



# Richard Kay

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## Aitken's girl

# Sikhs a new lifestyle...

**O**LDFonion Jonathan Aitken has made a career out of reinventing himself, from war correspondent and TV mogul to Tory MP and jaiibird — and, last but by no means least, a born-again Christian.

Now his daughter Alexandra, twin sister of rap artist Victoria, has given herself a new identity. The one-time party girl and budding actress has changed her name and her lifestyle. She is now known by the Sikh name Harinder Kaur Khalsa after embracing eastern spirituality.

Her new moniker — comes after princess in Punjab — comes after Alexandra, 29, whose father is the nephew of the great newspaper baron Lord Beaverbrook, abandoned the bustling London social scene two years ago to move to California, where she began studying yoga. She later became a teacher of the art at a retreat in Los Angeles.

Her photograph appears on the website of Yoga West, the centre in LA where she teaches, together with the pictures of other tubaned professional yogis. Says one Sikh: "The name Khalsa means you are a baptised Sikh, so she probably had a baptism ceremony."

The American move has had a profound effect on Ally — as her friends and family still know her. She has often said she would not enjoy a return to her previous life, claiming that her role as a yogi was always to be her "destiny". But while no doubt concentrating

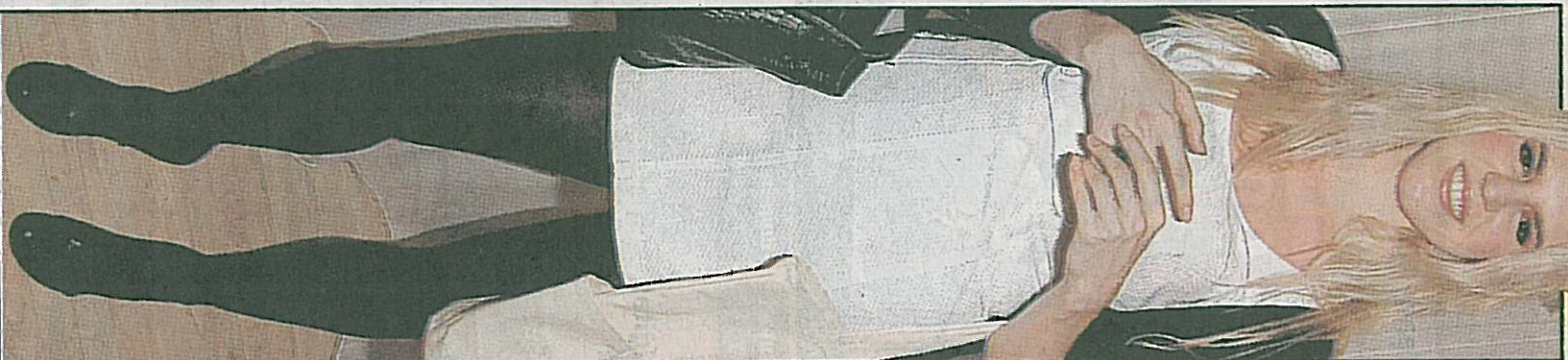
**ESCHEWING its mercocratic inclinations, the BBC is poised to employ a scton of one of Scotland's grandest families.**

At the weekend, Sotheby's jeweller expert Alice Montagu Douglas Scott, a cousin of the land-owning Duke of Buccleuch, made her debut on Antiques Roadshow. And Beeb bosses say her appearance went down so well that she is being considered for a regular role. Alice, who recorded her slot at Brighton College over the summer, tells me: "I enjoyed the experience very much. Everyone's been very kind about it."

on her newfound spiritual career, it appears that pretty Alexandra's relocation has brought dividends to her romantic life. For she has found love with the strapping Indrajot Singh, whom she is said to have met inside the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holy Sikh shrine, on one of her spiritual yoga voyages to India.

Only last week the couple announced they are to marry this month, with their nuptials spread out over two lavish weddings — one in India and one in Britain. "The announcement of the wedding has been a little bit of a surprise, to say the least," a family friend tells us.

But all of Ally's friends are thrilled for both her and Indrajot, since they are such a close and happy couple. The Aitken family simply cannot wait for the special occasion. With two weddings, there'll be two lots of celebrations and plenty of cheer.



Picture: DAVE M. BENETT/GETTY

**From socialite to Sikh: Miss Aitken before her conversion**

## America's worst cook isn't bitter

**SOME women might hang their heads in shame, but being named the worst cook in America has thrilled Victoria Brown, the TV presenter daughter of former royal aide Dickie Arlter.**

"I'm embracing it," Victoria declares after appearing on talk-show queen Oprah Winfrey's sofa this week.

Victoria, who lives in New York with her husband, novelist Ryan Brown, and their son,

admits she will not win any cookery awards.

"We've had three oven fires, and friends bring their own food on visits," she adds.

For his part, Dickie, who spent 12 years as spokesman to the Queen, tells me: "Cooking has never been one of her attributes. I cooked for her as a child. Even when she was older, she was very happy for me to do it — fish-fingers and cottage pie were a favourite."

Victoria, who lives in New York with her husband, novelist Ryan Brown, and their son,



Panned: Victoria

**HIS** worked with his fair share of prima donnas, but actor Charles Dance needed all his diplomatic skills after being kept waiting by his latest co-star, pneumatic Pamela Anderson.

The ex-Baywatch babe is appearing with him in *The Commuter*, a six-minute film shot in high definition on a Nokia N8 mobile phone. At its London screening, Dance found himself held

up after Pamela was delayed first by a wardrobe malfunction with her Vivienne Westwood rock and then by fans demanding photographs.

"Charles was growing visibly restless by Pamela's tardiness," reports an onlooker. "He started for the exit but was stopped in his tracks when a smiling Pamela walked in. I don't think he really understands Pammy's world."

## MACCA, THE DOTING DAD

**AT THE** age of 68, Sir Paul McCartney has every excuse to put his feet up, but he was every inch the attentive father as he took daughter Beatrice, seven, on a half-term holiday to Cyprus.

A fellow guest at the exclusive Anassa Hotel was the ex-Beatle's "dotting dad". He didn't hide away

in his suite like some celebrities do," I am told. "He was in the gym in the hotel spa every morning and ate in the restaurants."

He was very charming, pointing out directions to one of the restaurants for one guest."

McCartney was accompanied by his latest squeeze, Amer-

can heiress Nancy Shevell, and a nanny. Adds my source: "It was his first visit and he said he loved it because there was no paparazzi. Beatrice was signed up to the kids club, Scallywags. "It was funny watching guests hanging around the piano bar in case he decided to have a go — he didn't, of course."

**VOTED** the greatest rock singer of all time last year, Queen frontman Freddie Mercury was less prolific when it came to cooking — at least according to celebrity chef Aldo Zilli.

"He once burned my kitchen down when he was cooking chips," says Zilli, 54, who is about to publish his autobiography, *My Italian Country Childhood*. Zilli, who was partying this week at the launch of the Hotel Verta in the capital, is also releasing an organic baby food range. "I'm already a millionaire," he roars modestly. "This is going to make me a billionaire."

**HEALTH** and safety hadn't been devised when the young Richard Attenborough shut his baby brother David in a padded cell as a prank.

It happened when the brothers were living at University College, Leicester — formerly a lunatic asylum — where their father was principal during their childhood. "Some areas of it were still as they were when it was a Victorian asylum and it included padded cells," says Sir David, 84. As boys, we used to wander around the place even though I'm sure we shouldn't have. Richard took me into a padded cell and shut the door behind him. It was horrible.

"The wall was all quilty and there was no handle on the door. You couldn't even see where the door was. You could scream to your heart's content and no one would hear you."

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**PS** SOUTH KOREAS inaugural Formula 1 Grand Prix made an indelible impression on BBC presenter Jake Humphrey. He and his commentary team were billed in a 'love hotel', so-called because young South Koreans traditionally live at home with their parents until marriage, hence the need for 'somewhere they can go for a little privacy', as Humphrey delicately puts it.

"The rooms were clean, pretty normal and exactly what you need if looking for somewhere to simply grab a few hours' kip each evening," he reports. "One of our team, however, found an electric 'love chair" in his room — complete with diagrams on the wall. I'll leave the rest to your imagination..."

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