

profile

Liz Brewer

The ultimate celebrity party fixer has at last decided to share the secret of her many successes - and we're all invited. **Hannah Stephenson** reports

No event is too big or small for party fixer extraordinaire Liz Brewer, who counts Ivana Trump and Dame Shirley Bassey, Zandra Rhodes and Jimmy Choo among her many clients.

She may only keep champagne and caviar in her fridge, but behind the scenes the former debutante has worked diligently to take the headache out of hosting an endless stream of parties, whether an event for thousands or a small, exclusive gathering.

Dame Shirley Bassey describes her as having "the Midas touch of the party world" and indeed, she has had a lot of practice.

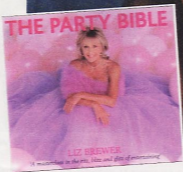
Her father, Hugh, was a financial broker while her mother Eileen, was a full-time mother to Liz and her sister and two brothers.

Liz's organisational abilities certainly didn't come to the fore at school: "I was a rebel because they taught in such a dull way," she recalls of her time at Queen's College, London.

"I was very St Trinian's. I tied a rope to the door handles of the headmistress's study so she couldn't get out - and I was asked to leave."

After being expelled from school, she escaped to Portugal in the 70s to run a nightclub, which attracted celebrities such as Cliff Richard, Lulu, Cilla Black and Sir Paul McCartney and gave Liz an appetite for extravagant events.

She returned to London a few years later and set up a consultancy - and has never looked back.



The Party Bible, by Liz Brewer, is published by Artnik on April 3, priced £16.95

In the 80s she married and divorced former *Hello!* gossip columnist John Rendall, with whom she has one daughter, Tallulah, now 23.

Now three decades since it all began for her, has Liz now had enough of partying?

"Oh, no. But it's not so much about

being a party person. It's about being someone

who can make things happen. I enjoy the whole thing - thinking out the ideas, co-ordinating the event, making it happen."

On rare occasions when things do go wrong, Liz isn't fazed.

"When things really go wrong you've got to learn to laugh. It's no good if you sit in a corner and cry. You need to have a Plan B and make it work. And the

people you invite are the most important ingredient."

Liz has now brought out *The Party Bible*, a sure to be indispensable guide to helping people organise their own event, which covers everything from guest lists and venues, to games, gifts, dress codes and duties of the host.

Away from the party scene, Liz is never happier than when tending her garden at her house off Sloane Square in west London.

Her ex-husband lives close by and they are on good terms, but Liz has never remarried: "Of course, in the right circumstances and if the right person came along, I'd jump at it."

Would any prospective husband have to be a party animal?

"Absolutely not!" she laughs.

"When things go really wrong you've got to learn to laugh - it's no good if you sit in a corner and cry"