

JIVE BUNNY



ARE TRENDY!!

No they're not! We're joking! But could they be? Paul Simper takes Ian Morgan, Andy Pickles and The Bun round some of London's trendiest places to see if anything can be done to improve their lamentable image. Extremely trendy shots by Jenny Acheson.

BOY, Soho

First stop is the clothes shop so favoured by Sinitta, Yazza and Boy (boom boom) George for its bright designer-wear visible from 500 paces. Kerry, the Boygirl, tells us that the shop is also popular with Bonnie Tyler ("she buys all her sexy stockings here"), Bananarama ("especially Jacquie O'Sullivan") and that Madonna "has been known to wear our cycling shorts".

Ian and Andy seem suitably impressed trying on a foil bomber jacket and a black zip coat before Andy actually whips out his cheque-book and buys a Lifestyle Plush T-shirt ("that's for people who haven't got loads of

money but want people to think they have," says Kerry) and an Attitude Boy T-shirt. Both price £8.



Perhaps these Bunnies are already a tad more trendy than we imagined.

"But we don't wear flares," says Andy. "Joe Bloggs the clothing company gives us clothes (oops) and they have massive flares. But we refuse to wear them. All the girls and boys on the street from 13-18 all dress the same. Pair of jeans, psychedelic tops and medallions. I prefer a girl to look like a girl — a skirt or dress or whatever."

Ian doesn't look so sure as he eyes a particularly lurid shirt.

"They're dressing for themselves," he says. "Dress what you feel comfortable in. The fact they look daft is beside the point."



GROOVE RECORDS, Greek Street

For many years the number one shop for those trendy club folk who like to purchase the latest hip import before it's picked up by some British record company. There's not a Jive Bunny album in sight but again Ian looks strangely at home. Within seconds of us squeezing through the door he has purchased 'Tongue In Cheek' by Encore (or the other way round) and is looking mighty pleased.

"A bit of a classic," he confides. "Most of the music I'm into is underground dance music rather than commercial 'cos I used to be a DJ."

"Actually he's a Kylie fan," says Andy, chuckling heartily.

"Musically Andy and I will veer off in different directions as producers," says Ian, "although Jive Bunny will stay the same."

"Check out the B-side of the new single," says Andy, "it's one of our own things we recorded over a couple of days. A little experiment," he adds mysteriously.



CUTS, Frith Street

This is a very trendy snippery where one goes to have that short back and sides that all the male models seem to hold so much store by. A trifle nervous at popping a rabbit's foot over the porch at first, the Jives actually find the good folk of Cuts to be a friendly bunch who are quite happy to give The Bun a quick clip round the ears.

"They were nice," says Ian, "but I don't think it looks very trendy. A bit basic." No doubt 'basic' is the very Ben Nevis of trendiness in Soho.

"My friend David in Doncaster cuts my hair," says Andy. "I've never ever paid for a haircut. And I get my feet done for

nothing as well. I have a friend who does a toe or two."

"A friend cuts mine too," says Ian. "She comes round to the house to do it. She's very good. I've never been 'had' by an expensive haircut — there's not much of my hair to cut!"



BOND, Newburgh Street

A weird and wonderful clothes shop with heaps of groovy love accessories, see-thru' trousers and those wee hats that sit atop your head as you boggle about to the acid music.



"The see-thru' trousers are rather fetching," says Ian. "How about it Andy?"

"No chance," mutters his partner. "I've seen what happens when you have pictures like that taken. The next thing they'll be all round the world."

There is a noticeable buzz of excitement round the store as The Bun cuts a dash in a very snazzy red jacket. Who wouldn't fail to be impressed?

ASCOT'S, Green Street, Mayfair

Finally it's time to put up the feet at a new and très swanky members club where the likes of Andrew Ridgeley and Bananarama (again) can sup at the bar/lounge while cocking an ear to some classical music and nodding off in front of the fire. And there's a very swish restaurant with a glass dome ceiling!

"Very civilised," reckons Andy and Ian. "Can we have a membership?" They particularly seem to appreciate the blue cheese dip with carrots for The Bun.



"The door policy for clubs is much better in London," says Ian. "Up in Nottingham and Doncaster a lot of the clubs won't let you in wearing training shoes even though they're more expensive than normal shoes."

"Mind I went to The Wag and I was well over-dressed," says Andy. "They almost didn't let me in 'cos I was wearing a suit. You have to wear a ruck sack, have your jeans ripped and an orange shirt on. Strangel!"

So, the big question. Will Jive Bunny ever be trendy, boys?

"Um . . . ummm . . . er, no," says Andy. "But Pete Waterman's said nice things about us."

"And Jonathan King," adds Ian.

Well we tried . . .

JOHN RICHMOND, Newburgh Street

A very trendy and avant-garde young clothes designer who regularly togs up the likes of Lisa Stansfield and Prince pal Jill Jones. His outfits often have bizarre messages like 'Destroy Disorientate Disorder' on them.

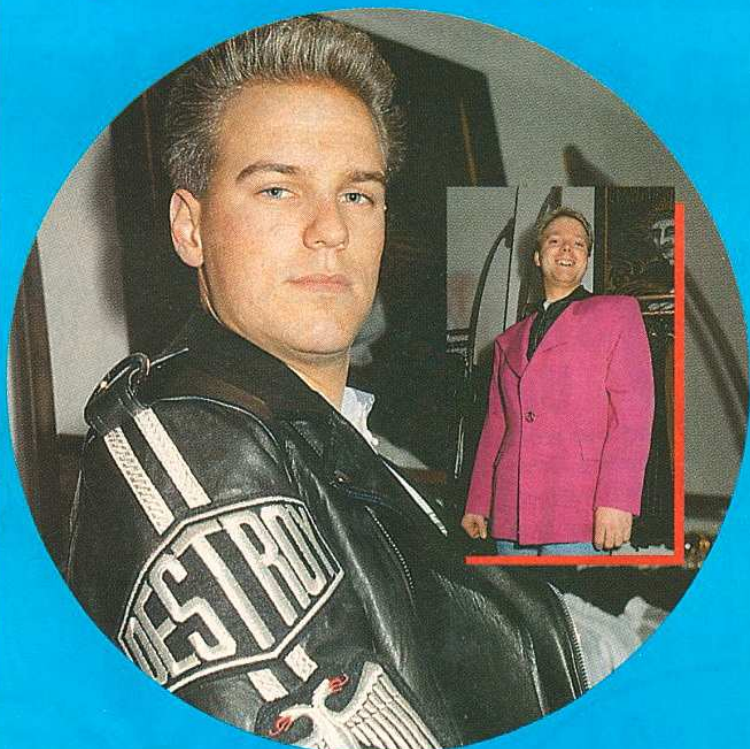
Today there is a rather serious assistant guarding the precious outfits from any undesirables who might lower the tone of the

he recently spent £500 on a Giorgio Armani suit.

"I'd been looking for a suit for months that I liked," says Ian.

"People might be shocked to hear that's what Jive Bunny buy but it's whatever you feel comfortable in, isn't it."

"I could have cracked that assistant," says Andy as we stroll on through the West End.



establishment — enter Jive Bunny.

"You're not going to put that on with the jacket," says our serious young friend eyeing the Bunny's head. "John wouldn't like that."

Mr Richmond isn't there so we shall never know the answer to that one but Ian and Andy do slip into a couple of jackets, a bright coloured job that's going for £310 and a leather jacket that's a mere £635.

There are a few astonished whistles but Ian later confesses

"Very intimidating."

So are Jive Bunny clothes snobs?

"It may not look like it but we are," says Ian.

"I'd never buy a suit from Next or anywhere like that," says Andy. "I like to get originals which nobody else would have. The last suit I bought was in France. I wore it for the Brits Awards. It's pretty expensive, feels good on you, has short lapels, not a smart double-breasted suit — casual."