

where things start

# paper

**IT'S RAINING  
GWEN!  
HALLELUJAH!**

**THE WORLD'S BEST  
GIFT GUIDE**

**STYLE  
FASHION  
2003**

**FREE INSIDE  
pm NEW YORK'S  
NIGHTLIFE TABLOID  
OUT WITH KIMORA LEE SIMMONS**



**GWEN STEFANI**

# CONTENTS

## COVER STORY

56 Gwen Stefani may be 33 now, but deep down she's just a girl—just a really famous, beautiful girl who's friends with Eve and Moby and Brad Pitt. By Peter Davis

## FEATURES

42 Filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar ties us up and down. By Dennis Dermody

46 Dermot Mulroney is playing opposite Jack Nicholson in *About Schmidt*, and we love him so much him we ache. By Mickey Boardman

48 Return of the monster clubs. By Stephen Mooallem

50 St. Etienne's sugar-pop momma, Sarah Cracknell. By Angelo Pitillo

54 Artist Tom Sachs goes "Nutsy." By Sarah Valdez

## THE FRONT

18 Holiday wishes from Kim & David

20 A word about one of our special people

22 Your electronic rants and raves

24 Cultural Sushi: New York nightlife served hot. By Caroline Torem-Craig

## PAPERVIEW

28 Domestic nudity. By Mickey Boardman

30 Chris Johanson's art goes deep. By Meghan Sutherland

32 The flying Basco brothers. By Clare Kleinedler

34 Donnie's sacred music. By Jonathan Durbin

36 Anna Faris isn't *the* hot chick, but she's no Rob Schneider, either. By Meghan Sutherland

38 An L.A. shoe story. By Ross Garrett

40 David Cross is funny. By Meghan Sutherland

## STYLE

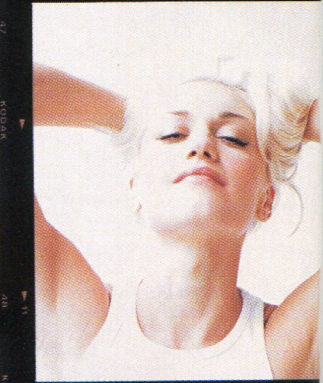
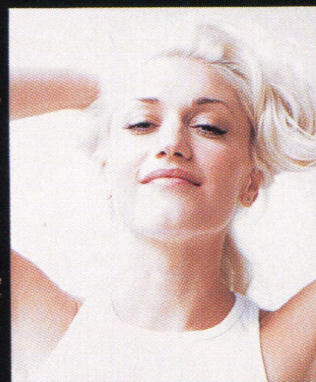
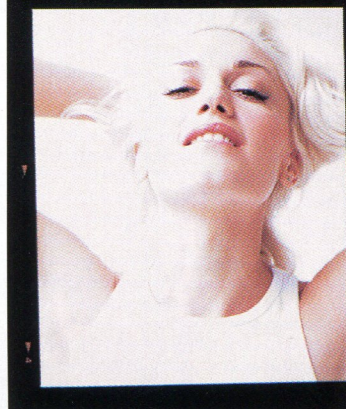
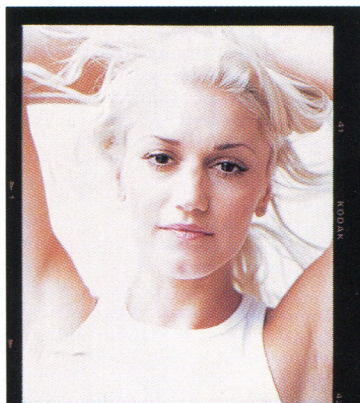
79 Note from Kim. By Kim Hastreiter

80 The hottest looks of Spring '03. Runway photos by Randy Brooke

97 Photos from PAPER's fabulous fashionpalooza!

102 The world's best gift guide. By Kim Hastreiter

108 Amy Davis draws clothes on her friends. By Amy Davis



R/P / PAPER GWEN STEFANI

Gwen wears a tank top by D&G.

## ATTITUDES

62 New York's Gossip Goddess shows us her diary. By Paula Froelich

64 Pot is hot (again). By David Herskovits

65 Orwell only got the year wrong. By Ann Magnuson

66 Hell isn't just for children any more. By Glenn O'Brien

67 Spam, I am? No more. By Jason Calacanis

68 The word is on the Streets. By Hobey Echlin

72 The year's best films, and a lament for the late, great Doris Wishman. By Dennis Dermody

## REVIEWS

70 Music: Bad Wizard, Foo Fighters, Missy Elliott, Roni Size, Röyksopp, Sigur Rós

74 Film: *Far From Heaven*, *Femme Fatale*, *Narc*, *Personal Velocity*, *Revolution #9*, *Russian Ark*, *Talk to Her*. By Dennis Dermody

75 DVDementia: Scintillating sinema from outer space. By Dennis Dermody

## ENDPAPER

110 The inside fashion scoop for those who really need it. By Mickey Boardman

## PM: THE NIGHTLIFE TABLOID

(FOLLOWS PAGE 96)

2 Kimora Lee Simmons is a terrific lady. But don't just listen to us—ask Tyra Banks. By Mickey Boardman

4 Food: The Dining Room, Dos Caminos, Pico Café, rm, Anju

8 Bars: Elmo, Harem, Scuisciá

10 Next stop, clubland. By Drew Elliott & Jonathan Durbin

12 Gallery Go 'Round. By Sarah Valdez

12 The Great Weird Way. By Tom Murrin

14 Shopaholics eponymous. By Drew Elliott

## ON THE COVER AND CONTENTS PAGES:

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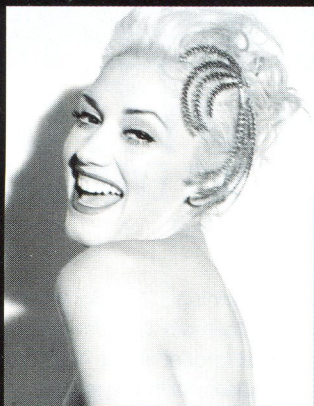
Makeup by Mathu Andersen for the Wall Group

ON THE COVER: Gwen wears a feathered headpiece from Palace Costumes, Los Angeles; jewelry by Fred Leighton. Fragrance: Dior Addict.

On this page: Gwen wears a top by Zaldy; feathered head piece from Palace Costumes, Los Angeles; jewelry by Fred Leighton.



# Rock Ready



**GWEN STEFANI BLOWS  
OUR MINDS ONCE AGAIN  
BY PETER DAVIS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD PHIBBS**



GWEN WEARS A FEATHERED  
HEAD PIECE FROM PALACE  
COSTUMES, LOS ANGELES;  
JEWELRY BY FRED LEIGHTON.

**I**t's Gwen Stefani's 33rd birthday, and the scene in No Doubt's dressing room at an auditorium in downtown Los Angeles is cluttered and chaotic. Stefani's operatic voice booms from the sound check as she belts out the song "Bathwater." Five large pizza boxes and cases of Coca Cola, Diet Coke and bottled water are stacked near an enormous bouquet of birthday flowers. Drummer Adrian Young's wife, Nina, strolls by cuddling their toddler son, who has been dressed in a black jumpsuit with skull-and-crossbones buttons. Techies race back and forth, fueled by venti lattes from Starbucks.

"I'm burnt, dude," says Stefani, who wed Bush lead singer Gavin Rossdale in September, as a blueberry-haired assistant hands her a cappuccino. Her sweet voice has a Southern California surfer-girl twang. "I had 10 days to plan my wedding, and now I'm going on tour," she says. "I have so much stuff going on. In January I'm taking the month off. Gavin and I, we don't know what we're gonna do—just hang out and not talk to anybody."

Sporting a rehearsal outfit of Ron Herman and a blue-and-white-mesh tank top, with her long, white-blond hair framing her face, Stefani is just as beautiful as she looked in the photographs of her in her pale-pink couture John Galliano wedding dress. Stefani and Rossdale actually tied the knot twice. The first ceremony, performed by the Church of England, was held on September 14 in London, where the "I dos" were said in front of 130 people—family members and friends like Stefani's ex, 32-year-old No Doubt bassist Tony Kanal. After a honeymoon on the Italian island of Capri, the pair flew back to Los Angeles, where they repeated their vows privately for a Catholic priest and the couple's parents. Finally, on September 28, Jimmy Iovine, chairman of No Doubt's label Interscope, gave the newlyweds

it's only natural that one day she would start her own clothing company. With her business partner Andrea Lieberman, Stefani is launching Lamb, an edgy fashion line that will hit stores in Fall 2003. The line's name comes from her moniker for her dog. "'Lamb' is anything cute," the singer explains. "It's basically the clothes I wear. I want it to be my style, so I can wear them. I don't know what it will evolve into. I don't know if people will like it or not. I don't know anything about fashion. I'm still learning. It's just another creative thing for me to do, and it's exciting."

Armies of Gwen clones crowd every No Doubt concert, but Stefani says she is still surprised that she is a role model. "I never thought I would have an impact," she claims. "I was a really passive person growing up. I had a really creative, talented, hyperactive older brother. I'd do whatever he said; I liked what he liked. Anything he did, I did." This brother, Eric, started No Doubt in 1986 with singer John Spence, and 17-year-old Gwen provided back-up vocals. Then Spence killed himself with a gun in a public park in 1987. With Gwen stepping in as lead singer, the band (which at the time included Kanal on bass, Tom Dumont on guitar and Adrian Young on drums) recorded *Tragic Kingdom* in 1995. The record sold 14 million copies. (Eric Stefani, who dropped out of the group seven years ago, is now an artist and a contributor to *The Simpsons*.) Gwen became an instant MTV superstar. "After living at home with my parents and going to college and making this record that I thought no one would ever hear, it was like, 'Who am I? What the hell is happening?'"

As a teen, Stefani didn't find many women to look up to in rock music. "I remember in high school, I couldn't like Madonna," she admits with deadpan seriousness. "It was high school. There were rules. I was into ska and rockabilly—bands like Fishbone and Madness. It wasn't until later that I discovered Debbie Harry, who was everything I loved. She was glamorous, and she got up on stage and she rocked. Now, of course, as you get older, you see someone like Madonna, who has a career that lasts and keeps people interested so long, and I have a lot of respect for her." Stefani

*"Of course, I'm vain, and I'm probably more vain because I'm being looked at all the time. I'm sure in a couple of days I'll look in the mirror and go, 'Oh my God! Look at that!'"*

the ultimate present: a lavish, enormous wedding celebration at his Beverly Hills home, with guests like Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston. "I didn't know what level it was going to be at," Stefani gushes, widening her brown eyes. "It was beyond! It was the most spectacular event I've ever been to. Everyone's mouth was on the floor. I didn't think I'd be emotional the second time around, but I was."

Stefani's blond, bottle-rocket looks have landed her in magazines as different as *Vogue* and *Vibe*—proof that the singer transcends all age and racial boundaries. Her ability to transform and reinvent her public persona are sure to give her a career trajectory like another blond pop dynamo, Madonna. Part of her enduring appeal is her daring fashion sense. Raised in a conservative Catholic household in Anaheim, California (home of Disneyland), she has a look that is part cartoon, part Latina home girl. From bindis to braces to Jean Harlow hairdos, Stefani's changing looks have kept the Gwen-abes busy trying to re-create her style. With help from her mother and friends, she has always designed her own clothes and stage costumes, so

complains that when she first started there was little room for women in the male-dominated world of bands. "Girls were like, 'What does she think she's doing up there?'—that kind of attitude. Then it started to turn around to, 'She's me. She's representing me.' I think it's amazing to be in a band as a girl. Girls come to the concerts, and they feel like they can relate to you—to the lyrics, or maybe they just like the way I do my hair. It's really cool that I can do that for them. I love it."

These days, all anyone wants to talk about is her love life, which has been followed by fans of No Doubt's pop-ska music for years. Her breakup with Kanal in 1994 inspired the hit "Ex Girlfriend." She says the ballad "A Simple Kind of Life" (from No Doubt's sophomore album, 1999's *Return of Saturn*)—with lyrics like, "And all I needed was a simple man/ So I could be his wife"—has "a lot to do with Gavin." Today, on her birthday, Stefani reports that she is more mature and ready to start a family. "I want to be a grandma," she confesses, smiling. "I love my 30s so far. Of course, I'm vain, like we



all are, and I'm probably more vain because I'm being looked at all the time and judged. I'm sure in a couple of days I'll look in the mirror and go, 'Oh, my God! Look at that and that and that.' But turning 30 has been so cool. I just want to live life."

During the making of *Return of Saturn*, Stefani was in a deep-blue funk. "I was lost," she recalls, staring off into space. "The making of that record was a growing phase. You can hear it in the songs. I didn't know how to write songs when I did *Tragic Kingdom*. I kind of figured it out. I really wanted to be a good songwriter. I wrote in my journal and cried. Ugggh! It was such a serious mood. You can see it in my style. I had pink hair, but I didn't know what I was doing. I was turning 30 and going through a weird phase."

Stefani's current ebullient state of mind is evident on the band's latest disc, the up-beat *Rock Steady*. "There's a real freshness to [the album], because nothing was planned," she says. "It was like, be fun—write a song about, whatever, how cute your boyfriend is." Much of *Rock Steady* was recorded in Port Antonio, Jamaica, and boasts co-producers and co-writers like Sly and Robbie, Prince, William Orbit, the Neptunes, Ric Ocasek, Nellee Hooper and Dave Stewart. "We had all these different energies," she says. "When you do a record with all different people, you have to bring it together phonetically. We had no game plan, but everything fell into place."

The list of artists Stefani has collaborated with is also impressive. She's scored hits with Eve on "Let Me Blow Ya Mind" and Moby on "South Side." "Working with Gwen was wonderful," Moby recalls. "When she first came to the studio, I expected her to be a larger-than-life rock star, but she was so sweet and down-to-earth. It was the same when we worked on the "South Side" video. She has this very focused work ethic that is impressive, and she's a lot of fun to be around."

Stefani returns the love. "I'm so lucky people ask me," she says. "The song with Eve had the most impact on me. I'd never worked with a rapper. Doing the video, it was like stepping into a whole other world. I love the idea of different worlds coming together. It was what ska was all about in the first place. And I got exposed to a whole other audience. Even just walking around New York, people who I didn't think would know who I am were like, 'Hey, what's up?'"

On the top of Stefani's wish list for future collaborators is Dr. Dre. "He's on my label, so I told them, if he ever calls or wants me for anything, I'll be there!" Although Stefani and Rossdale listen and critique each other's work, they have yet to cut a track together. "We've never been creative as a team like that. I would love to, but I feel shy about it somehow. It's the one thing we haven't done together."

After No Doubt's tour ends in November, Stefani and the band are going to lay low. "We don't really have any plans. We'll do whatever feels right at the time. Right now, I don't think anyone feels inspired to write a record." The main thing on Stefani's mind at the moment is finishing up today's sound check so she can hightail it home to hubby Rossdale, who is cooking a special birthday dinner. No Doubt will soon be on the road, playing big stadiums with bands like Garbage and even opening a few dates for the Rolling Stones.

Stefani finishes her cappuccino and sighs. "Being a performer and being on tour is really repetitive," she says, rolling her eyes. "It's not very creative. I really enjoy writing a record more than touring. Performing is fun, but it's like, hey, so is eating ice cream. You don't want to do it every minute of your life. It's like, okay, something else now, please." ★

Styling by Andrea Lieberman. Hair by Danilo for hair U wear. Makeup by Mathu Andersen for the Wall Group.

