

What Happened Next?

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PUNK MUM:
DebEspaace
and, inset,
our original
story

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What
happened
next?

Shirley you can't
be serious!

'Scary' DebEspaace is still rocking in music

SIMON Cowell called her "scary" and Sharon Osbourne said it was "too late for her", but DebEspaace doesn't give an X Factor.

When we last spoke to the punk singer, DebEspaace – real name Deb Elthalion – had just been booted off the TV talent show, with Cowell remarking that she looked like a 50-year-old Shirley Temple.

That didn't stop the 42-year-old mum-of-five from West Norwood. She went back to the London open auditions the following year, armed with a guitar, and belted out an updated version of the first song she ever wrote, Hit Me.

"It's about fame," says Deb. "I changed it round a bit to fit in with the X-Factor thing."

WHEN we last spoke to her in September 10, 2004, fearless punk singer DebEspaace had just taken on high-trouser pop svengali Simon Cowell in an attempt to hit the big time. But her appearance on The X Factor did not go quite to plan when she received one of his notorious dressing-downs. It hasn't put her off, though, and the West Norwood mum is still searching for fame. ROSS LOGAN speaks to her to find out What Happened Next

Although by her own admission she "got nowhere" second time round, her performance did spark her next experience of celebrity.

"I got chatting to some other X-Factor rejects on an internet forum, and we decided to meet up," she says.

"We met at Screams studios in Croydon and recorded the new version of Hit Me." The song caught the attention of ITN news, and ended in an appearance on the Trisha Goddard show. The performance of the "Fab X Rejects" met with approval from

the audience. "Everyone stood up and clapped along," she says. Two years on from her last television appearance, DebEspaace is still writing and performing. Two months ago, she reunited with her old punk band, Lost In Space. The band formed in 1992, but time doesn't seem to have tamed them.

"We call our music Skull Rock," she says. "It's rawer than raw." "Lost In Space are going to bury the world." As well as fronting the band, DebEspaace still finds time to

support the careers of her children. Son Jacey is a model, and her daughter Breery has a band of her own: jazz-funk outfit Size 9.

"I don't think I'll be going back on The X Factor. I think it's a fix. And I don't think Simon Cowell likes me" – DebEspaace

Things have moved on since her appearance on The X Factor three years ago. But is she tempted to go head to head with TV's Mr. Nasty one last time? "I don't think I'll be going back on X Factor," she says. "I think it's a fix. And I don't think Simon

Cowell likes me."

● You can see what DebEspaace is up to by visiting her website www.phreak.co.uk/debespace/