



Donegal man Shane Smyth who is Head Of Production for Dublin's Q102.

On the right wavelength

Working in the world of radio broadcasting is a busy business and one Donegal man making a name for himself on and off the airwaves is Shane Smyth from Bundoran.

Shane is Head Of Production for Dublin's Q102, which is part of the UTV Radio Group in Ireland.

"I am responsible for everything pre-recorded that is broadcast on the radio station including the production of commercials, station jingles and liners and also ensuring that the technical quality of all of that is up to scratch.

"I fill in for the Breakfast Show producer when he is on holidays - this means I'm on air at 5am every morning with "Q Breakfast - The Early Bit" and then I run the desk for the main breakfast show team on "Q Breakfast" which is hosted by Alan Shortt and Debbie Allen and this runs from 6 till 9am."

30-year-old Shane knew from a very young age that he wanted to work in media and even managed to get work experience with RTE while attending Ard Lughaidh Secondary



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School.

"In the beginning I think I was probably interested television more so than radio and it seemed a little bit more glamorous.

"I was a huge fan of the BBC and was a devoted 'Going Live' fan on a Saturday morning. Philip Schofield remains one of my broadcast heroes to this day," Shane said.

Local radio beckoned though when the local stations came on air in 1989/1990 and North West Radio began broadcasting from Sligo.

Shane said: "I did the obligatory tour and managed to wangle some work experience out of them which turned into week-end work and I helped out on outside broadcasts and

so began my love of radio. I continued to do "work experience" there whilst in college."

Shane said he really fell on his feet after college and was lucky to get a job in radio not long after graduating.

"I finished in May 1997, worked as a bartender for the summer and was offered the production gig at North West Radio in August of that year as their Head Of Production was moving to FM104 in Dublin.

"I remained there for just over 3 years looking after all the production on the station and I also hosted a daily oldies show and worked regularly on Outside Broadcasts."

Being the hard worker he is, Shane is just involved with the Dublin station but also with a station in the North West and online stations abroad.

"It is a lot of work. Time management isn't one of my strong points either but I am getting a little stricter with myself.

"I do bank holiday work at Ocean FM in Sligo - I hosted a Saturday night show there for 2 years," said Shane.

"I'm also Assistant Programme Director at Error

FM - an internet radio station based out of the country and programmed from Hollywood in the United States, here in Dublin and other countries around the globe.

"We're live 20 hours a day, and we're commercial free and listener-supported. Programming is a pop/alternative fusion with a number of talk shows and theme shows airing daily.

"I also give a dig out to my friend in Los Angeles with production and imaging. I'm also the male station voice of Jill FM in Thousand Oaks, California. Having a laptop and blackberry allows me to organise and keep track of everything so it's all good...!"

When Shane is broadcasting on error FM he is better known as 'Shane The Irish Guy'.

Shane said that he has managed to build up a great network of contacts all over the world and that's how he ended up working on these other projects. One of those contacts was a guy called Funk in Los Angeles who runs Error FM, a station broadcasting right across Southern California

"We immediately hit it

off and began sharing production ideas and in July last year I was appointed Assistant Programme Director to Error FM.

"Through the internet I can broadcast live or pre-recorded from my apartment in Dublin as well as upload new production bits and mess with the playlist," he said.

In the near future station programming is an area of his business that Shane would like to get into on a more regular basis.

He said: "I have programming duties at Dublin's Q102 as well with as Error FM, of course, which I really enjoy. I love doing production and on air work so if I can continue all of that I'll be pretty happy."

Shane really enjoys his job with Q102 and the people he gets to meet: "We have a great team at Dublin's Q102 and we all work really well together.

"We also have a few celebs here such as Ray Shah, who was in Big Brother, and the comedian Alan Shortt who was in the TV programme Bull Island. It's great fun and I love my job. Who wouldn't?!"

Shane said that he has been really lucky and has

had the opportunity to meet plenty of his musical and broadcasting heroes.

"Through my contacts in Los Angeles I've met broadcasting legend Rick Dees, movie stars like Jay Mohr from Jerry Maguire and Linda Blair from the Exorcist.

"I've also met The Goo Goo Dolls, My Chemical Romance and interviewed other stars like The Backstreet Boys, American Idol's Kelly Clarkson, Australian Idol's Damien Leith, Grammy winner John Mayer and Savage Garden."

Shane has been in Dublin for seven years now but tries to get home to Bundoran as much as he can to visit his parents Marie and Joe, brother David and his wife Mary Teresa and their two kids Zoe, Shane's god-daughter, and Lee.

"It's really relaxing and great to get away from the city madness and with the new M4 motorway it really speeds up the journey on a Friday and Sunday evening. "Bundoran has been really well developed over the last few years and the town looks better than ever," he said.

Shane's hometown of Bundoran is well-known

for its great surfing opportunities with The Peak having some of the best waves in Europe, but he has found the time yet to pick it up.

"You know something, I've always wanted to but I haven't got around to it! It was actually one of my new year's resolutions this year to actually go and learn.

"It's not like I haven't had any incentives. I've been offered lessons and board use and everything.

"It's the typical thing of when it's on your back door you don't take advantage. Let me see, let's blame the time management thing," he said.

Shane said that the summer is traditionally a quiet time for the radio station so he will take the opportunity to update the station's systems.

"We've just had the 'Call To Entry' for the national programming awards - 'The PPI Radio Awards' which take place in October and much of the summer will be taken up with arranging the entries for that, making sure we have the audio we need, producing it up and then hopefully having some award winning entries."