

Ab Fab's Jennifer Saunders & Joanna Lumley

DOUBLE TALK

BREAK OUT THE BUBBLY, DARLINGS. THE LADIES OF ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS ARE BACK—AND TAKING ON KATE MOSS AND THE KARDASHIANS
By **MONIQUE JESSEN**



FOREVER FABULOUS
“The only thing that stops them from feeling ridiculous is the fact that the other person is there saying, ‘You look great!’” Saunders (left) says of their characters.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: PEROU/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX; DAVID APPLEBY/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX; EVERETT/RICHARD YOUNG/REX SHUTTERSTOCK



Years before bawdy bad-girl behavior became a reality TV staple, Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley created cult-comedy gold with their champagne-soaked, self-obsessed antics as Edina and Patsy on the BBC sitcom *Absolutely Fabulous*. Two decades after the series finale, the pair reunited to dish about their celebrity fans, reality stars and their big-screen adventures in *Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie*, out July 22.

What are Edina and Patsy up to now?

SAUNDERS They still live their lives in exactly the same way. The world has changed, but they haven't really changed in how they live and what they expect from life, which is just to be allowed to have a good time. Somehow money and champagne will appear!
How do you feel about today's celebrity world, the reality shows, the Kardashians?

SAUNDERS Of course it's ludicrous!

LUMLEY It's meat and drink for the show though.

SAUNDERS It's fantastic for the show—oh my God—because you've suddenly got all these people taking themselves seriously, taking their own pictures and living their own PR—it's so dull. People are forgetting to live because they are living for this other person they've created.

Have you ever had any complaints from the fashion designers you mention?

LUMLEY No, they love the show!

SAUNDERS Honestly, peo-

ple like Christian Lacroix were absolutely delightful. The only people who take offense are the smaller people, I think. The bigger the designer, [the more] they love it. Stella McCartney is a joy—she insisted on being in the film.

Kate Moss has a pivotal role in the film—she

‘Food and drink. I love consuming things’

—SAUNDERS, ON WHAT SHE AND EDINA HAVE IN COMMON



1. “Time has caught up with Eddy, and the money has run out,” Saunders (left, with Lumley) says of her character's arc in the film.
2. On the TV show with Julia Sawalha as Edina's hapless daughter Saffron.
3. From left: Saunders, Kate Moss, Lumley and Stella McCartney at the film's U.K. premiere June 29.



tragically falls from a balcony. How did that happen?

SAUNDERS I thought it would be a good idea and wrote the script without actually asking her. I ran it by Stella, and she said, “Oh yeah, she'll be fine.”

LUMLEY Having been a model, they are tough. You work bloody hard, and it's pretty unrelenting—you get tons of money, but my God, you've got to work for it. This film for her was just heaven. She would come in in the morning with a little scrubbed face like a schoolchild and say, “Who's doing my makeup?” ●