarbone and was off work again. So it was two years off sick. Singing was the last thing on my mind and we were running out of money."

Now it is money worries that will be the furthest thing from his mind. As well as his prize money, he is really on the brink of the big-time.

TV mogul Simon said: "I've got to give him a contract after his performance. He's going to do what he has always wanted to make an album.

"He'll work with the best. If things go well, he could sell a million." Modest Paul only wants to inspire others.

He said: "I hope people who see me and have been bullied will go for it and try to showcase themselves. Everyone has a talent - they just have to use it."

### **Find Your Inner Paul Potts**

*MSNBC, 21st June*

*“But my secret is hidden within me, my name no one shall know.”*

Those are the words, roughly translated, from the famous Puccini aria “Nessun Dorma.”

You’ve probably heard Luciano Pavarotti sing it once or twice, and the song has made its way into many films, including Barbra Streisand’s “The Mirror Has Two Faces.”

But it has never had so much meaning as it did on a stage in Great Britain, being sung by a mobile phone salesman named Paul Potts.

Potts is an average-looking bloke whose teeth aren’t straight, and he admits to having battled self-confidence issues his whole life. Still, he decided to audition for a television show called “Britain’s Got Talent.”

You’ve seen the American version, I’m sure. Beat box artists, break dancers and jugglers combined with a few people trying to be pop stars.

On his first night, Potts took to the stage and sang that famous aria from “Turnadot,” after telling judge Simon Cowell that he felt he needed to pursue his first love, opera.

You could hear the snickers from the crowd, see Simon’s telltale eye roll, and practically feel the flop sweat rolling down Potts’ brow.

But then he sang.

From the first note floating from his snaggle-toothed beak, it was clear there was no competition for him in that room.

The crowd gave him a standing ovation in what is now one of the Internet’s most popular viral videos. It has been viewed on YouTube alone more than 2.4 million times.

What’s the reason for this Pottsmania?

It’s something my high school English teacher called “the triumph of the human spirit.”

Watch the video, seriously.

It makes you want to stub out your cigarette and declare yourself all done with that. It’ll make you pull that dusty guitar out of the closet and fiddle around for a couple hours on that song you were working on 15 years ago. And it will make you question the most fundamental thing about our day-to-day lives—the big “why am I here” conundrum.

My grandmother didn’t graduate from high school and worked for nearly 30 years at a K-Mart. She makes the world’s greatest stuffed grape leaves, to the point that New York City snob friends have remarked that they were “divine.” The woman knows how to cook.

One of my closest friends, Lee, is about the best listener I have ever met. She can talk you through any dilemma you may be facing, big or small, and you will end the evening laughing.

And Paul Potts can sing opera. He can really sing opera.

He ended up winning that competition Sunday night, along with a chance to perform his song for the Queen of England.

We all have a passion, a secret buried within us. And yes, for the most part, the world will never know our names. But that doesn’t mean we haven’t made an impact, changed lives for the better, or had a purpose on this planet.

Find your inner Paul Potts. Everyone has one.

