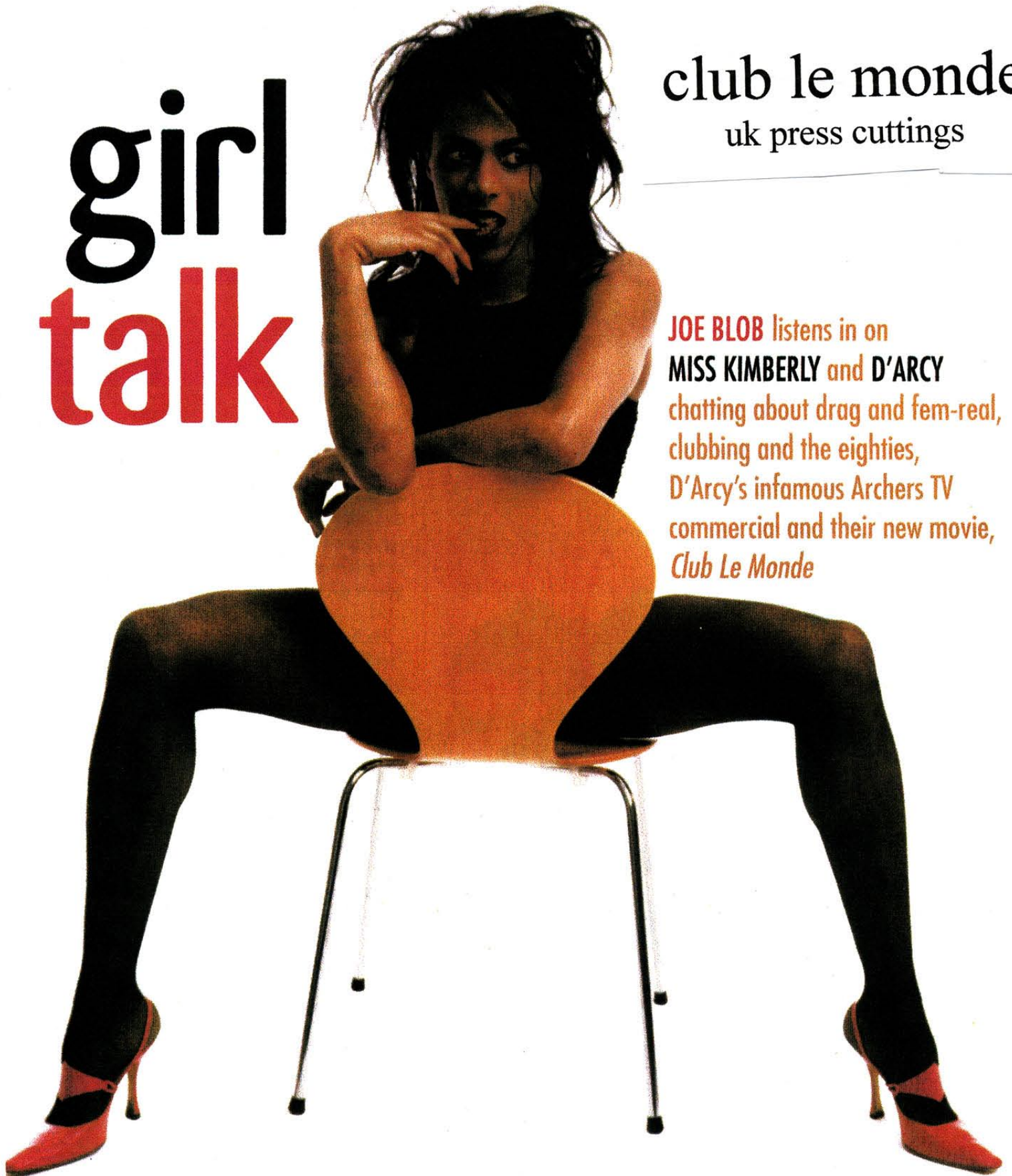


girl talk

club le monde
uk press cuttings

JOE BLOB listens in on **MISS KIMBERLY** and **D'ARCY** chatting about drag and fem-real, clubbing and the eighties, D'Arcy's infamous Archers TV commercial and their new movie, *Club Le Monde*



yOU DON'T REALLY "INTERVIEW" DRAG QUEENS. YOU JUST LET THEM TALK — ESPECIALLY IF, LIKE MISS KIMBERLY AND D'ARCY, THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS. THEY HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER for a while, though. D'Arcy's been Down Under, filming that "Come out and play" TV ad for Archers — then she was over in the States shooting the follow-up press campaign. She hasn't even seen the ad yet. Everyone else has — judging by the way people have started flocking round her. It's become quite a talking point. But then it was meant to. *Priscilla's* Stephan Elliott directed it. "Stephen saw it for what it was — camp," D'Arcy says. "He wasn't taking it too seriously. They said they were looking for the epitome of a girls' night out, which was

continued overleaf ▶

● D'ARCY comes out to play

● KIMBERLY & D'ARCY go out to *Club le Monde*

girl talk

continued from previous page ►

all these muscley boys and a drag queen." She relishes the incongruity. "It's a gay girl's night out, maybe. The whole casting process took about six months. And then I got a phone call saying 'you've got it'. I can't remember very much of that day. I lost my voice 'cause I was screaming so much. I'd be alright for like half-an-hour, then I'd be like 'waaaaahhh!'"

Miss Kimberly's been rushed off her high heels too. "I've been at university," she says. "I was doing Purple Radio all summer. I hosted Walk For Life. And I presented Purple in the Park as well. But basically I've been waiting for this bloody film to come out."

Ah yes, the bloody film. *Le Club Monde* is set in the demimonde of London's club world. It depicts a night in the life of a club and the cast of thousands who pass through it. "We turn up to this club by mistake thinking it was a friend's party," explains D'Arcy. "And Kimberly has a huge go at me: 'You stupid fucking bitch!'" Kimberly: "I play a little bitch, basically – with a big mouth. It was typecasting. I was having a fight with the doorman. Hitting him with my handbag and everything." D'Arcy: "And I end up with a security guard. When I read the script, I thought, 'Ooh, a big burly security guard I can flirt with for a couple of days.' The guy who's playing him was lovely, but in the looks department? No. He didn't give me fanny-gallops at all." Then D'Arcy says, apropos of nothing, "Fucking peach drag!"

Eh?

"The dress she had to wear in the film," Kimberly explains helpfully. "You know, it's really weird, they always want our type of drag, but they always stick us in really horrible clothes – that typical drag look. And we're so not that."

And what is "typical drag"? Kimberly: "Horrible clothes, big make-up, big hair. They want us to carry on like drag queens, and we don't really represent that." D'Arcy: "We're more fem-real." Kimberly: "The film's set in the 80s as well, and we would never have put on clothes like that."

What would you have worn back then? D'Arcy: "You were showing a lot of flesh, if I remember. I've got photographs and you were like waistcoats and berets and little scarves – and always something really, really short. I always did little chiffon and sweet shoes and straight hair and a nice handbag. Very sweet and innocent."

Then, as now, they were both hanging out rather a lot at Heaven. D'Arcy: "Then there used to be Kinky Gerinky and the Pushca parties – these big nights out, all glamour and glitz. That's changed." Kimberly: "I was also at Madame JoJos cause I worked there. I used to do a couple of straight clubs as well."

Can you pass? Kimberly: "Sometimes." D'Arcy: "If people ask, my only response is 'If you have to ask the question, you've answered it already.'" Kimberly: "I always say I'm whatever you want me to be." D'Arcy: "When Kimberly was doing the Powder Room, that was the main place. All the girls used to go there. There was me and Kimberly and Hollywood and Tasty Tim and Barbie."

Kimberly: "We were like the New Age drag queens – the girls went out and bought the labels. They modelled themselves on the supermodels. It was brilliant back then. At one point in the 80s, drag just came out of nowhere and everyone was really fascinated by it." D'Arcy: "And you used to cause a real stir: 'Oh my god, what's that?' But now it's a little bit mainstream." Kimberly: "Everyone's got so used to it: 'I'm a drag queen!' 'So what?'"

● *Club Le Monde* is on release now



"IT'S REALLY WEIRD, THEY ALWAYS WANT OUR TYPE OF DRAG, BUT THEY ALWAYS STICK US IN REALLY HORRIBLE CLOTHES – THAT TYPICAL DRAG LOOK. AND WE'RE SO NOT THAT"