

twice. I suggested dinner.
We've been together
ever since!



It's over 30 years since you were a teen idol in the 1970s. Your career is still going strong. Do you mind getting older?

"Yeah, of course. Don't we all? Perhaps it would have been a lot easier if I'd died at 25 because then they could have immortalised me – like James Dean or Marilyn Monroe or Jim Morrison. But the truth of the matter is that I'm much happier being alive. I've had to go through a struggle to get where I am today, which makes me appreciate it all the more. These days, I feel in charge of myself. The choices I make are mine alone. And that feels good."

Your last album, *Then And Now*, sold more than

300,000 copies in the UK. There are high hopes for your new one, *A Touch Of Blue*, released by Universal on November 3. And you're coming over for a tour next spring. To what do you attribute the loyalty of your British fans?

"I've spent so much time in the UK, it has become like a second home. It's not only concerts and TV I've done there. I starred in the West End musical *Blood Brothers* and also in *Time*. I remember once discussing this very subject with John Lennon. He said the Beatles' American fans were almost more loyal than the British ones because the Americans were so grateful every time the band came to visit them on

their home soil. I suppose the same is true of my British fans."

Presumably, today's fans are a little less loyal than when you were a teenage pin-up.

"Of course. Now, they come to listen to the music. Back then, it was mayhem. It got to the point at the end of my first week staying at The Dorchester, the hotel's management asked me to move. There were 10,000 screaming fans blocking the hotel's entrance. So I took a boat on the Thames but got stuck in traffic. I had to jump into the water and having to be hospitalized to have tetanus shots. It was insane. On one occasion, I flew into London to see