

# THE LONDON MAGAZINE

THE ART OF CITY LIVING - NOVEMBER 2003 - £2.75

## Demolition, drinking and daylight robbery

GRIFF RHYS JONES  
TAKES OVER LONDON

## Life in the roar

WE FLAG DOWN THE  
ULTIMATE BOY RACERS

## The future is bright

FASHION GOES CRAZY  
FOR COLOUR

## Don't you know who I am?

WHAT THE CAPITAL'S  
STARS GET FOR FREE

## Welcome to the Weisz age

WHY THE WORLD IS FALLING  
IN LOVE WITH RACHEL WEISZ

PLUS: WELCOME  
TO ROCK 'N'  
INSIDE LON  
RICHEST RESTA  
EXPLORING TH  
GREAT WILDE  
IS PROPER  
NEW PE



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## 'Learn to make friends without flashing your black Amex'

# TLM to the rescue

AGONY AUNT SYRIE JOHNSON GETS STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

EMAIL YOUR PROBLEMS TO: [RESCUE@CEDARCOM.CO.UK](mailto:RESCUE@CEDARCOM.CO.UK)

### URBAN OUTFITTERS

Dear TLM,

I'm an American banker who has just moved to London and I'm finding that US style just doesn't cut it here. In fact, my dress sense is damaging my social life. Last week, neighbours sniggered when they saw my colourful pink Bermuda shorts and floral shirt combo, even though it cost a fortune. I want to change my image and get in on the party scene. How can I do that before I get laughed out of town?

Clueless of Kensington Church Street.

Dear Clueless,

Laughed out of town? You're lucky you haven't been lynched. Fortunately, I can save your life and your reputation. All you have to do is visit the new Button Club at 11 Old Burlington Street (tel: (020) 7494 0070). It's a fashion boutique/club set up by Estonian Kaja Wunder and her partner Henry Northcroft. It's a place to relax with friends, have a drink and, of course, shop. There's a calendar of events to launch new collections, such as Trainer Trash showcasing Puma Platinum and Emperor's New Clothes. Suits in the City for corporate clients, plus art shows. Services include bespoke tailoring, image consulting (which, frankly, it sounds like you could do with) and home delivery. Sit on Pietro Del Vaglio's 1970s lips and tongue sofa (apparently inspired by Grace Jones) and learn to make friends without flashing your black Amex.

### SLEEPING BEAUTY

Dear TLM,

I'm a model and I'm always having to fly off to shoots. I'm so jet-lagged that if it weren't for the black cabs I wouldn't know which city I was in. Is there a quick fix for transatlantic tiredness?

Fatigued of Fawcett Street.

Dear Fatigued,

I'm finding it difficult to feel much sympathy for you. But if you're really so exhausted from your fast-lane lifestyle that your skin is suffering, check yourself into the Metropolitan Hotel. Its

Shambhala Spa has a jet-lag special, you can even get the therapist to come to your room. The treatment will prepare you for a busy day of pouting or relax you for a good night's sleep. Tailored to your needs, it combats the effects of extreme fatigue, disturbed sleep patterns, delayed reactions, reduced memory, dehydration, indigestion and water retention. It costs £70 an hour. If you're between planes, you can visit the spa without staying in the hotel. To book an appointment call (020) 7447 1000.

### JACK OF ALL TRADES

Dear TLM,

I'm a single working mother and I just can't cope with all the things I have to remember – I feel like a butler, housekeeper, cook, personal trainer, chauffeur, PA, personal shopper, cleaner and CEO rolled into one. What's the answer?

Multi-tasking of Maida Vale.

Dear Multi-tasking,

What you need is a husband without any of those annoying bits – constant Sky Sport on the TV, a fridge full of beer and a wardrobe full of chinos. Buy:Time is the best husband we've never had. Whether it's handling repairs at home, organising social events or sourcing a great present, just hand Buy:Time a to-do list and let the team get on with it. The company works by the hour, by the day, or creates a plan to suit – and is for private individuals or businesses. No task is too small – ask them to go through your paperwork, organise a surprise party, fit a cat flap or co-ordinate an employee reward scheme. Call (020) 7498 7934 or check out [www.buy-time.co.uk](http://www.buy-time.co.uk).

### CHANGING MY RELIGION

Dear TLM,

I'm Jewish but I've just married a divorced Christian with five children and they're all coming for Christmas. Should I fake my own death?

Hanukkah-phile from Hampstead.

Dear Hanukkah-phile,

Don't chuck the brisket out with the bathwater. You can always ask your husband how he spends a traditional family Christmas and read up on the Christian festive season. But, then again, who has the time? Instead, follow the example of celebs like Nigel Havers and pop impresario John Reid (Elton John's former manager) and simply buy Christmas. Joanna Wood will come up with any festive theme you like and select your tree, put it up and decorate it the way you want it. The company also has a great Christmas gift service and wraps presents too. It charges £15 an hour per person (it usually takes two people to install Christmas in your home), plus the cost of the Joanna Wood decorations and tree. Call (020) 7730 5064 for details.

### WHAT'S COOKING?

Dear TLM,

Nigella Lawson has got a lot to answer for. My boyfriend expects to come home every night to find me waiting in Agent Provocateur and a pinny, with a hot dinner on the table. Help!

Doris Day-lite from Dolphin Square.

Dear Doris Day-lite,

There's a simple answer to your problem – ditch that demanding boyfriend. How would he feel slaving away in a kitchen after a hard day's work wearing nothing but a basque? If you really can't face giving him the boot you could always sign up for a very sophisticated cookery course run by Vicki Edson, who set up the Food Doctor with Ian Maber. As a nutritionist, Vicki's worked with celebs like Ashley Judd, so knows how to create fabulous food while keeping those Agent Provocateur looks. She runs a variety of courses from her World of Interiors-style kitchen in Holland Park, but you should probably opt for Simple Suppers and Detox Magic. During the three-hour session, Vicki will demonstrate how to make delicious meals that won't ruin your figure. Each of the sessions costs £65 per person based on four sharing, including all the food as well as recipe sheets. Call (020) 7602 7669 for details. ■