

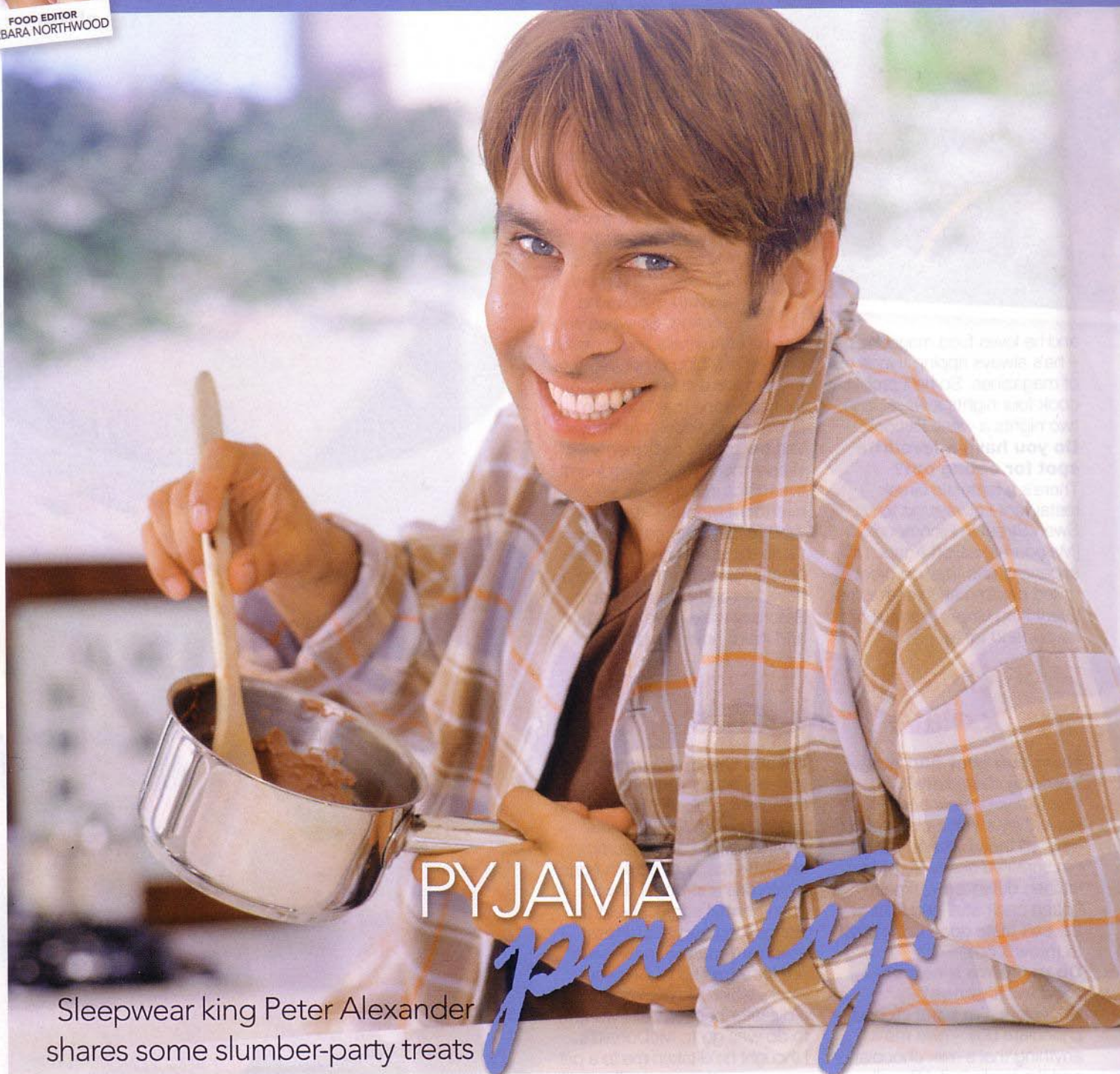
everyday

FOOD

Easy recipes for every day of the week



FOOD EDITOR
BARBARA NORTHWOOD



PYJAMA

party!

Sleepwear king Peter Alexander shares some slumber-party treats

Peter, at what age did you start cooking?

I started reluctantly – it's not something I actually love doing. When you move out of home, it's a necessity, so I guess I started cooking in my early to mid-20s. I began with the standard men's stuff – anything pasta, anything

toasted, anything from a tin and anything on a barbecue.

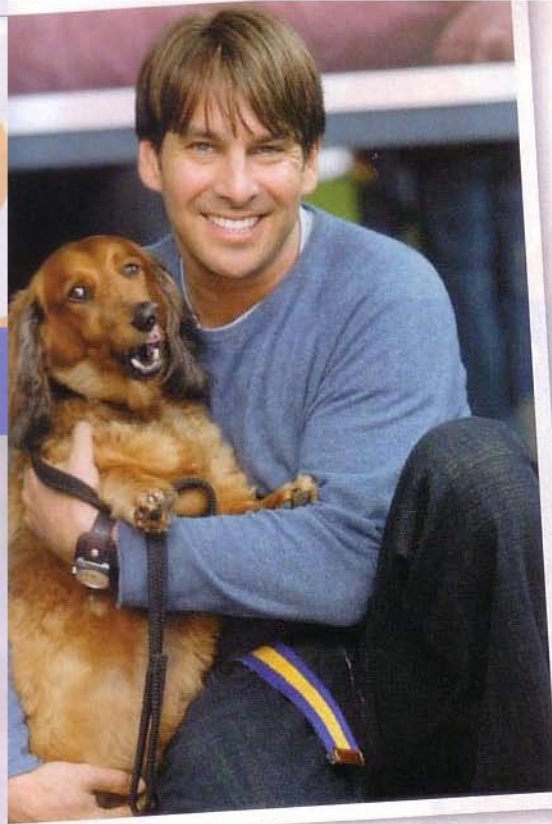
Do you use cookbooks?

I don't, but I often look at recipes in magazines and think, oh, that looks delicious, but it all just gets too hard. I tend to cook a lot more by taste. I live with a good friend – not boyfriend – Toby

and he's a good cook. One of the best things he makes for me is one of the reader recipes from *Woman's Day*. It was from some 86-year-old woman who makes this mini meatloaf. It's delicious and I always think I should write to that woman and tell her we eat her meatloaf!

When you do cook, what do you make?

I cook roasts a lot more now – I'm much more comfortable roasting a chicken or a leg of lamb. I'll cook bolognese – actually, I haven't really matured much! But Toby is a great cook. He loves cooking, he loves cookbooks



Have you ever tried to make cupcakes?

No, I don't bake – I leave that to the experts.

Do you have any comfort foods you love to indulge in?

Something I don't eat any more but I miss is a good old-fashioned creamy mushroom pasta. All of those carbohydrates are very comforting, but I just can't eat them any more, or if I do it's very rare and for a special treat at lunch.

What sorts of food did you grow up eating?

My mum's from South Africa and she grew up with maids who cooked. So when she

and he loves food magazines – he's always ripping things out of magazines. So he'll probably cook four nights a week, and two nights a week I'll cook.

Do you have a favourite spot for eating out?

There's a fantastic Greek restaurant I always go to on Swan Street in Richmond [Melbourne] called Agapi. I like saganaki, and they do great grilled chicken and vegetables. Everything Greek is so full of flavour and taste.

arrived in Australia she'd never cooked anything in her life – not even made a cup of tea. She told someone that she didn't know how to cook and they told her to buy a *Women's Weekly* cookbook. Mum learnt five things in the book, so we had them Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – the same thing every week for the next six years. On Friday we'd have fish and chips and on Saturday we'd have take-out, and that's how she did it.

'Give me anything milk chocolate and I'm hysterical'

Have you ever had any cooking disasters?

Plenty – you know when you leave things in the oven for too long, all those clichéd things. I'm sure I've nearly burnt my kitchen down a few times! I often cook stuff and it just doesn't taste good and I have to throw it out.

Do you have a secret food indulgence?

Chocolate. I'm just a clichéd chocolate boy – give me anything that's milk chocolate and I'm hysterical. I like all chocolate – Cadbury, Nestlé. Actually, I think Nestlé is a bit underrated in the chocolate stakes. I have a bit of chocolate every day – I hope my trainer doesn't read this! I also love cupcakes. Where I work there's a canteen and they make these cupcakes that drive me mad.

What's the most unusual thing you've eaten?

I tried crocodile in Africa, which tasted like chicken but was a bit chewier. I also tried an omelette made of ostrich eggs which has a stronger flavour [than normal eggs]. I went to Hong Kong and a business associate wanted to take me out for a traditional Chinese lunch, which I knew was a disaster because all I wanted to do was go to McDonald's. I thought he'd taken me to a pet zoo – everything was alive and in cages. I asked him where we were and he said, "This is the restaurant." There were bunny rabbits and snakes and chickens, and you pick what you want and they kill it. Being an ambassador for the RSPCA I really couldn't do it, so we left and he took me to McDonald's.

Story: Daniela Gregg