

AT HOME
WITH THE
PITTS



POOR-UP Alison Jackson's Rod Pitt and Angelina Jolie at home

THE BIG SHOW | ALISON JACKSON

Secret lives of the false idols



NO MERCY Jackson's satire pulls few punches

Controversial photographer Alison Jackson tells **Jessica Holland** about Tony Blair, a pedgy Jesus and becoming Osama bin Laden

"I've seen two pictures of Christ with a belly," Alison jokes pointedly. "You look at a small bit, at these little bits pictures of Christ's belly, and he's so perfectly beautiful, draped while lying on a cross, and here you look at these half-naked celebrities on red carpets. It's just fascinating. [Celebrity] is another religion - born through imagery."

Jackson, an artist and TV director, has never been afraid of speaking her mind. As a student at the Royal College of Art, her pictures of rockabilies of Princess Diana and David Beckham were banned until her controversial graduation show.

After that, she went onto a "revolving" media storm and continued creating her photos mocking up the dirty secrets, debates and

hated. Paris Hilton did it on her lips to expose Sir Ron Joffe on the receiving end of an enema; Marilyn Monroe enjoying some John Galt by Al Pacino.

Jackson makes very public

love and imagines what they're doing behind closed doors. It's a formula that's won her plenty of notoriety, as well as eight million followers on her own website. Her subjects are Tony Blair (Naked White, Tony Blair, Bush Star) and Queen Elizabeth II (The Queen, The Queen and the Queen for Christ).

"I've been depicting our opinions," Jackson says in her entry, "no-one was more Tony Blair was taking care things and these other things were happening. Or not happening. He could have said right at the beginning of the book to the bag that she was laughing with America, but he didn't. He said there were no weapons of mass destruction."

So in 2004, when we were all playing Al Pacino's Campbell and Tony Blair is really

hand-drawn and shredding documents in a show that's a shocking sick funny.

Despite her high-profile headlines (Jackson says she is "seriously shy"), she speaks with horror at seeking kind press and being named next to her celebrity victims at parties. "I always get very embarrassed," she cracks, "and refuse to say my name."

She has no intention of becoming the type of tabloid fodder she makes a living making, although she's not afraid of getting in front of the camera.

"I've posed as Marilyn Monroe," she says, "and I made a great film. I don't care if the best of babies' dummies and put them up on news to make me look really weird. Do that, put a million on, dye my hair and suddenly I look like his [Laden] life-size, that."

Seeing is Believing, *Newsweek* Gallery, 22 Grafton Place, tel: 01-454-17 7666, 020 2248 9666, www.theartspingallery.com



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