CLEAN WHITE LIGHT
Anoushka Fisz in the North Hollywood home she shares with her husband Dave Stewart, wearing gathered jacket, £945, Moncler Gamme Rouge. Vintage white trim, stylist's own. All other clothes, Anoushka's own. The 'Spot' painting is by Damien Hirst, the candlestick by Baccarat and the chandelier is Murano glass. Opposite: a photographic portrait of Isabella Rossellini and a self-portrait with Gilbert and George, both by Stewart

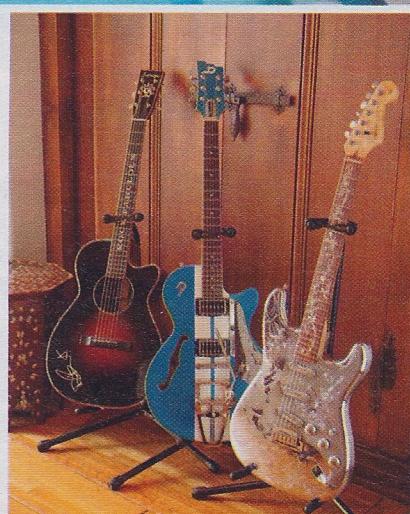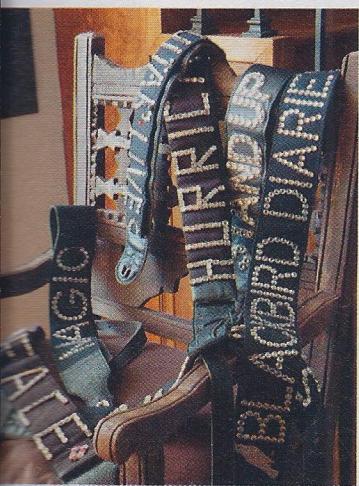# CALIFORNIA *DREAM*

usic legend Dave Stewart and art photographer Anoushka Fisz dwell in blissful harmony
a North Hollywood hacienda full of inspirational *objets* and artworks. *LORIEN HAYES*
isits the chic home, where they entertain friends from the worlds of music, film and art

Photographs by *ROGER DAVIES*. Styled by *ALISON EDMOND*

Driving to Dave Stewart and avant-garde photographer Anoushka Fisz's LA home, nestled far from the valley's madding crowd in a small suburb of North Hollywood, is a halcyon experience. Only a short journey from the bustle of Hollywood Boulevard, I am winding along intimate avenues of bespoke haciendas built in the late 1920s, decked in palms against the motionless blue sky. The Stewart family's residence was the masterpiece of the estate's original French architect (he built the house in 1926, and lived in it thereafter; the post where he tethered his pony still stands outside). Surrounded by lush foliage, the house – its muted cream walls offset by terracotta tiles and stained-glass windows – has an instantly soothing presence; as I approach, only the sounds of Stevie Nicks' forthcoming album (co-written and co-produced by Stewart) coming from every portal hint at the rock 'n' roll spirit of its owners. I am greeted by the trim man from Sunderland himself, immediately recognisable in his iconic tobacco-coloured trilby hat (he still buys them from Charlie Chaplin's milliner, James Lock & Co in London, despite having moved to California from Surrey over six years ago); his eyes are hidden by sunglasses (the result of shyness, rather than just affectation) and his fingers drip with silver, which makes our handshake jangle. His wife of nine years Anoushka then emerges, her platinum-blonde hair in rollers. At 41, she is hauntingly beautiful, with alabaster skin and languid eyes.

The couple share this hacienda with their daughters Indya, eight, and Kaya, 10, as well as Django, 20, and Sam, 23 (Stewart's sons with former Bananarama and Shakespears Sister singer Siobhan Fahey). Stewart has been at the pinnacle of the music business for over 30 years. He has sold over 100 million albums worldwide, 75 million of them as half of 1980s pop phenomenon Eurythmics, with one-time partner Annie Lennox; has written hit songs with Tom Petty, Gwen Stefani, Mick Jagger, Bono, Bryan Ferry and Katy Perry; was highly instrumental in founding Nelson Mandela's 46664 campaign with Bono and the Edge; has composed numerous soundtracks; and most recently, has worked in theatre – his musical version of *Ghost* opens in Manchester in March, transferring to London in June.

At the Stewart home, there are no hard edges, no showy opulence. This a family home – it's full, it's busy. In every room I am struck by this gemütlich ambience, before I notice Salvador Dalí's melting clock, a Picasso sketch and the Damien Hirst *Spot* paintings (one given to them by the artist, which now resides in the 'nook') on their walls. Even their photography collection has a jovial, relaxed feel: Elton John with Bono, the Edge and Mick Jagger at their wedding; the Marx Brothers cavorting in the downstairs loo. Stewart took the shots of Isabella

Rossellini (in the hall) and Gilbert and George (in the living room). 'We fell in love with this place immediately,' says Fisz. 'We were living on our farm in Surrey, Dave was spending so much time in LA and we all just wanted to be together.' That was six years ago, and Stewart maintains that it was one of the best decisions of his life. 'LA is home to all kinds of incredible people – Tarantino, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Morrissey… And it's a place that embraces ideas. You put forward a good idea in London and it's like pushing a melting snowball up a mountain. But this is a city built on ideas. They don't always work out, but when they do, they're green-lit within hours. I'm a positive person, and at last I've found my true environment.' (Stewart says he has put together a supergroup. 'Wait till June!' he says when I ask him to reveal the other members, though with his list of musician friends, it should be exciting.).

Fisz created the family home with interior designer Eliana de Leon (from Cole, Martinez & Curtis), sourcing Moroccan ebony furniture, Syrian mother-of-pearl-embossed cabinets, and white Murano-glass chandeliers. There are skulls and skeletons, craniums and bones in bronze and papier mâché (embodying Fisz's artistic influences, from Frida Kahlo to Georgia O'Keeffe).

'The French antique furniture is from my mother,' she says. 'She used to have an antique store in France and she kept everything for me. This is the table where my mother and father [a Polish Holocaust survivor] sat together every night. They would light a candle, have a glass of wine, no matter what time it was. And now Dave and I do the same.'

The house is full of such ritual. Stewart's day ends religiously at 7.30pm, when 'in Bing Crosby and Bob Hope's footsteps, I stand by the mantelpiece with a vodka martini and one olive'.

Both Stewart and Fisz exude constant creativity. It was their passion for photography that drew them together over 15 years ago in the South of France, where they both had photo exhibitions. 'It was like meeting the Mad Hatter on acid,' she says. 'I have never met anyone so exciting. He was like lightning in a bottle.'

They married four years later on the beach at Juan-les-Pins, in a ceremony read by Deepak Chopra, wearing orange blossom in their hair and garlands of frangipani (Bono and the Edge, Jagger, Ronnie Wood, Liam Gallagher and Stewart formed the house band, while Jerry Hall, Elton John and a host of their artist friends danced the night away). And looking at them together now, smiling at each other, this really could have been yesterday.

'I think we endure,' says Fisz, 'because we keep the home fires burning. It's a crazy world out there. This is where everyone comes together; we live life, solve problems, cry, laugh. It all happens here.' □

'Ghost: The Musical' opens at Manchester Opera House on 28 March and at the Piccadilly Theatre in London on 22 June. Stewart's first solo album in 14 years, 'The Blackbird Diaries', is released in May.

THIS BLISS
Stewart and Fisz with Haitian flags bought in Jamaica and an antique carved chair

AMERICAN SPLENDOUR
*Clockwise from top right: Stewart beneath
a David Bailey portrait of Michael Caine.
The pool. Stewart's guitars. A Jimi Hendrix
portrait by Gered Mankowitz adorns
the bedroom wall. Gilbert and George
paintings and a Richard Avedon shot in
the stairwell. Custom-made guitar straps*