

Miranda

“I want to be the new Kylie”

The nation's comedy sweetheart, Miranda Hart, chats to JO USMAR about falling over, being a talent-show judge and farting. Such fun!

Photographs by
Alex James

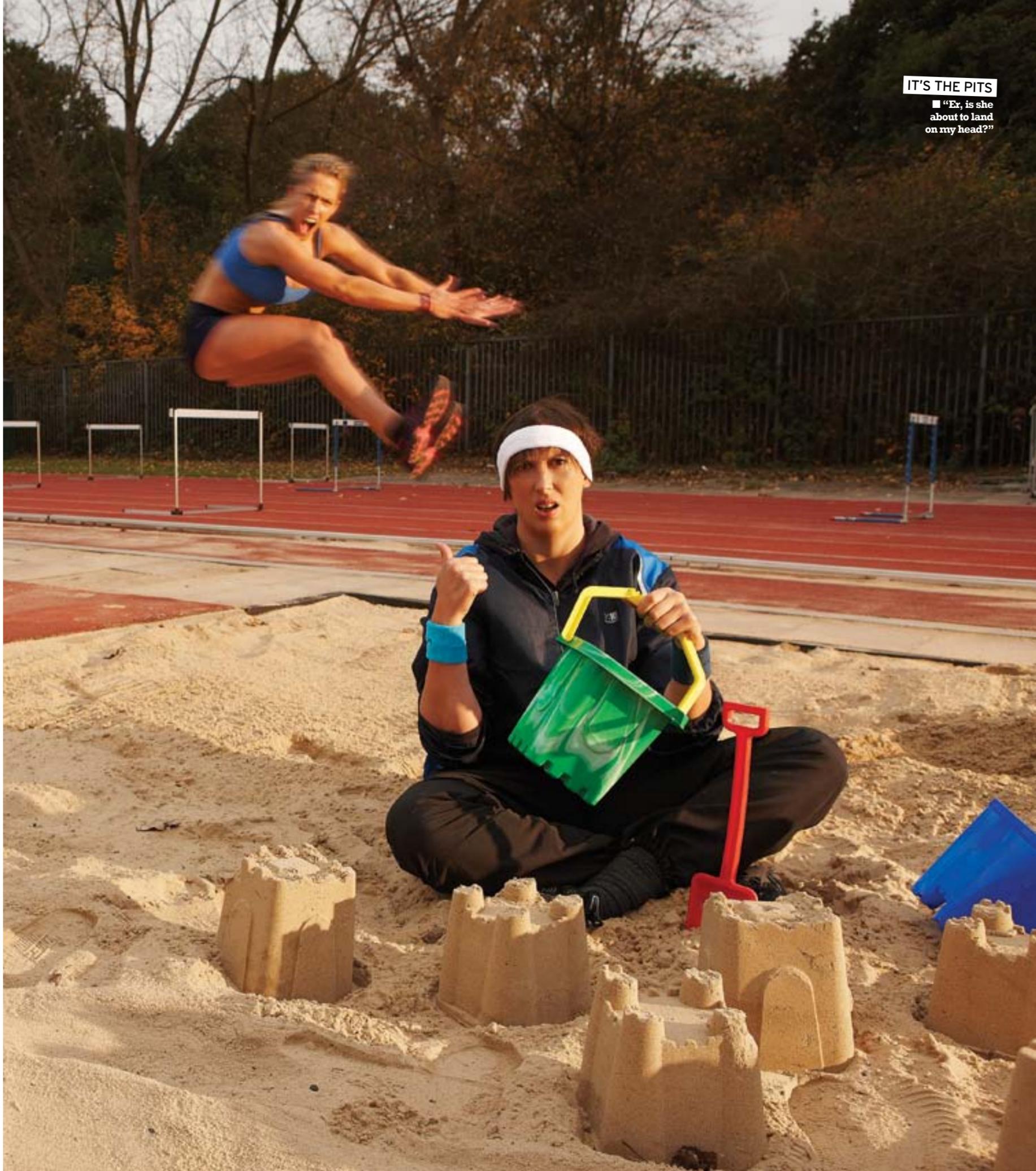
“I don't make a habit of hanging around outside McDonald's on a Monday afternoon,”

Miranda Hart assures us as she climbs out of her cab at the athletics track where *heat*'s photoshoot is taking place. “My uncle dropped me off there because I've been staying at my parents and they couldn't work out where Tooting Bec was. Or where the A3 was. Or what a photoshoot was. Three days with one's parents is always enough.”

She pauses to pat her dog Peggy before surveying the buckets and spades in the sandpit. “It's my fault we're all outside in the cold, isn't it? This was my idea. I used to be an athlete at 15. That's no word of a lie. I did the 100 metres in 12.06 seconds. The professionals said, ‘We could make you a professional runner, but you'll have to strap

your tits down and stop them growing,’ and I was so frightened that I said no and that was that. Can I wear a headband?” And then she sweeps into the changing room to try on the tracksuit we've brought for her.

From the first episode of Miranda's self-titled sitcom in 2009, the self-deprecating professional klutz immediately established herself as one of *heat*'s favourite comedy characters, and someone we'd love to go to the pub with. We weren't alone - this year Miranda, 38, won three British Comedy Awards and her second series was a huge hit. We have to try to remember that Real Miranda is not the same as Sitcom Miranda and won't fall over on cue or stop the interview to make observational asides into our tape recorder. →



IT'S THE PITS

■ “Er, is she about to land on my head?”

Or will she? We follow her into the sandpit to find out...

The second series of *Miranda* has finished, and the DVD is out soon. What are you up to for the rest of the year?

Watching *Strictly Come Dancing*. I watch it every week, and *It Takes Two* every day. I love it. There's drama at every turn. Russell Grant: hilarious. Nancy Dell'Olio: hilarious. Nancy was so funny because she literally could not dance to save her life. Then you have Alex Jones being told on national television, "That was a sexless dance." *Imagine*. And Chelsee Healey nearly cried because she thought her boob was exposed to 12million people. I can barely expose mine to one person.

What about *The X Factor*?

I dabble in *The X Factor*. I saw Cher Lloyd's outfit when she sang recently

and was like, "Eugh." I'm turning into my mother.

Would you go on *Strictly*? It would be so tempting, but I'd be too scared. Ian Waite is the only dancer who'd be tall enough to partner me [Miranda is 6ft 1in], and he hasn't appeared for two series. They'd have to get him back just for me.

Would you enjoy wearing the sparkly outfits?

The costumes are probably the most terrifying thing about it. You'd want to lose a good two stone before going on. Well, I would, I didn't mean you specifically [she gestures to *heat*]. I mean "you" as in "one" - one would want to lose two stone. That was almost very rude of me. You don't need to lose two stone.

"My dog is more famous than me"



LEGEND OF THE FALL

■ She just can't get enough of it...

Phew. Would you be a judge on *Britain's Got Talent* if Simon Cowell asked you?

Oh, what a cakey job. But, judging by the last series, I think Britain has run out of talent. I watched the final and

thought it was a sort of sixth-form revue. I don't know how long we have left of that format.

What kind of judge would you be?

A hopeless one. I'd either be like, "Oh God, you were brilliant," to everyone, or I'd find it very difficult not to say, "Your friends and family that have told you

that you can sing are idiots, so go and choose a proper career that suits you." I'd either be very headmistressy or overawed by their bravery. It would be a brilliant job, though. So, Simon, give me a call. I'm ripe for the plucking.

Your dog Peggy [pictured above] joined you on *Jonathan Ross'* show. Did you mind him dressing her up?

It amused me greatly. He asked me to bring her so he could dress her up, but it didn't sway me to the notion of putting clothes on a dog. I'm not insane.

She is now more famous than me, though. The other day I heard someone go, "Look, there's that dog off *Jonathan Ross*."

Noel Gallagher was on the show with you. Is he too cool for school?

I'd met him once before, at a mutual friend's 40th birthday party, and he knew who I was, which was surreal. He came up and said, "I've seen your show," and I was like, "Stop it. You're Noel Gallagher. Why would you like my stupid show?" He's really nice, so funny and clever, but very cool. →



PEGGY



SHE'S A WINNER

■ Miranda scooped all these *British Comedy Awards*!

Celebridoodles!

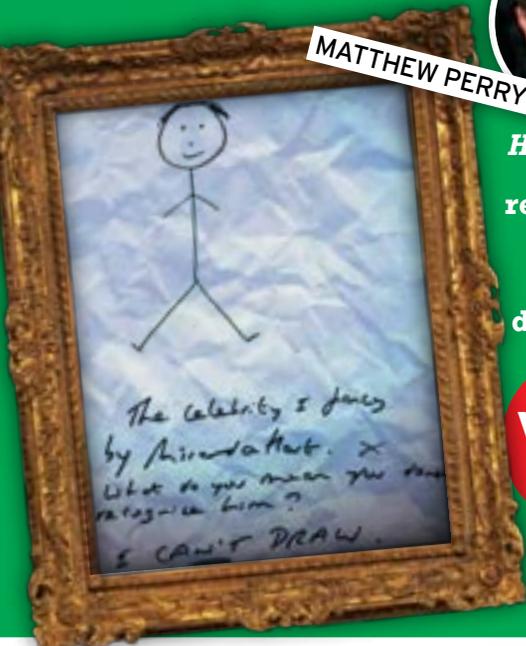
Miranda draws her favourite *Friend*



MATTHEW PERRY!

HEATSAYS: She's not really done Chandler justice... but we don't mind

heat
VERDICT
3/10



Do you find it weird when people recognise you?

It's really surreal. I met Robbie Williams when we both did *Comic Relief*. He was singing *Pretty Woman* to warm up, and I came up behind him and said, "Oh thanks, Robbie." He found that funny. I feel like I'm the natural replacement for him in *Take That* if he ever leaves.

Is there a particular phrase from the show that people say to you most often?

"Such fun." A lot of people also say "moist plinth" to me, which is very bizarre if you haven't seen the show. They'll say "Hello, moist plinth," and the person they're with will go, "Why are you saying 'moist plinth' to that woman?" Actually, I probably get "bear with, bear with" the most.

Where did the phrases come from?

Oh, all over the place. I'm too middle class for arguments. We just have to pretend everything's fine, which is where the phrase "such fun" comes from. If in doubt, say, "Such fun," then go inside and punch a pillow.

Do you get chatted up loads now?

All I get is, "Gosh, you are tall," and I don't know whether that's a positive or a negative thing, so I can't turn around and reply, "Gosh, you are fat," or "Gosh, you are ugly," which would be brilliant.

Is there a real Gary in your life?

Oh, that's sweet, but no, there isn't. Just Sitcom Gary, who's not real.

Boo! Do you fall over a lot in real life?

Sadly not. I wanted the falling over in the show because it makes me laugh. Some people say

there's no place for slapstick in comedy today, but I think if you saw a woman trapped on a sushi conveyor belt at Yo! Sushi and didn't piss yourself laughing, you're obviously missing a crucial part of your anatomy. Falling over is hilarious.

Have you started writing the third series yet?

Almost. It's quite intimidating to start and will probably take me until about July to finish.

You've described the writing process as "absolutely hideous". Do you still feel that way?

Yes. It's boring. It goes on and on. And you're worried all the time about whether it's funny enough.

"Simon Cowell should call me"

Do you feel less pressure knowing the first and second series did well?

I'm constantly thinking, "This is the end." I think every comedian thinks that. You just assume it's all been a mistake and at any moment you're going to be unpopular. But then I thought the show was going to die on its arse at the very beginning. I didn't even want to call it *Miranda*. The producer convinced me. She said, "If people don't like the show, they're not going to like you anyway," so I said OK.

What's been your favourite scene to film?

The fart scene. Not just because it involved farts, although that did amuse me greatly. The actual farting was a sound effect, but I didn't want the studio audience to know, so I told everyone not to laugh and that we had to get it on the

first take. The audience really thought I'd farted and that I was genuinely embarrassed. We've got really good at not laughing when we're filming now.

Congrats on all your awards! Have you had some good freebies?

I did, hilariously, get a pair of wedge wellies at the *Glamour Awards*. I thought, "These are cool," so tried them on with bare feet and got completely stuck. They were vacuumed to my feet. I was dancing around trying to pull them off, getting really claustrophobic, and panicking thinking I was never going to see my feet again. I ended up cutting them off with scissors and throwing them away.

Good job they were free! What would you do if you were Queen for a day?

First off, I'd say you can't walk, only gallop. No walking at all, just galloping. I would also play Dolly Parton's *9 To 5* across the nation every morning and give everyone a lie-in.

Would you like to do any serious acting?

I've actually just finished a drama called *Call The Midwife*, which is out in January. That means I'm what I like to call "an aactress", with a double a at the beginning. I should be sitting here in a kaftan with a G&T. I'd love to do more of that, so if there are any casting directors out there, please call me. And Simon Cowell, of course. And *Take That*. And the Queen.

What else would you like to do?

I have to play Miss Hannigan in *Annie* in my fifties. I've yet to be a pop star. I want to be the new Kylie. Then I need to be the new Judi Dench. There's so much I still want to do. Simon - call me.

Series Two of Miranda is out on DVD now

We Hart Miranda
Not only does she make us laugh, she does charity stuff, too!



NOSH

■ Miranda has been tickling our funny bones since her sitcom's debut in 2009



SMILEY

■ Look what we dug up! Wasn't mini-Miranda adorable?

ON YOUR BIKE

■ Teaming up with another of heat's favourites, David Walliams, for Sport Relief



STRICTLY

■ Joining Craig Revel Horwood and Katherine Jenkins for *Strictly* spin-off *It Takes Two*



RAPPING

■ Getting down for this year's Comic Relief

PROPS AND STYLING: JANIS MORRISON; MAKE-UP: KENNETH SOH; HAIR: FRANK AGENCY; HAIR: LARA ZEE AT NAKED ARTISTS. PHOTOS: BBC; CAMERA PRESS; PACIFIC COAST NEWS.COM; PLAINE PHOTO; COUK; REX FEATURES; WENN.COM