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Iron Man's brass neck

Millions in unpaid debts, investors who lost a fortune . cash to fund his WEDDING

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Shamed Liam Collins

A BRAZEN bankrupt who ran up debts of a staggering £4.5million is out grasping on the streets — by posing for snaps as movie superhero IRON MAN.

Shamed Liam Collins, 35, dons the outfit to pester passers-by in Glasgow city centre for spare change.

He told Scottish Sun reporters: "I used to live in a £1million house — now I'm out busking."

Multi-million pound bankrupt Collins poses as movie superhero Iron Man to beg in a bid to raise cash for his wedding.

We watched as the failed property mogul charged shoppers £1 a time to have a snap taken with him dressed as screen idol Robert Downey Jnr's character from the blockbuster films.

Unsuspecting passers-by happily got next to Collins, 35 — who left a trail of financial misery in his wake after his buy-to-let business went bust owing millions.

In some cases, victims left out of pocket by the crash had invested their life-savings.

When we confronted Collins on Glasgow's Buchanan Street, he said his grasping ploy was a way to pay to get hitched in Hungary to fiancée Beata Jambor, 28 — who rattled his collection bucket. He said: "I made bad business decisions and now I'm doing this. I only proposed a month ago.

"We want to get married in Hungary in August. It should be cheap, about £2,000. We've had a terrible few years. We're just trying to rebuild our lives."

He went on: "I did street performances for 16 years and should have stuck to it. It makes people happy. It makes a big change from people saying, 'Where's my two grand, where's my three grand?'"

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Collins, above left, was on 2009's BGT with SuBo

"The police have asked us what we are doing but when we tell them we are busking. They are okay with that."

Collins reached the semi-finals of telly talent show Britain's Got Talent in 2009 before losing out to Susan Boyle. But he was investigated along with his cousin and business partner David Bone after their property scheme went belly-up in 2012. Investors were lured into their home renovation business by the promise of good returns from renting the revamped pads to students.

But the credit crunch sank the scheme and a probe found the pair racked up £4.5million debts each in three years.

Both were slapped with bankruptcy orders for 14 years. Collins, originally from Newcastle, insists they owes less than the £9million total — despite the figure being stated on Insolvency Service papers. He said: "It was £4million — God's honest truth."

Astonishingly, Collins reckons he and Bone have suffered **MORE** than their investors. He whined: "We travel round in a 23-year-old clapped-out van and stay in a £15-a-night B&B. They only lost one investment — I lost the lot. I lost a lot of friends. I regret ever going into business."

People say we must have money stashed away somewhere — but we spent it on the company, paying high legal fees and high interest rates.

“We were never fraudsters or criminals and we tried to do the right thing all the time. We made mistakes.”

Last night one of Collins’ disgusted victims blasted him for not offering his Iron Man takings to debtors.

Sally George, 59, and daughter Jasmine, 44, from Machynlleth, Wales, invested £15,000 after stumbling on his property scheme on the internet. Sally said: “He should be paying at least some of the money he is collecting back to us. Another investor lost £150,000 and it’s ruined his life.”

Sally — who started a blog to expose Collins — added: “ It’s typical of Liam Collins. He’s very much out for himself and he wants to continue making money that nobody knows about.

“We’ve heard from over 40 people, many of whom have invested £50,000-£150,000, in some cases their life savings.



Beata and Collins tout pics of Robert Downey jnr film hero

“Many were too shocked and depressed or even ill to do anything about it. They never intended to pay anybody back from the beginning.”

Last September, Collins and Bone were handed 14-year bankruptcy restriction orders in court.

It was discovered that in the 15 months to April 2011 they pocketed £874,000 of investors' cash, including £187,500 taken after the Financial Conduct Authority warned them not to.

The order means they must disclose their status to a credit provider if they want to borrow more than £500.

And they are also disqualified from being directors of any company.

Collins and pal Richard Edmonds shot to fame on BGT as comedy duo Faces of Disco, who wore celeb masks to perform wacky dance routines.

Last night a Glasgow City Council spokeswoman said: “No permission has been granted for a street traders licence or a permit for a charitable collection on Buchanan Street today.”

Want to meet a real superhero? [Click here!](#)

JACKO DEAL FANTASY



Jackson's Neverland Ranch

COLLINS and Bone hit the headlines with another doomed property deal — when they claimed to have launched an audacious bid to buy Michael Jackson's Neverland estate.

The pair said they were bidding up to £15million to take control of Jacko's fantasy ranch in Santa Barbara, California in 2008.

They revealed they hoped to turn it into an Elvis-type shrine to the troubled pop superstar — who died a year later.

In an interview with Sky News, Bone said: "It's not a wind-up. If we do buy it, we'll lease it back to him.

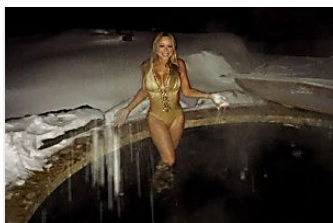
"But if he's not interested we will turn it into an attraction for Jackson fans, like Graceland."

robert.mcaulay@the-sun.co.uk

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