



### Natalia Vodianova on meeting Justin Portman

"We met in Paris in September 2000, at a dinner given in Justin's honour at Georges [a restaurant] in the Centre Pompidou. My agent invited me, and I said I didn't want to go — I was just starting out and knew it was a set-up. I was young [17], poor and felt I was fighting these gold-digger stereotypes of Russian women, so the last thing I wanted was to go to a dinner that was a blatant fix between rich men and beautiful girls. Later, I accepted a last-minute invite from a friend, but when I got there I realised it was the same event. I was super pissed off, said hello to my friend, who was sitting talking to Justin, and then went and sat right down at the other end of the table. Justin came down and sat on the handrail of my chair, and I flipped out. I said, 'Excuse me, what are you doing? You're in my space.' He wouldn't shift, so I made a point of ignoring him. Eventually, someone moved and he sat next to me. We ended up fighting all night. I apparently threw a cigarette at him and his best friend [who was later his best man] said: 'Oh, you've found your wife.' The next day I walked into my agency and there was Justin. He swears it was a coincidence, but I think he set it up. He was sweet and apologetic and said he'd behaved like an arse. I felt like an idiot myself, and the whole thing changed. We married in 2002, and now have three children."



Justin Portman and Natalia Vodianova on Valentine's Day in 2008.

### Gail Elliott on meeting Joe Coffey

"About 13 years ago, I was holidaying in Australia with Helena Christensen and Michael Hutchence. It had been a whirlwind trip: up to Brisbane for Christmas with Michael's family; Byron after that; then New Year's Eve in Sydney. That was the night the three of us decided to go to Kinselas. At the time, Joe and his partners had the club and he was friends with Michael, so we were introduced and he sat with us.

I wasn't so aware of him that night, but we met again a few months later at a cocktail party at photographer Sante D'Orazio's apartment in New York. I recalled his name — Joe Coffey's hard to forget — and his voice. It's great. Deep and sexy.

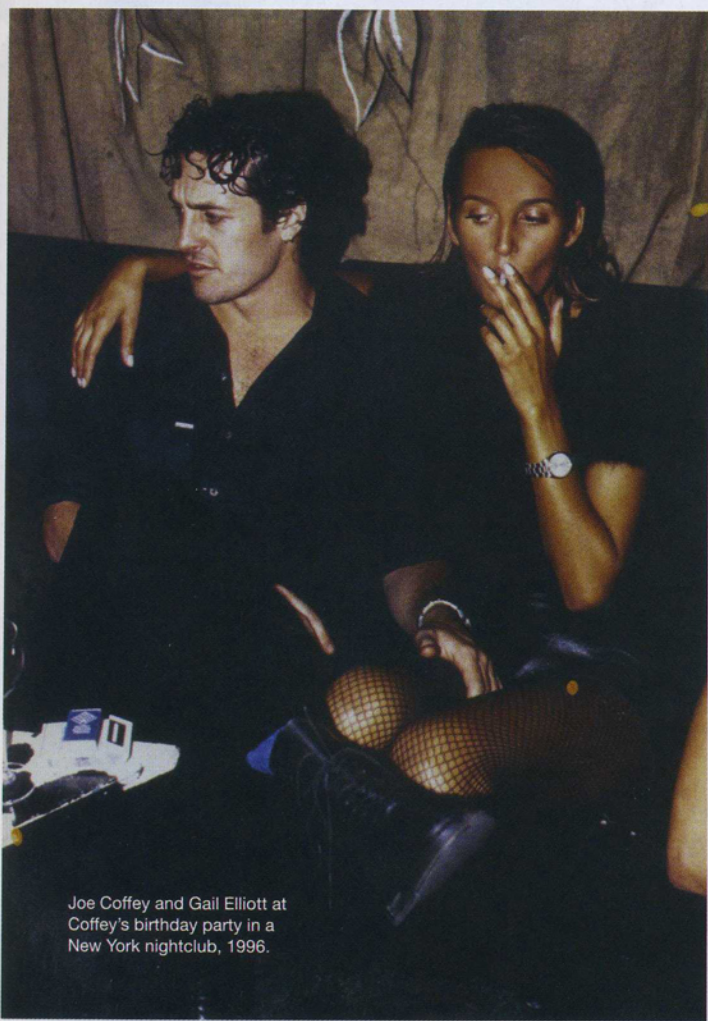
That was the moment there was real attraction. We talked until 5am because I had to leave the next day for Milan and then Paris to do the shows. The next three weeks we talked every day on the phone. It's quite fun getting to know someone like that — we'd make dates to chat.

When the shows finished in Paris, Joe needed to renew his US visa, so he conveniently chose the French embassy to do it. I was staying on there to shoot some ad campaigns and that's when we got together.

For the first few weeks it was great but as it became more involved and full-on, Joe had second thoughts. I think he realised this was pretty serious and that he didn't want to be in a serious relationship at that point. He must have dumped me about seven times!

Eventually we finally got it together. He moved to New York to follow his directing and writing career and we ended up buying an apartment in Tribeca and land together in the Hamptons. We were married three years later in a little white painted church in Amagansett near to where we later built our home.

Last September we celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary. We've grown a lot together. I've calmed down ... in a good way. Before Joe, I was quite involved in the scene, what was happening and jetting around. Joe's made me feel more of a real person and that I'm capable of doing whatever I want. Everything is possible with him." ▶



Joe Coffey and Gail Elliott at Coffey's birthday party in a New York nightclub, 1996.