

# Spotted



**Feisty British supermodel Naomi Campbell enjoying Vogue Fashion Dubai Experience at**

**the Armani Hotel alongside Karolina Kurkova.** American writer and *Harper's Bazaar* Editor-at-Large Derek Blasberg posing for photos with friends in the dunes of Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve.

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# Hot seat Jason Byrne

Following his Dubai shows, the comedian catches up with *Rob Garratt* to discuss his new routine and why he's lucky he doesn't live in China



**Do you think people who have seen your new show [Special Eye] found it inspirational and now see you as a role model?**

Yes, the show is especially for the turned-in eye nation. I have been asking for wider doors and a rope along the side of the venue, with knots tied along the rope – simply count the knots and that shows you the way to your seat.

**All your live shows seem to have funny and bizarre titles. How do you come up with them?**

I have a shed out in the back garden. It's my shed of knowledge, I write the names in chalk on the wall, and when I come back the next day, whichever show title stays, that's the one I use. There's a leak in the roof, you see.

**In the UK you've got a new TV show coming out, what's it all about?**

It's called *Father Figure* and it's about a stay-at-home dad, staying at home being a dad, at home looking after the home and being a dad.

## 'I never make an audience member look stupid'

**Do you think the show would be as funny if you didn't have a family yourself to mine for material?**

In my country we are only allowed one family per person, so I'm lucky I don't live in China or somewhere like that,

as this is forbidden; people in China are only allowed one family between three people. So thanks to my family, I am funny, but one day I hope our country changes and allows two families per person.

**What's the best cooking tip you learned from your biggest TV slot to date, with Marco Pierre White on *Kitchen Burnout*?**

Cover everything with micro herbs – they make the worst dish look great. And I made a lot of [the] worst dishes.

**In your shows you're fond of making audience members look stupid. And the rest of the audience finds it very funny. What is it about human nature that makes laughing at other people's misfortune so universally funny?**

I never make the audience member look stupid, I try my best to make them look intellectual by dragging them around in a box, wrapping them in cling film or banging them on the head with empty giant water bottles. I think people like laughing at them because it's not them up there.

**You've been declared the best-selling comedian at the Edinburgh Fringe in Scotland. Has the festival got better or worse in all the years you've been doing it?**

Yes it has gotten better-worse, but the worse thing about it is that it's gotten worse for the better, so it's much better now because years ago it was much worse so that makes it better.

**Right. What mental deficit or delinquency do comedians all share that makes them want to do such an odd, challenging and stressful job?**

No friends. Came out of the womb the wrong way. Basic mental illness.

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