

At home with our SUPER BABY



New parents DJ Giggs Superstar and Sheree O'Brien introduce Taylor to the world and share how their baby son has changed their outlook on work, love and life

HE'S A celebrated house DJ, renowned as a tireless spinner of the 1s and 2s in SA's trendiest nightclubs. But he's a transformed man now – all talk of riffs and mixes, gigs and artists has been replaced with burbling baby talk, coos and lullabies.

These days DJ Giggs Superstar would rather be pushing a pram in the park than spinning the discs at the hottest parties in the land.

We meet the 30-year-old music maker and his fiancée, Sheree O'Brien (27), at the children's art centre in Craighall Park, Jozi, a venue that tells you a lot about how this man has adapted to his new life. He's a proud papa now and everything else has faded into insignificance.

During our last chat with the couple Sheree was six months pregnant and they exclusively revealed they would name the child Taylor if it were a boy (I can't wait to be a dad, DRUM 17 June 2010).

They kept that promise and today they are introducing Taylor O'Brien-Mnisi to the world for the first time. And we're privileged indeed: some family and friends haven't even seen the tiny boy yet.

"Close friends and family were not allowed to take pictures of him until he was baptised," says Sheree, a devout Catholic. "It was important for him to become a child of God first."

"Having a child changes a lot of things," Giggs pipes up. "Whenever I'm on the road I worry about my family, hoping they're safe. But I'm so happy to have a son."

"It's the best thing ever," he adds, his face splitting in a wide grin. "Not too long ago I lost my father so having Taylor is a real blessing."

Taylor arrived when Giggs had just released his second solo album, Deep House

Chronicles 4 – Sounds of a Superstar, which features the hit single I Don't Care. It went to No 1 on the radio charts and every time you switch on TV music channels the video seems to be playing.

"Taylor came when I was launching my new album and I had to tour to promote it, but I took a month off around his arrival. He comes first and I can't go out as much as I used to. He has definitely changed things."

DOCTORS told Sheree her baby would arrive around 25 September but Giggs hoped his firstborn would come on his birthday – 14 September – and his wish almost came true: Taylor missed the day by just a couple of hours and was born on 15 September.

"It would have been great if they shared a birthday, but Taylor had his own ideas. He didn't want to share it with his dad," Sheree says with a laugh.

"Having a baby is great," she says. "I wouldn't change it for anything. The fact that I have Giggs' support makes it all the more awesome."

She gazes at Taylor, who, as if sensing it's time to start performing, wakes up from a deep sleep and looks around, prompting oohs and aahs from everybody.

"I took four months off work for maternity leave. We spent two of those months at my parents' home in East London for the birth," Sheree explains.

Sheree's delivery went smoothly. "It lasted only about two hours. We stayed over at my sister's house who hosted Giggs' birthday party the night before. Shortly after we went to sleep my water broke."

"I woke up and told Giggs and I've never seen anyone jump up quite like that. He was so shocked!" Sheree laughs, looking over at a rather sheepish-looking Giggs.

She stayed calm though, took a bath, and

drove to her mom's house to pack her bag before heading to Frere Hospital. "I gave birth just after midday. My delivery went well and Giggs was there right through it," she says with a proud smile.

Taylor is a remarkably easy baby, she adds, and seldom cries. "And that's good because before he was born I was worried that I didn't have any parenting instincts. I've never really been fond of babies – I'd see people playing with babies and wonder how they did it!"

But now she can't get enough of her child. "Spending time with him is just beautiful



ABOVE: Giggs and Sheree are planning to marry soon.



MAIN PICTURE, LEFT and ABOVE: DJ Giggs Superstar and fiancée Sheree are proud parents to adorable little Taylor, born the day after Giggs' birthday.

and rewarding. We talk, play and dance with him. It's great."

"He loves music very much," says Giggs. "Every time I put something on he moves his little limbs."

The baby has curbed their social life but they don't mind, Sheree says. "Giggs and I recently went out and left him with someone but I was freaking out the whole time. We'll probably start going out a bit more when he's a few months older and we have a nanny."

"Taylor is just the biggest blessing ever and has taught us so much about love on another level. He's our whole world."

THIS music industry power couple own Splakavellis Artist Management, which manages top musicians such as Dr Duda, RJ Benjamin and Brett Jackson.

Sheree is also Soul Candi Records' head of artist development and says Taylor's birth has not interfered with her work.

"People think that because I have a new baby I don't work. Well, I've been working from home and I'm due back in the office this month."

"Taylor's birth has got me working more, actually. I am now more ambitious because I have to take care of him."

The Catholic religion is very important to the couple, who wear rosaries and pray every day, and Taylor will follow the same route.

His nursery at the family's two-bedroom home in Ormonde, south of Joburg, has a little faith corner with holy water and a rosary for the baby.

"We will teach him how to pray as soon as he is old enough and raise him in faith. His baptism was a huge occasion for us and a big day for the whole family."

Giggs is too busy playing with his little boy to talk. "He loves to dance with him back at home," Sheree says, looking at her two boys with a loving smile.

"Giggs adds, "I want to spend as much time with him as I can. The music tours can wait. I've even postponed the video shoot for my next single, This Is It."

The couple plan to marry soon but for now they have one thing in mind: ensuring Taylor gets all the love he can, from them and the wider family.

"I thank my mother for being there for us but I sometimes wish my father was still around for Taylor," Giggs says.

He maintains he won't push his son in any particular direction and will support him in whatever he wants to do. "Whether he wants to follow me or not is up to him."

Spoken like a real doting daddy. □

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