

Supermodel Rachel Hunter first shot to fame after gracing the pages of *Sports Illustrated*, however it was when she wed legendary rocker Rod Stewart, who was 24 years her senior, that she became world famous. After their relationship ended, Rachel was romantically linked to a string of bachelors including Kevin Costner, Fred Durst, Robbie Williams and Mark Wahlberg. Not only has the 38-year-old Kiwi made millions doing commercials, she's also dabbled in reality TV with *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Make Me a Supermodel* and more recently, *Style Me with Rachel Hunter*. We caught up with the business-minded mum-of-two and had an exclusive chat to her at a star-studded event in Dubai...

You're looking as fabulous as ever. What have you been doing to keep in such good shape?

Pilates and spinning. I go about three times a week.

Where's home for you?

LA. But I try to go back to see my family in Auckland, New Zealand about twice a year. I love going back home but my life is in the States.

What's been the highlight for you this year career-wise?

I really enjoyed being the face of Slimfast. It was great to be part of that.

What's your diet like?

Usually, it will be a [Slim-Fast] strawberry shake in the morning, then a piece of fruit and a strawberry shortcake bar for lunch and then again a piece of fruit and dinner of chicken, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots and a salad.

How do you feel about the bone-thin craze in Hollywood?

Each to his own is all I can say. People do what they want to do and it's their choice. It's just the way fashion is.

Is this your first time in Dubai?

No, I've been before, but that was 12 years ago. It's amazing how much it's changed. Everything is done so beautifully here.

Did you meet Karl Wolf and some of the other Arab singers here tonight?

Yes, everyone has been really friendly.

Do you have lots of celebrity friends in LA?

No, not really.

Do you try and stay out of that scene?

We all know each other and when you do bump into them, it's fun but I'm not really into that scene. I've done the whole party circuit before – going out and getting crazy but I'm well past that stage now! I'd rather stay at home with my children now!

Have you got any advice for the Hollywood starlets who are in and out of rehab...

Going off the rails is nothing new, it happens with ordinary people as well as famous people. Hopefully they are getting the right support. I think the media are partly to blame though.

Do you ever worry that your daughter Renee or your son Liam will go off the

'OUR AGE GAP DOESN'T BOTHER ME!'

RACHEL HUNTER

OK! MIDDLE EAST CHAT EXCLUSIVELY TO THE SUPERMODEL ABOUT LIFE IN LA, HER TOYBOY AND HAVING MORE KIDS...



Above: Rachel at the star-studded General Motors party in Dubai. **Inset:** The supermodel was styled at Boutique 1 before the high-profile event. **Left:** With her toyboy boyfriend Jarret Scoll.

rails with all the temptations in LA?

No, they're both pretty mature and down-to-earth. They're fantastic kids. They're both at school Renee is 15 now and she's very much into dancing. She's very bohemian and chilled. Liam has been doing ice-hockey for the past eight years. He's a typical boy, really into his sports.

Would you like to have more children one day?

Yes, maybe.

How's your relationship going with your ice-hockey boyfriend, Jarret?

We've been together over a year now and we're really happy. He lives up in Canada, and we commute – it's really solid and and he's great with the kids.

Jarret is 13 years younger than you. Is the age gap ever an issue?

No. It's just how you get on and how you feel. I guess opposites attract. I'm disorganised [laughs]. He's way more organised. It's confidence, it's personality, it's being able to get on with my kids and just having that connection and... chemistry.

Is it true you've bought a house together?

How did you find out this information?! [laughs] Wow! How did that get out of the bag! No comment!

You were with your ex-husband Rod Stewart for nearly sixteen years. What's the secret to keeping a long-term relationship?

I think it's all about communication, being able to have a laugh and also trust each other.

Rod Stewart once said about you, "She was the first woman who left me." How did that make you feel?

When I look back, they were nine fantastic years of my life. There's nothing worse than hurting someone and that wasn't my intention. The hurt goes both ways, because at 21, you're growing up with someone. Those years in your life are tremendously important years. I was with him from 20 to 29. It was just a point in my life when I had changed.

Is Rod a good dad?

He tours a lot, but he's really good.

How is your film career going?

Well I've been doing films for years but I'm pretty excited as I'm going to do an untitled film in Miami in about two weeks.

What other interests do you have?

A lot of my life is centred around my children – watching them do dance and ice-hockey. One of my biggest passions is renovating houses.

Who are your favourite designers?

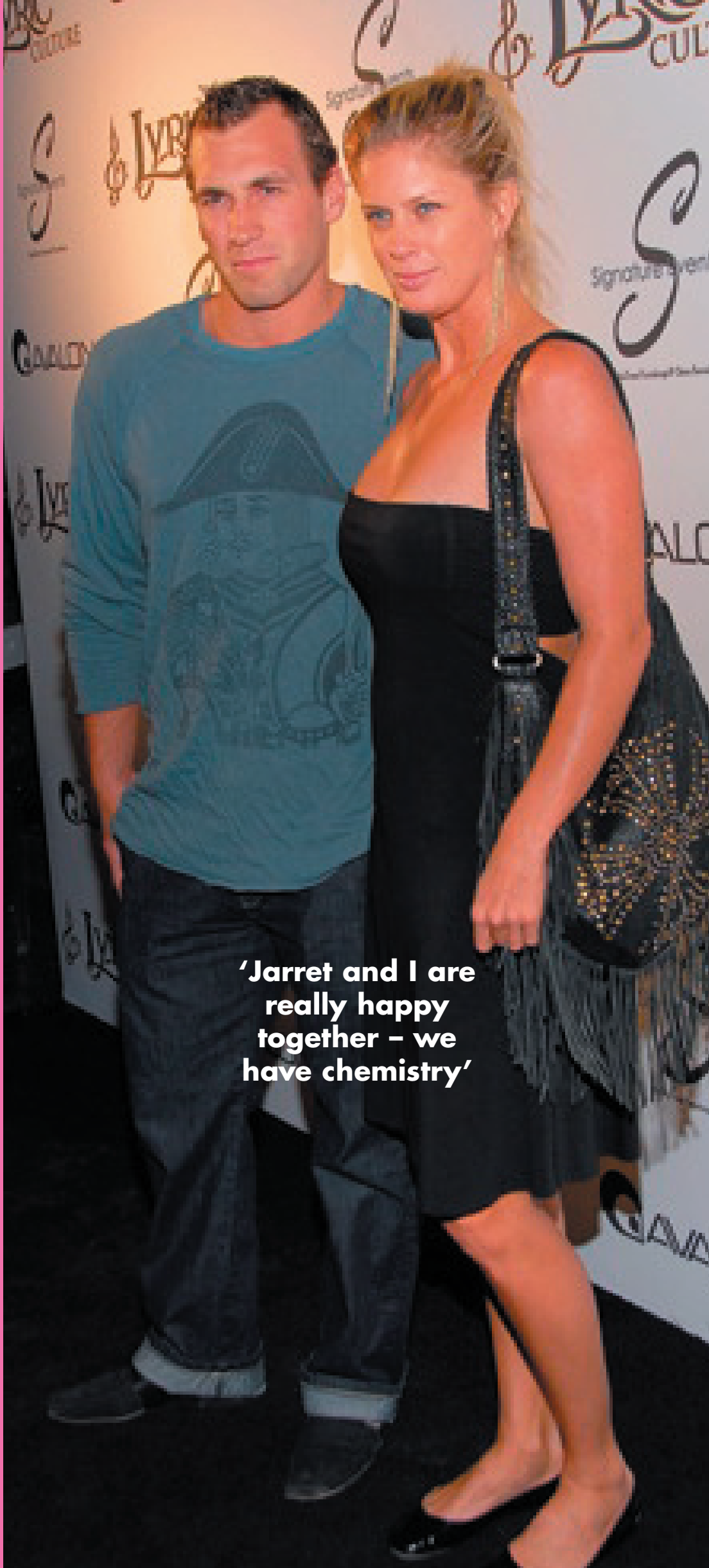
I love Temperley and Ellie Saab.

What for you has been your biggest achievement in life so far?

Raising my two children. Also, I've been very lucky in that I've had a varied career, doing everything from commercials to endorsements and also dabbling in reality TV and of course doing charity work.

What are your plans for next year?

I've just launched Lola, a swimwear line so I'll be designing more collections and I've also got a jewellery line coming out. And I'll be doing some more with Slimfast, plus there's another big project in the pipeline but I can't tell you about that yet! **OK!**



'Jarret and I are really happy together – we have chemistry'