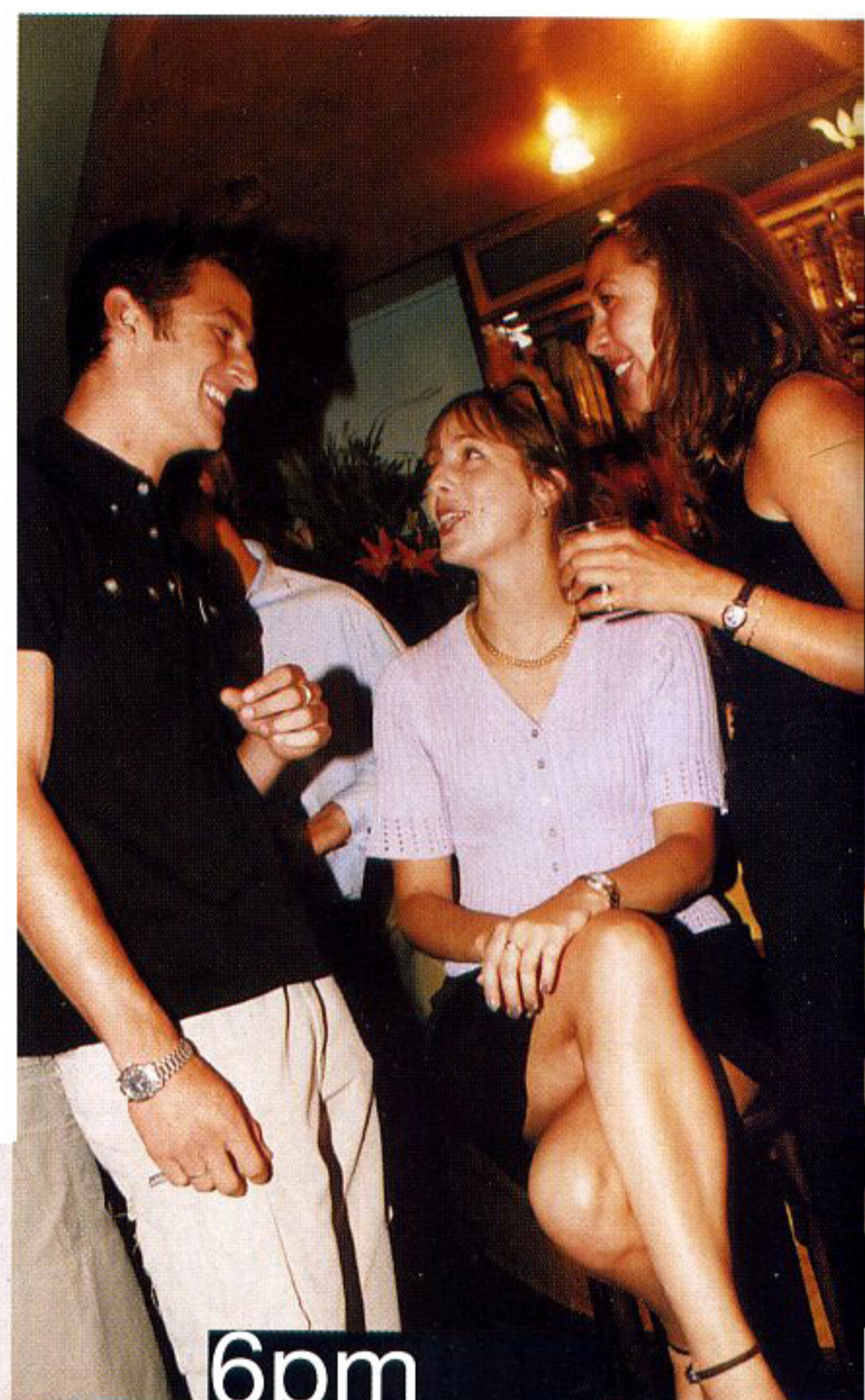


# A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF A BAR STOOL

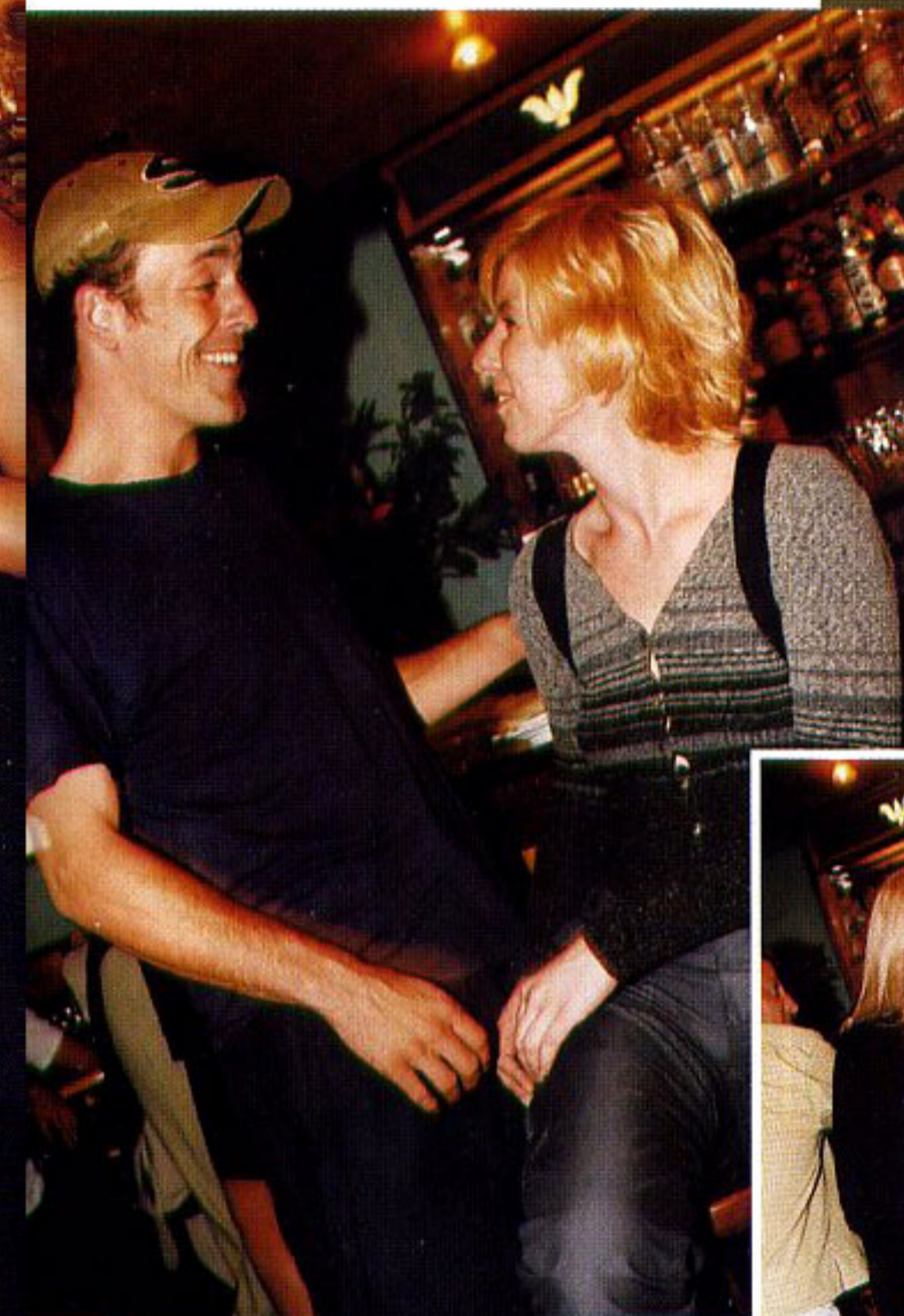


In the course of one evening, a stool in a lively Soho bar is witness to a non-stop procession of people, each with a story to tell. By Chris Morris. Photographs by Nigel Bennett



6pm

SARAH LEWIS, CENTRE, 29, PR, AND TAMZIN LOCISE, 26, PRODUCER, AND ADMIRER. **Sarah** 'We're having a girls' night out. We've been discussing our boyfriend troubles. My boyfriend, Andy, is a chef and Tamzin's works for a radio station. They work nights and we never get to see them.' **Tamzin** 'It's ruining our sex lives. We'll have to go on the pull.' **Sarah** 'No we won't. They're both good men. I could handle having a laugh and being bought champagne all night, though. That would be fun. We might head to another bar where we'll meet some rich and famous men.' **Tamzin** 'So are we on the pull?' **Sarah** 'No!'



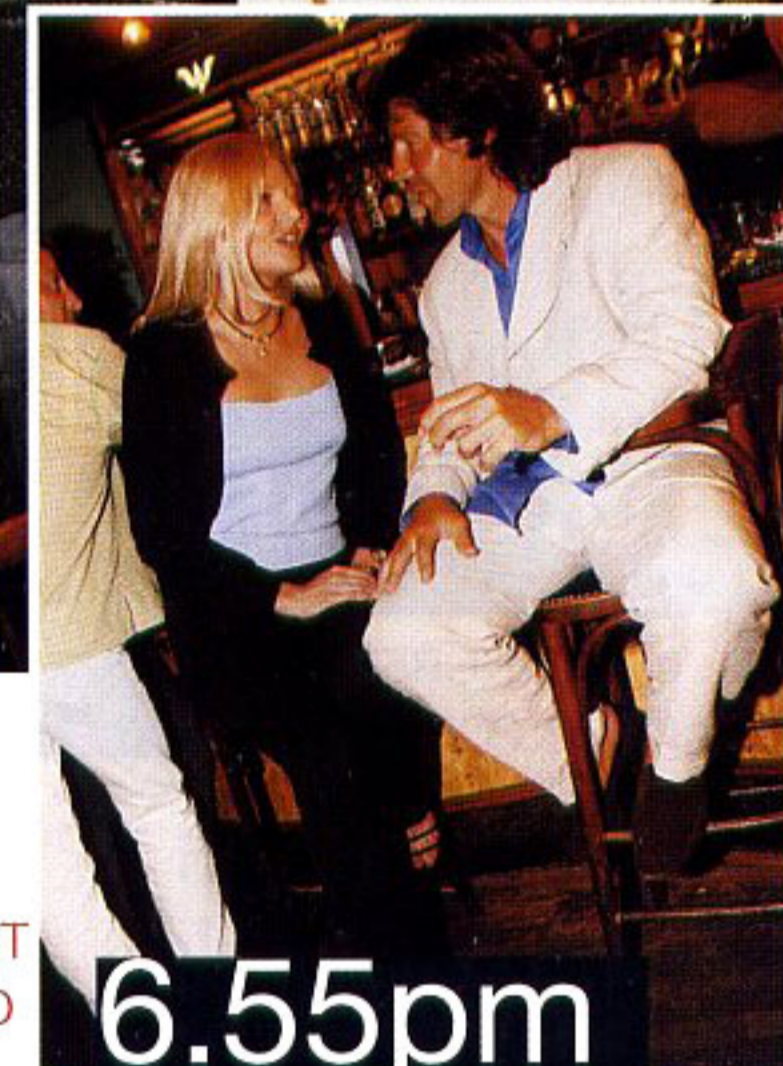
6.30pm

EMMA BOOTH, 28, ASSISTANT PRODUCER, AND BOYFRIEND TOBY GAIR, TV RUNNER, 28. **Emma** 'We've been discussing work, mainly. We're in the same business, so we like to get it out of the way before we go home.' **Toby** 'We don't live together, but I'm going back to Emma's tonight. Her flatmate has just got back from holiday, so we'll probably end up hearing lots of stories and drinking cheap Portuguese wine.' **Emma** 'We like to go out quite a bit. I met Toby ten months ago when I was organising the National Television Awards after-show party and he was the cloakroom boy. I spent the whole night ordering him around.' **Toby** 'Emma was wearing a fantastic black Elizabeth Emanuel dress and my eyes popped out of my head when I saw her.' **Emma** 'Don't you mean when you saw Carol Vorderman?' **Toby** 'No, I only had eyes for you. I even gave an expensive fur coat to someone by mistake because I couldn't concentrate.'



7.30pm

KATHY LLOYD, TV PRESENTER, COLUMNIST AND FORMER PAGE THREE GIRL, ALDO ZILLI, CENTRE, OWNER OF THE ZILLI BAR, AND KATHY'S BOYFRIEND DANNY MILLER. **Kathy** 'Aldo was the first male friend I had when I came to London ten years ago and we've stayed friends ever since. I pop in to see him whenever I can.' **Aldo** 'And we've never had an affair.' **Kathy** 'No, I don't think your wife Jan would be happy about that. We're only kidding, we're all friends and often go out together.' **(Danny arrives.)** **Kathy** 'I met Danny through friends at a Paul Weller concert. We've been together two years and three months.' **Aldo** 'I don't like him but he's bigger than me.' **Danny** 'I don't know what they've said, but Aldo basically rescued Kathy when she first came to London and was living in a sleeping-bag in a doorway somewhere. Thanks, mate.'



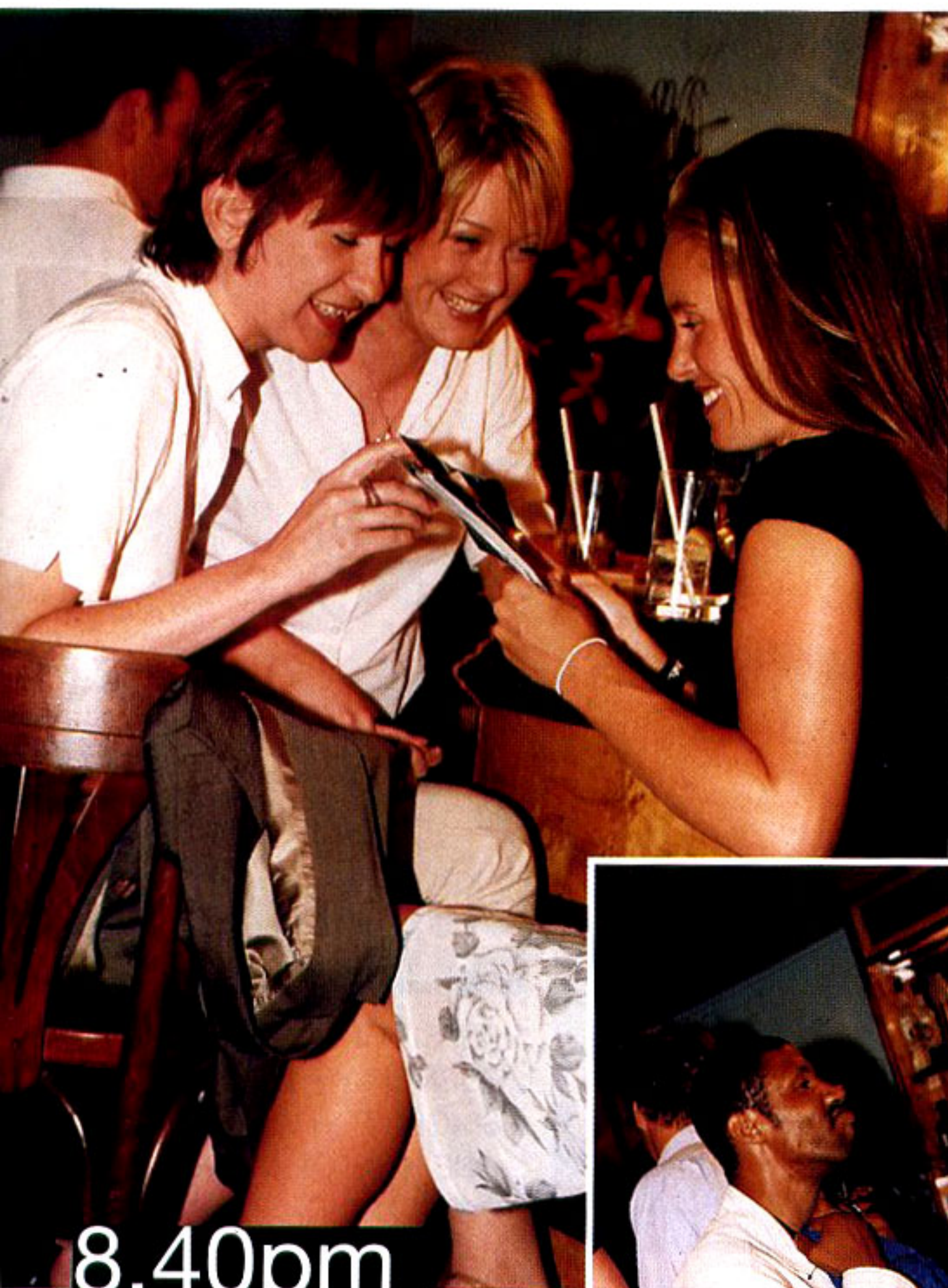
6.55pm

MONICA, 28, MODEL, AND JEAN VILLIER, 35, PR. **Monica** 'We're having a very romantic evening. Jean phoned out of the blue this morning to say he was arriving from Paris. It's the first time we've seen each other since we swapped phone numbers in a nightclub five years ago.' **Jean** 'We couldn't remember what each other looked like. I just saw this beautiful blonde at the train station and shouted, "Monica?" She said, "Jean?"' **Monica** 'We'd tried to meet up about a year ago, but Jean arrived ten minutes after I'd gone.' **Jean** 'I didn't phone her for two years after we first met. She said, "Why are you calling me now?" I said, "I don't know." I hope my girlfriend doesn't find out.' **Monica** 'I didn't know you had a girlfriend.' **Jean (when Monica is in the toilet)** 'Will you change my name? My girlfriend might read this.'



8pm

PEPSI DEMACQUE, RIGHT, FORMERLY A BACKING SINGER FOR WHAM! AND ONE HALF OF THE POP DUO PEPSI AND SHIRLIE, AND CAROLINE OBOLINSKY, HER AGENT. **Pepsi** 'I got a call from Caroline telling me to meet her here because she had some exciting news. I'm doing voice-overs on TV at the moment, and she's got me a big job.' **Caroline** 'Can't say what it is yet because she hasn't signed the contract. But it's good.' **Pepsi** 'It's a new twist to my career. After Pepsi and Shirlie I toured in musical theatre. I was in *Hair* in the West End. I'm still friends with Shirlie, and George Michael. Everyone has their own opinions about his recent troubles, but I love him dearly.' ▷



8.40pm

FROM LEFT: NICKY LYLE, 26, WHO WORKS IN HUMAN RESOURCES, SINEAD OLDNALL, 25, ENTERTAINMENT ASSISTANT, AND TRACEY RICHARDSON, 25, TRAVEL CONSULTANT. Tracey 'We're looking at my wedding photos. I came back from my honeymoon in Tuscany two weeks ago.' Sinead 'This is our post-hen night celebration. I can't even remember what we got up to that night. We were very drunk.' Nicky 'We hired a limo for the night and then went clubbing.' Sinead 'Oh yeah.' Tracey 'My husband's coming over later. He's gorgeous.' Sinead 'We're very jealous. Nicky and I have both got long-term boyfriends, and I caught the bouquet at the wedding.' Nicky 'Yes, but we were throwing it to each other...'



9.20pm

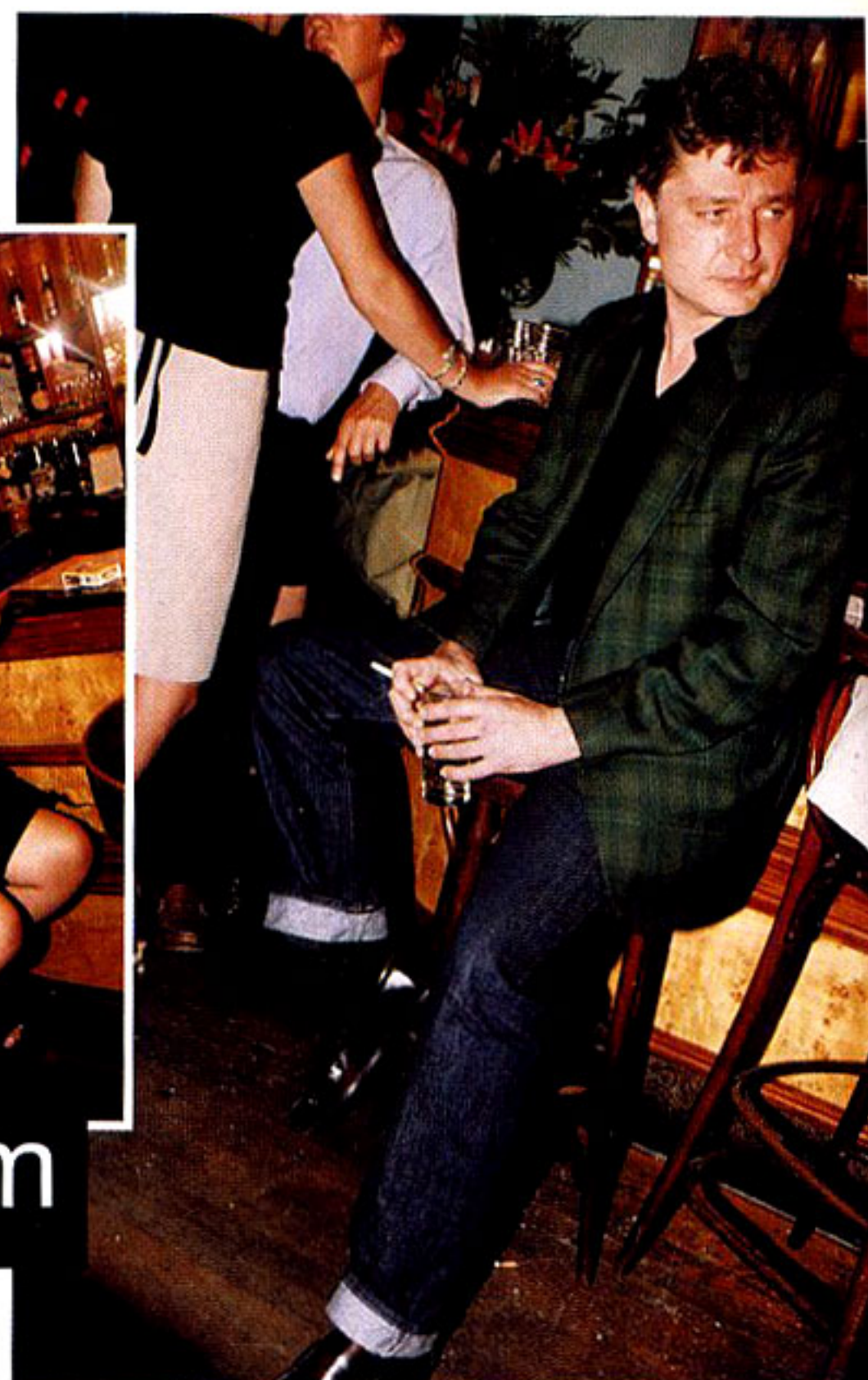
BRIAN BOVELL, 35, ACTOR AND PRODUCER. 'I've been rehearsing a new comedy show with Kathy Burke. I should really be going home, but I've just bumped into an old friend and we've arranged to have a drink. I'm having some spaghetti while I wait for him to arrive. I'm a single dad, and my son, Dempsey, is round at a friend's house playing computer games. He's fifteen and I want to go home and finish Tomb Raider II with him. I'm also on TV tonight. I play a detective in *Maisie Raine*, which stars Pauline Quirke.'



10.05pm

HELENE CRENER, 26, PA FOR A COSMETICS FIRM, AND HER BOYFRIEND KERRY WALPOLE, 31, WHO WORKS IN SALES. Helen 'I'm waiting for some friends that I used to work with. We're having a get-together because I haven't seen them for a while. I met Kerry at the same company.' Kerry 'We've been going out together for two years. We were friends for a year before we got together. I asked her out for dinner and that was it.'

Helen 'I'm not sure what's in store tonight because it's also a friend's birthday, so we don't know where we'll end up.' Kerry 'We've got work tomorrow, so it shouldn't be a late one. Probably will be, though.'



10.45pm

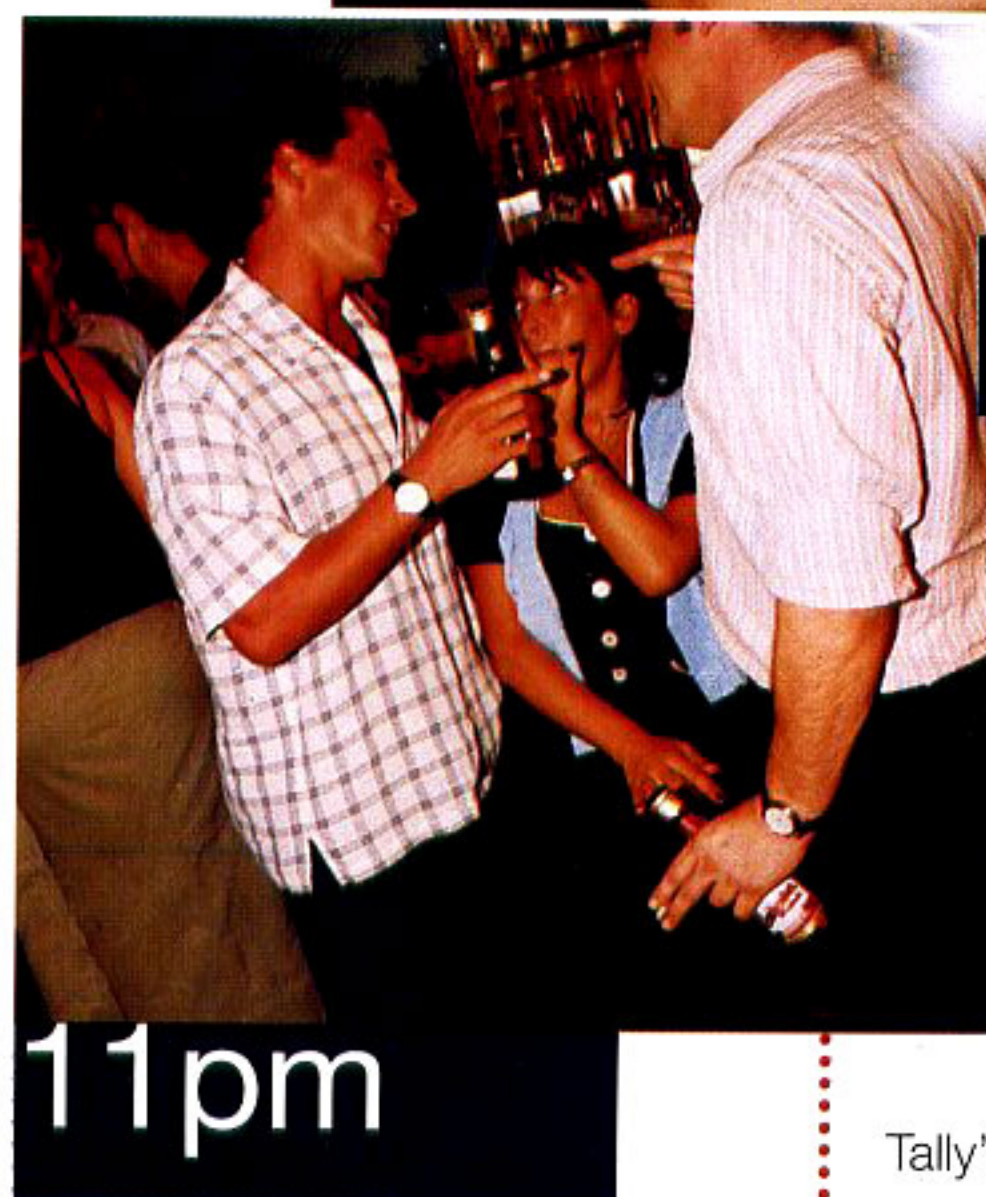
BREFFNI MCKENNA, 35, ACTOR. 'I've just passed a girl in the street and something special happened. She was gorgeous - black hair, dark skin, Spanish looking. There was a definite connection between us. I looked at her and she looked at me. It was electric. I've popped in here hoping she might follow. I believe in fate, don't you?' 10 minutes later. 'I'm not waiting much longer.' >



11.15pm

FROM LEFT, SAM TAYLOR, 24, COPYWRITER, JO DIX, 28, JOURNALIST, AND TALLY PARR, 23, TV COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION MANAGER. Jo 'We're very drunk. It's my birthday today.'

Tally's having a holiday romance. She's all loved up.' Tally 'He's Turkish, his name's Burak, and he's 28. I came back from holiday last week. He's gorgeous. It's true romance.' Jo 'Sam's having an office affair, aren't you, Sam? We used to work together.' Sam 'Yes. He's at the bar with the other boys. They're talking about work.' Jo 'So are we.' Tally 'And presents, holidays, and men - getting serious with them.' Jo 'My boyfriend Ed's coming over. I'll call him on my mobile.' Sam 'Then I'm going home. You've got jobs to go to in the morning. I haven't got a job.' Sam 'Yes you have. You're a writer, self-employed, freelance, for magazines.' Jo 'Umm.'



11pm

FROM LEFT, PETER ANTONIONI, 31, OIL TRADER, HIS SISTER ALEX, 36, WHO WORKS IN MARKETING, AND DAN WARD, 33, PUBLISHER. Peter 'Dan and I are old school friends and we haven't seen each other since we were sixteen. We've got a lot of catching up to do.' Dan 'It's pure coincidence that we've met tonight. Peter's been out in Singapore for four years and we've just bumped into each other.' Peter 'And he's still trying to shag my sister.' Dan 'No I'm not.' Peter 'You'd like to, though.' Alex 'What? I'm getting married next year.'



12.15pm

JOANA MEYER, 22, STUDENT, AND JORGE RODRIGUEZ, 24, LABOURER. Joana 'I didn't even know what his surname was until tonight. I'm Brazilian and we don't ask surnames. We're in here spending our last night together.' Jorge 'We met on the tube three days ago. I'd seen her on the same line the day before, and by chance we met again.' Joana 'I was reading a book by Nietzsche, in Portuguese. Jorge is South African but his dad's from Portugal and he said, "Hey, how's the book?" in Portuguese. We talked for five stops, then we exchanged numbers. He called me that night.' Jorge 'Then I went all the way to Notting Hill from my flat in Brixton, only to go back to Brixton with her friends. We kissed later that night, though.' Joana 'I asked him why he'd waited so long. Anyway, he's going away for five months tomorrow. I want him to stay, so we can have five kids. But we're both post-modern people with our own lives.' Jorge 'That sounded good. I might call you when I get back. ■



11.45pm

FROM LEFT, JAMES ELDEN, 26, ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE, PAM BROSNAN, 21, JOURNALIST, AND MARK JONES, 37, PUBLISHER. Mark 'We've just launched a new lifestyle magazine for London called *Pil*. We've been talking about our next issue.' James 'I work on the advertising side. It's exciting because we've got Jade Jagger doing some work for us. Her boyfriend Dan Macmillan is also doing some photography.' Mark 'We often hold meetings here. I don't drink, so we don't just end up getting pissed.' James 'Pam's our New York correspondent. She's a friend of mine I met when I went clubbing over there. She writes about the scene over there for us.' Pam 'We like having our get-togethers in Soho because there's a real buzz. It's great for meeting people.'