

# Uncle Hugo

## The Story of the Wee Man from Strabane

**Paul Evans**

Hugo Duncan is the wee man from Strabane who has made it big. He is one of the most popular entertainers in Irish country music, and a broadcaster with a hugely successful afternoon show on BBC Radio Ulster. He's also a live wire whose reputation for fun and banter is as legendary as the warmth and affection he has for his audience.

But it's never been an easy road. In this fully authorised biography Hugo talks frankly about his family: his devoted mother who brought him up on her own, and the father he never knew; and his music – the thrill of performing, the showband days and his life on the road. Backstage, another story was playing out – Hugo's increasing dependence on drink was wreaking havoc on his family life and career. His journey back to sobriety and success was long and hard, but Hugo never gave up.

Take your seats and put your hands together for the Hugo Duncan story – as lively as the man himself, and with its fair share of laughter and tears, the craic's bound to be mighty.

And remember ... your Uncle Hugo Loves You!

### KEY SELLING POINTS

- Daily weekday afternoon show on Radio Ulster that attracts between 80,000 and 120,000 listeners, and Saturday show on Radio Foyle
  - Presents over 40 outside broadcasts all over NI annually
- High-profile Irish country music star and broadcaster with dedicated fan base
  - Hugo Duncan committed to extensive promotional campaign

**HUGO DUNCAN** grew up in a small terrace house in 1950s Strabane. He loved performing from a very young age and as a child was involved in set dancing, recitations, the church choir and the local pantomime. When he left school, he went to work in the local factory, but he was clearly destined to be a singer and musician. By the time he was twenty-one he had formed his own band, Hugo Duncan and the Tall Men, and had a number one in the Irish charts. Although he was highly successful, the endless travel and live performance led to a 10-year drink problem. In 1983, he successfully gave up the drink and not only re-established his career as a singer but carved out a new path for himself as a successful radio presenter. He currently broadcasts a daily weekday show on Radio Ulster and a Saturday show on Radio Foyle. With a professional career spanning almost forty years, Hugo Duncan is a much-loved icon of Irish country music.



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