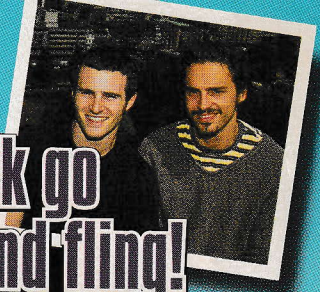


# Inside Soap

Only **99p**

**SCOOP PHOTOS!**



**Ant and Nick go on a Highland fling!**

24 AUGUST - 6 SEPT 1996 ISSUE 56



**Brunette barmaids...**

**PULLING POWER!**

**...have more fun!**



**ANNA FRIEL'S NEW ROLE**

**The teenage temptress!**



**BROOKIE SHOCKER!**

**"I left my baby home alone"**

**WIN!**



**A great Kia car!**

# Ready for love!

**Will PC Nick Rowan find a new wife?**



# DADDY V PROTECT

**It looks like PC Rowan may have found love – and a new mum for Emily. As for Nick Berry, he just wants to be a dad again!**

**P**C Nick Rowan can start wiping the tears from his eyes and put the death of his wife Kate behind him as love beckons in the shape of schoolteacher Jo Weston in the new series of *Heartbeat*.

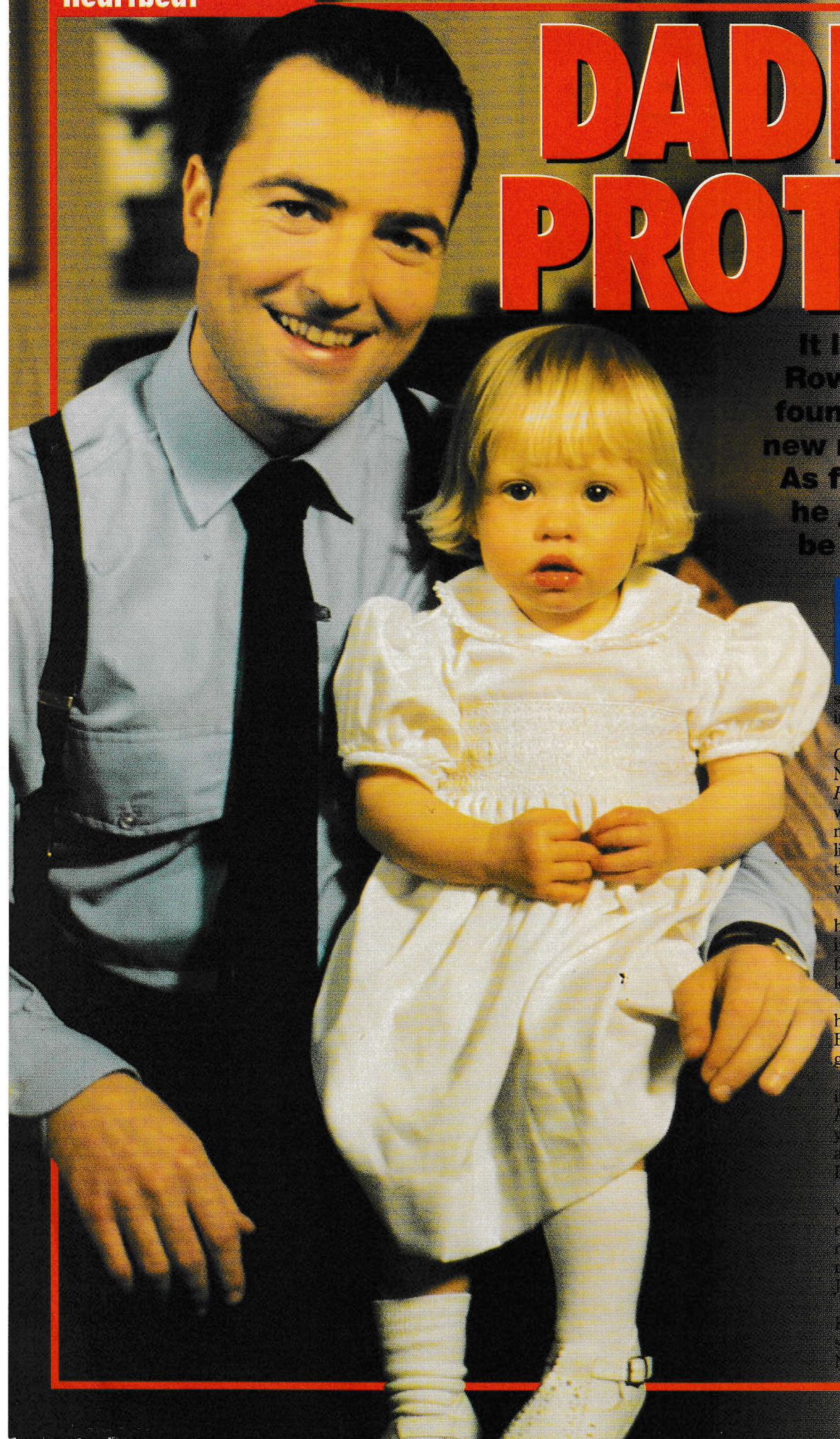
And, while actress Juliette Gruber is getting it together with Nick Berry on screen, the *Heartbeat* star and his actress wife, Rachel Robertson, are planning an addition to their own real-life family, following the birth of their son Louis last year. "We're working on it!" says Nick.

Family life has certainly proved happy for Nick, who as 'Wicksy' in *EastEnders* was the rat who fathered Cindy Beale's baby and left her husband Ian devastated. "I'm having a ball," he says. "I have to keep pinching myself. Being married and having a baby gives you a reason for living."

Nick spends most of the year in the Yorkshire Moors filming *Heartbeat*, and Rachel and one-year-old Louis often go with him, away from the family home in Epping, Essex.

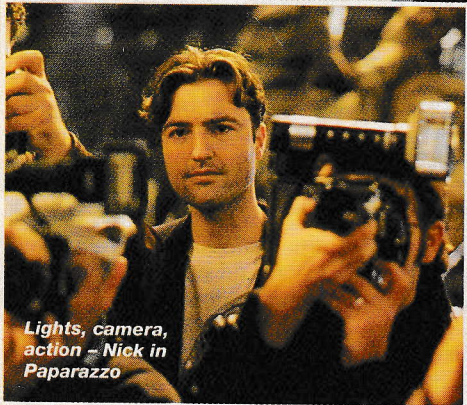
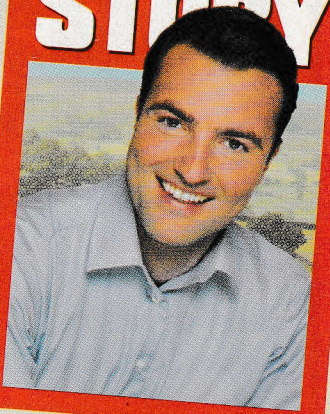
*Heartbeat*, set in the fictional village of Aidensfield, has become one of TV's biggest success stories – and made Nick one of its most highly paid stars, alongside John Thaw and David Jason.

Based on author Nicholas Rhea's Constable books, the series even survived the death of Nick's doctor wife Kate last year,



# WILL YOU

## COVER STORY



Lights, camera, action – Nick in *Paparazzo*



Can PC Nick Rowan begin to put the tragic death of his wife behind him with new love Jo Weston, in the new series of *Heartbeat*?

following the birth of the perfect couple's baby daughter, Emily. This was a result of actress Niamh Cusack's decision to leave the series to spend more time with her own baby son, Callum.

But how long can *Heartbeat* continue? "I don't know," says Nick. "Someone mentioned to me the other day that *Coronation Street* has been running for more than 35 years. Whether YTV plans to keep this going that long I don't know!

"We're doing another series next year, but I'm not sure beyond that – I've been saying that for a while!

"It was always going to be a different show once Niamh left because Nick and Kate's marriage

was such an important part of it. The producers threw more action in to fill the hole, but the audience went with the idea that here is a man, who was the happiest married man on television, being left with a baby to bring up. And the story was handled well, without being over-sentimental.

"There's now room for more character development. That's

been fun. The workload is shared around more with the other coppers, played by William Simons, Derek Fowlds and Mark Jordon, as well as Bill Maynard's character, Claude Jeremiah Greengrass.

"We find out more about their characters. There are also more stunts – I'm the hero going around like Superman, saving people all the time."

Coming up in the new series is a *Fatal Attraction*-style story that threatens Nick's relationship with his new love. Guest stars include Jenny Agutter, Kenneth Cranham and Roger Lloyd Pack.

**"Marriage and a baby gives you a reason for living"**

So what is the secret of *Heartbeat*'s success? "The so-called swinging 60s is a period we romanticise about, a time when you could sleep safely in your bed," says Nick. "The music and the scenery play a great part, too."

But, while still enjoying *Heartbeat*, Nick is looking for something new. He reveals that there are plans to turn *Paparazzo*, the one-off drama in which Nick played photographer Rick Caulker, into a series.

In the meantime, the boxing drama *Respect*,

Off screen, Nick's a family man. He and Rachel would like to have a brother or sister for Louis soon



which he filmed last year, is still waiting to be scheduled.

And after the current series of the police drama finishes, Nick is off to South Africa to film another TV film, *The Black Velvet Band*, a 19th-century tale of a gang who try to commit the crime of the century.

As for press stories that Nick and Kate's baby daughter in *Heartbeat* was, in fact, played by his own son, the star laughs. "I don't know where that came from," he says. "It was probably some 'brain' on a newspaper who got confused between fantasy and reality."

Anthony Hayward

**The first of the 17-part series of *Heartbeat*, including a Christmas special, is screened on September 1.**



NICK BERRY FAMILY SHOTS: FRANK DORAN

He wasn't always Mr Nice Guy – Nick as Walford bad boy Wicksy

