

The last time we talked to Alesha Dixon was in Los Angeles last summer, just a few months after her break-up with husband Harvey (who, we're sure the whole world remembers, ran off and had a baby with so-called friend Javine). She was picking herself up, but life wasn't fabulous and, to top it off, she'd been dropped by her record label, leaving her solo career in possible tatters. We talked about what she wanted to do next; there were many things (she's a can't-keep-a-good-girl-down sort, our Alesha) but one was taking part in a little show called *Strictly Come Dancing*. Fast forward, and it's not only the setting for our meeting that's different (Ibiza this time), it's Alesha's whole life. Did she ever imagine her luck could change so much? 'I always have faith and belief in myself, but I didn't know just how amazing *Strictly* would be and I genuinely didn't believe I'd win. The first half of 2007 wasn't great and the second half was the most amazing experience. Life was stale, and *Strictly* rejuvenated me. What did I have to complain about? I was dancing every day.' Alesha says the single best thing to come out of *Strictly* was, 'People got to see my character. I have a zest for life and I try to enjoy myself on a daily basis. And the public support was so overwhelming, it was too much to take on board. It felt like, because of everything I've been through,

**'HARVEY'S THE LAST THING ON MY MIND, AND JAVINE'S IRRELEVANT'**

the public were willing me to do well. I can't describe how that feels.' Indeed, there can't have been a single person watching who wasn't thinking about Harvey sat at home in front of the telly ('I knew he was watching – he told me. And, no, he didn't congratulate me when I won') looking at what he was missing. His own career is, after all, in pieces (*Celebrity Come Dine With Me* being the 'high point' of recent times). Alesha lets rip a filthy cackle when we point this out. Did she think the same? 'He was the *last* thing on my mind while I was doing that show,' she says. 'And as for Javine, that woman doesn't get any comment from me, there's nothing I ever want to say about her. She's irrelevant and that is the honest truth.' Alesha meanwhile is currently very relevant. The 29-year-old has been famous since the late 90s with her band Mis-Teeq – but there's famous and there's famous. Now, she's known by everyone from five-year-olds to grannies and can't go anywhere without being recognised. 'It's weird. I woke up the day after the show and I was on the front page of every newspaper. I didn't leave the house for two days because it freaked me out,' she admits. 'But I try not to get affected by things – all the craziness can happen around me but I remain calm within it. It's about putting things in perspective

# 'I'M ANNOYED I'M STILL SINGLE I WANT TO BE SWEEPED OFF MY FEET'

*Strictly* superstar **Alesha Dixon**, 29, on her amazing life, being freaked out by fame, and why she's ready to find a new man

Dress, £149, Linea at House of Fraser; Hair braid made from ribbons at Trimmit.net, £1.95 per metre; ring, £5, and wedges, £25, New Look

