



him of cabaret curtains, and the collections were born.

Pearl's line of children's clothes were also designed with her daughter Betty in mind. "My daughter loves dressing up," Pearl explains. "I started searching flea markets to try and find things she could dress up in, but she refused to wear the scratchy fabrics." So, like her dresses, Pearl started making her own.

### Countryside pursuits

It's clear that Pearl is a devoted mother. "I've been a mum for 27 years," she beams. "More than half my life." And now she's enjoying a quiet family life in the countryside, there's no way you could drag her back to her glamorous London life of parties.

"My perfect weekend would involve a lot of countryside walks, local pubs and seeing friends for lunch. Now I'm getting older, I'm in bed by 10pm!"

"I do a lot of walking in the countryside because to me, nature is everything. I just need the countryside, it's what recharges my batteries."

Food also plays a central part to Pearl's life. "My husband Danny is the most amazing chef," she says. "He hardly lets me in the kitchen because he loves it so much – he came fourth in *Celebrity Masterchef*."



### PEARL ON: her bucket list

"I'd love to go and live on an ashram in India for a while – do something really spiritual – but I'll have to wait until the kids are grown up"

But doesn't Danny mind cooking for Pearl's veggie diet? "I've been veggie since I was 17 but I had to eat meat for five years," she explains. "I had a really late miscarriage and I just needed the iron. But meat didn't agree with me, so I'm back on the veggie train and it feels so good."

"I always keep tofu in the fridge along with quinoa and rice in the cupboards, so I can always whip something up if Danny's eating separately. Last night he was eating meat so I fried up some courgettes and stuff and it was delicious!"

"Sometimes I worry about

eating at other people's houses – I worry they'll think, 'Oh God, the vegetarian's coming' – but it's so much easier these days. Plus I'll always be happy with just the veggies."

### Pearl's guide to reinvention

So what advice does the queen of reinvention have for those of us who want to change our careers for something a little closer to our hearts? "Go where you passion is," she says. "Don't think about the money. Whatever excites you, go with it and the money will follow. And if it doesn't feel like work, keep going."

"I always listen to my inner guidance. Whether you call that 'gut' or 'instinct' or whatever, it's really strong for me. So for me, that's everything."

"Even if people are telling me other things, I do what my gut tells me to do. I listen to everything that it says."