

BLIND DATE

Have you ever wondered what happens when two of your favourite pop stars meet up? Do they get on? Do they mumble some excuse and hide in the loo? Do they thump each other? Or maybe they form a mutual admiration society! Well now you can find out. Every couple of weeks, we'll be inviting two stars out for a meal together – the catch being that neither of them will know in advance who their partner is going to be. That's right, a real blind date! Will it be their best friend? Worst enemy? A hero or a fan? All will be revealed as the weeks go by...

There's been a lot of romance in old London Town of late. Spandau's Martin and Wham's Shirley, Haysi's Jeremy and Wham's Dee...

Wham! That name seems to keep cropping up.

Wonder what George is up to? The lad seems to have kept quite a low profile in all the toings and froings.

Surely there must be some nice girl he fancies?

How about Bananarama's Keren? Now there's a girl who seems to be at a bit of a loose end at the moment, what with Siobhan going out with Bobby Bluebell and Sarah having a boyfriend of her own as well.

Perhaps a little bit of matchmaking by good old No. 1 wouldn't go amiss...

It's a lovely Friday morning. The sun is genuinely beaming out of a rich blue sky and Keren's looking bright and brave as we approach the South Of The Border restaurant near Waterloo.

She's definitely not sure of the identity of her lunchtime beau.

"Is it Gary Kemp? I bet it's one of Spandau Ballet.

"It's not anyone terrible, is it?"

We enter the restaurant and

are shown to an intimate corner table for three.

There's no sign of George yet so we sit down and order two vodka and oranges. A couple of drinks later and there's still no sign of the little lad.

"I knew it," says Keren. "I've been stood up!"

Thankfully, just as we're

about to despair – Keren's already begun to tuck heartily into her savoury potato – in bounds George with a pair of Walkman headphones round his neck.

"Sorry I'm so late. I got a cab from Radlett and the traffic was awful."

George smiles at Keren. "I know this sounds really silly but I thought it would be you."

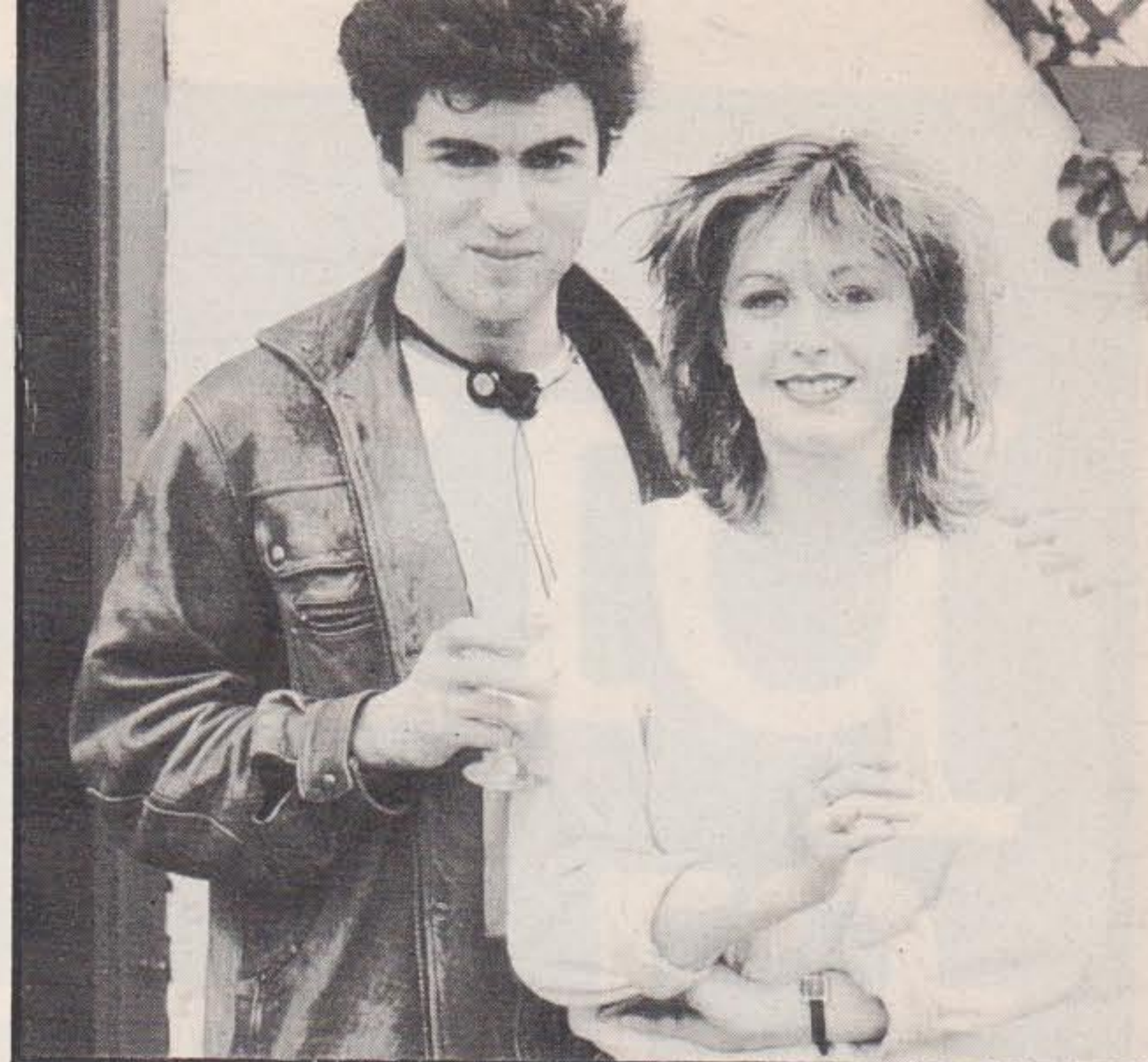
Keren laughs. "I was convinced at first that it was someone out of Spandau Ballet for some reason.

"We've never met before, have we? I've met Andrew. The first time I had a hangover and the second time I was paralytic!"

A waitress arrives and asks George for his order.

"Actually," he replies, "I'm not really hungry. Can I just have a glass of wine, please?"

The waitress raises an eyebrow but the liquid lunch duly appears. Talk turns to



George and Keren battle it out in the No. 1 National Smiling Contest – the prize is the spare vodka and orange opposite them.

INTERVIEW: PAUL SIMPER

PHOTOS: FRASER GRAY



public appearances...

Keren: "We did one at The Palace and Duran Duran were there and Spandau and the fans were absolutely mental. We thought we'd have no trouble but we actually got mobbed and had to be ushered in.

"We were pinned against the wall. It was great because we'd never had anything like that before.

"But we went up to Leicester to do a thing for Saturday Superstore and then it got really violent. There

were boys there and they were like trying to grab you and pull you over the barriers and kiss you.

"It was horrible! Lips all over me!"

George: "We seem to get less of the girl fans which I guess is because we appear with two girls.

KEREN of Bananarama

meets GEORGE from Wham

WHAMARAMA!



Paul foxes George with a tricky question off the top of his hat.

"But Andy's got one girl who sends him practically psychotic letters – they're really bad.

"They say like, 'when I found out you were going out with Shirley I smoked 20 fags in a row. But just because I smoke don't think I'm common and easy!'"

Keren: "Sarah's boyfriend runs our fan club from the flat and it's a lot of work. I reply to all the personal ones unless they're too bad.

"But it's been awful since one of the music papers put about me not having a boyfriend. People write in saying, 'I know you haven't got a boyfriend but I think I'm just what you're looking for!'"

George: "We haven't officially got a fan club but my mum does it all from home."

At this point a young boy and what we assume are his parents sit down at the table next to us.

He looks first at Keren then at George and starts tugging at the mum's arm. George smiles and turns to Keren.

"Do you all write together or individually?"

Keren: "It's a bit of both really. The main problem we've had when people have written songs for us is we hate the lyric.

"It's like 'Shy Boy' was so embarrassing to sing – originally it was called 'Big Red Motorbike'."

George: "I heard you didn't like that – I think it's my favourite."

Keren: "You were over in America recently, weren't you? Didn't you do *American*

Bandstand and *Solid Gold*? (American TV programmes). We did them a couple of weeks ago."

George: "I suppose they expect all the girls to be sort of *Dallas* types.

"We got on the stage and all these dancers were doing this really awfully choreographed routine. The girls were wearing sequinned boob-tubes and trousers with diamonds on!"

Keren: "Disgusting!"

George: "And the blokes had white flared trousers so we just said NO WAY!"

A couple of heads turn to see what the noise in the corner is about.

Keren: "We went to Munich and that was awful. I actually cried – I felt I was having a nervous breakdown when we

got there.

"Siobhan had to be strip searched in the airport. It was horrible – the bloke was about 18 and she started calling him all the names under the sun."

"The next thing was two big frauleins came in with rubber gloves slapping their hands and me and Sarah just tried to hide and Siobhan hid behind Sarah and they just dragged her out."

George: "We did one disgusting show in Munich where the girls just had little gold knickers on and poncho outfits."

Keren: "We did that and we just really messed about, it was so awful. There was a party afterwards and we just went berserk.

"Our record plummeted after that!..."

Keren laughs and finishes her drink.

"I'm afraid I've got to go now. We're doing a programme for Australian satellite TV with David Frost."

We all get up and walk back into the sunshine. Keren gets into a cab which is waiting to whisk her to the studios.

Keren: "Bye, George."

George: "Bye, Keren. I'll see you again."

The cab drives off. We wave and then stroll towards the No. 1 offices.

So there you have it. Has George found true love? Will this be the beginning of Whamarama?

Who will be next? Tune in soon for more startling revelations...