

the subject of her looks heriting her grandmother's ic cheekbones and her her's deep, entrancing eyes, recently voted the seventh utiful woman in the world. dismisses the idea with a g laugh. 'That's all very flat- ut it's not something I n. I'm confident about my t, to be honest, I don't give cond thought.'

o appears to have inherited her grandfather's love of and freely admits that her of been lacking in colourful A 'naughty but not unruly' her early indiscretions setting fire to a garage 'for

of it', breaking rrors off cars aling musical nts from her From the age e would sneak e family home t to attend Following the vn of her par- rriage, she Paris aged 16 yed what she s as a fairly s time. 'For it I was chaper- was never able

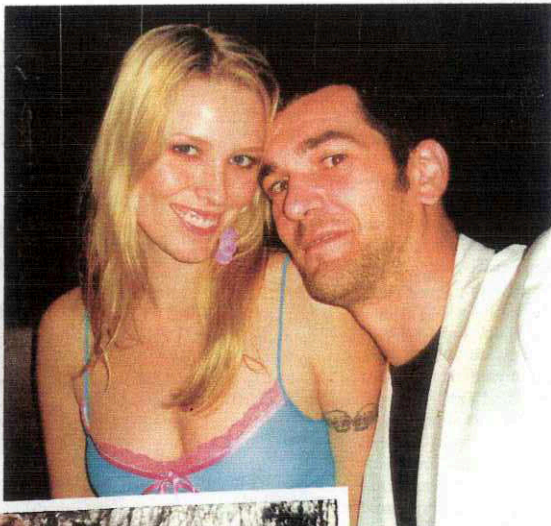
major party ani- there were drugs and alcohol around, but I w that those things would take me nowhere.'

later Kiera announced her engagement to photographer Ale de Basseville, 12 years her hey first met at a Paris cabaret where de Bas- as performing a half-naked dance on a table, ed by hordes of adoring women. Three ater they were living together and have been e ever since. Considering her grandfather's : for perilously young ladies, it's perhaps t she settled down with a much older man. e points out, 'Given my family history, it's not ne is in a position to judge me for it.'

uple have a home in Beverly Hills and are to build a second home in Brazil. No longer : playboy life, de Basseville has reinvented s a financier. 'He's just bought his own bank,' tions casually.

ss keeps her on the move and she flits regu- reen LA, London, Paris and Cannes, setting tion deals, attending glitzy movie festivals 's', and rubbing shoulders with the rich and he never lost her childhood infatuation with rs, and it's now her preferred mode of travel. 'actually rode in a helicopter until four years ys. 'I travelled down to the south of France h my boyfriend and it was the most amazing e. I can still remember that thrill of taking first time. It felt like a genuine adventure. It le new experience. I still get that same thrill t foot in one.

I'm up there in the sky I see everything in a y different light; I'm just myself in my own an just daydream and gaze at the beautiful t can listen to my favourite music. Nothing



Kiera Chaplin with fiancé Ale de Basseville. Left: as a child, far left, with siblings Laura, Spencer, Shannon and Kevin and father Eugene

beats the feeling of flying into Cannes listening to the Sex Pistols' *Anarchy In The UK* or Bowie's *Ashes To Ashes*. And if I need to think through something important, heli-

copters offer the perfect space. They're a great environment for capturing and nailing new ideas. I've had some of my best business ideas when airborne.

'I know that some people find them quite scary, but I've always felt completely comfortable in helicopters. I even enjoy it if there's air turbulence, when the helicopter suddenly dips and you feel like you're falling through the air. It is also the sexiest way to travel.'

Considering her wealth, it's perhaps surprising that she doesn't yet own her own helicopter, preferring to hire the services of Avolus, the exclusive private transport club favoured by wealthy industrialists and A-list movie stars. She doesn't, however, rule out the possibility of one day having a helicopter to call her own.

'That would be a dream come true,' she says. 'I'd be able to travel to wherever I wanted to. First, I'd need to learn to fly, but I don't have time to take lessons right now. There are so many trips I would love to take. I'd love to fly across the Grand Canyon and over Manhattan. But that's for the future.'

For now, her energies are concentrated on expanding her business and developing her more creative pursuits. She has recently rekindled her acting ambitions. As well as *Japan*, she's about to star in *Aimee Semple McPherson*, a biopic about a Twenties evangelist, and also has a role in upcoming Bollywood movie *Yatna*. And she's in discussions to play her grandmother, Oona, in a Hollywood blockbuster about the Chaplin clan.

'You know what?' she says. 'For years I felt like the Chaplin name was a pressure to live up to. That's all changed now. I've not only accepted it, it's something that I take great pride in. I'm proud to be a Chaplin.'

Then, right on cue, an immaculately dressed man at the next table leans across and enquires, 'Chaplin? You did say Chaplin, didn't you. 'No relation, I suppose?'



Helicopters are traditionally the preserve of football chairmen and flamboyant rock stars, but these days you don't need to be a multimillionaire to fly in one. And while initially it can be a mildly terrifying experience – imagine a car that sets off vertically – there are few more spectacular ways of taking in the scenery.

FlyingExperiences.com offers a 30-minute tour of London. Setting off from Redhill, Surrey, it follows the path of the Thames past landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament (above), Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Kew Gardens and the Thames Barrier, all for £149 per person. If you fancy being in control, the same price buys you a trial lesson.

For mere sightseers, treatme.net takes the action further afield, offering a 45-minute flight over York and Emmerdale, taking in sights including The Woolpack pub, all for £189. The same company also offers a sightseeing tour of Blackpool, essentially the tower and the beach, as well as the Dambuster Helicopter Tour, which takes you over areas of the Peak District where 617 squadron trained before the daring WWII raid.

Steve Hill

→ AIRBORNE ARMY

ROBINSON R22

From £120,500

Top speed

118mph

Range

200 miles

Basic, no frills

two-seat helicopter, ideal for beginners. It has a piston engine, is smooth, reliable and has few complex systems to make flights or maintenance difficult. The only drawback is cockpit size – any tall man is going to be cramped, and there is literally no luggage space at all. Still, the R22 and the R44, its four-seat cousin, remain popular as trainer choppers with the US police and armed forces around the world.



BELL JET RANGER 206B-3

£575,000

Top speed

132mph

Range 430 miles

First built in the late Sixties, this turbine-powered light helicopter is statistically the world's safest single-engined aircraft, and is by far the most successful commercial helicopter of all time. Hydraulic controls keep handling smooth for the pilot, and most media organisations in the US still use the Jet Ranger, as does the US Army.

