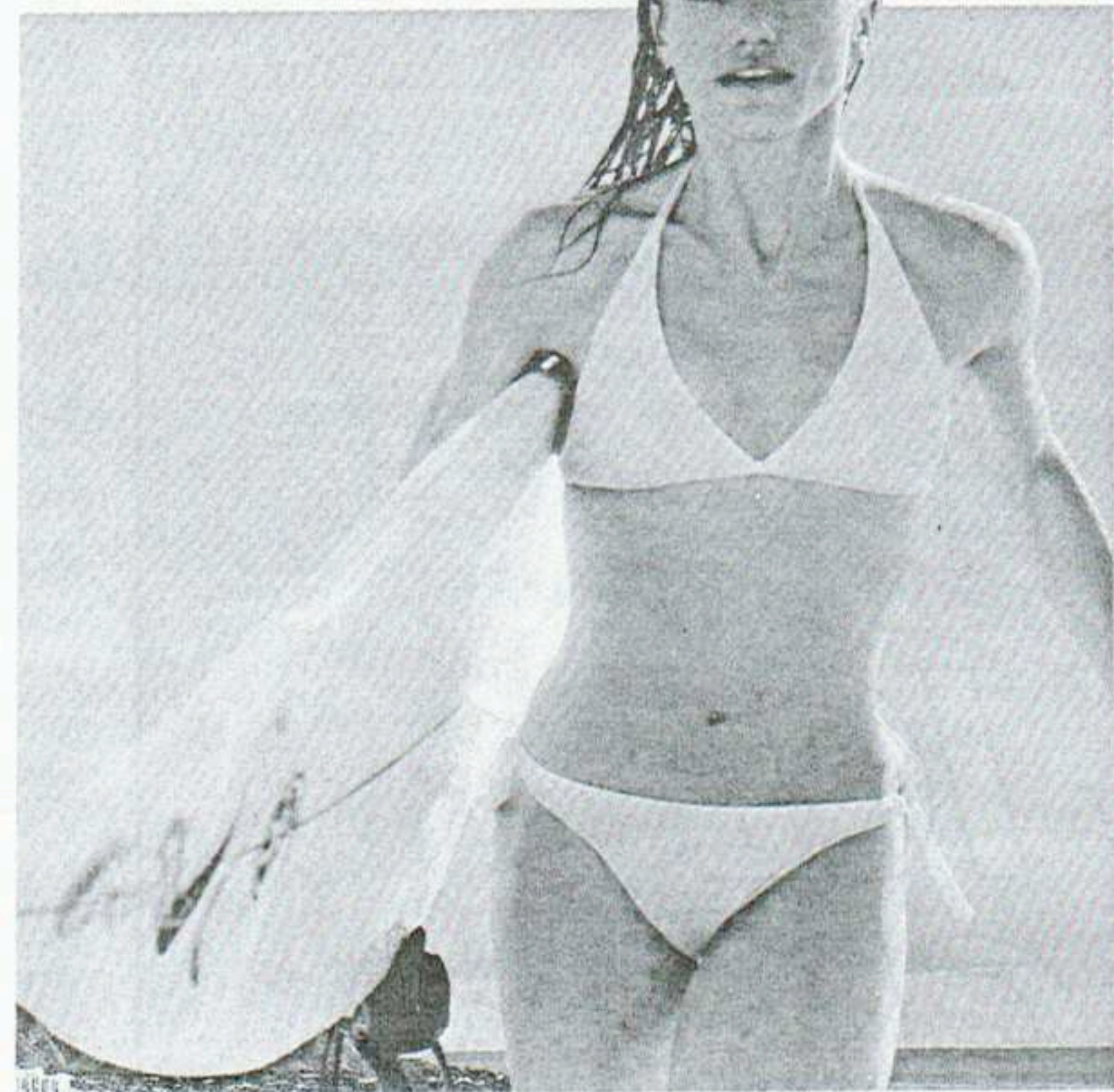


TO THE STARS!



Main picture: GETTY

Exotic: Waikiki beach is frequented by stars like Cameron Diaz, a regular visitor to Hawaii

baseball stars who favour the joint.

A gentle stroll around the art galleries on Front Street offers another welcome diversion; but stardom is never far away. Higgins Harte International (higginsharte.com) has a huge array of artworks by household names, including Sir Anthony Hopkins, Anthony Quinn and Tony Curtis. Gallery director Lawrence Lavallo has seen all the movers and shakers pass through.

'My favourites are the serious old-time actors,' he says. 'They look like ravioli salesmen, they're regular guys. Some of the young stars make a big deal about trying to hide. But y'know what? We don't care.'

LANAI

THE quietest, most exclusive island of the quartet I visited is owned by one man, billionaire David H. Murdock, and there are just two chi-chi hotels, run by Fours Seasons, to stay at: one by the sea and the other in the uplands (fourseasons.com).

This tiny island has an extraordinary microclimate: the beach is hot and humid, but head just a few miles inland and the atmosphere is cool and lush.

Golf is big around here, too. Two championship courses cater to the needs of a very particular crowd — those who value discretion. Trying to prise any

names out of the manager was impossible, his lips were sealed. He added: 'This is a getaway from everything and everyone, celebrities can move around the island freely without the threat of a long lens; it offers total privacy.'

'We have confidentiality agreements; that's why stars come here.' And it really is discreet, so much so that Bill Gates booked the entire island when he tied the knot a few years back.

I got to visit the hallowed turf, a dramatic promontory jutting out over the crashing Pacific waves below. But why the world's richest man chose the 12th hole of a golf course for his nuptials is beyond me.

KAUAI

THIS dramatic island is famed for its nature and its awesome scenery. The Waimea Canyon cuts a 3,000ft-deep gash through the mountains that loom above some of the best surfing beaches anywhere on Earth.

Unsurprisingly, it's incredibly photogenic, too, and provided the setting for the Jurassic Park movies, as well as the hit TV series, *Lost*. It's worth jumping aboard the Hawaii Movie Tour bus (hawaiimovietour.com) to visit the most famous locations.

You might even stumble upon some of the actors starring in current productions. While I was there, *Tropic Thunder*, which stars Ben Stiller, Nick Nolte and Robert Downey Jr, was being shot.

But the celebs love relaxing here, too. Pierce Brosnan, Bette Midler, Beau Bridges and Ben Stiller have all set up homes. If you've brought your trainers, go for an early morning jog along the golden sands of Kalihival Beach — it's where Ben can be found keeping fit.

If you're not jogging, then you've got to surf. The waves, especially on the north side of the island, regularly reach 20ft during the winter months. It's this surfer-friendly lifestyle that forms the backbone of the coolest and most laid-back of the islands that I visited.

Before I left for the airport, a local told me about the time he'd bumped into a woman carrying shopping on the street. 'I said sorry and moved on,' he said. 'But it was only afterwards that I realised she was Julia Roberts.'

His admission came as relief: even those living in star-central don't always realise when they've come face-to-face with Hollywood royalty.

So, did I actually get to see any stars while touring around Hawaii? Probably. I just didn't recognise them. Happy hunting.

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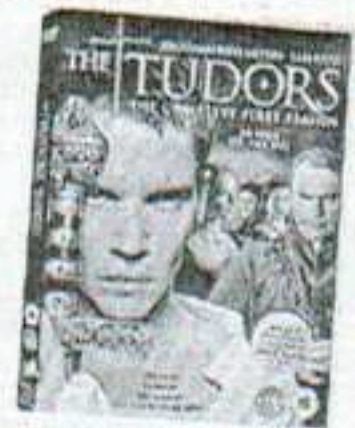
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Click on the box and leave your name, address and daytime phone number. Entries must be received by 11.59pm on Friday, December 7, 2007. Only one entry per household. For full details of the prize and for standard Daily Mail promotional rules, visit www.travelmail.co.uk. The *Tudors* season one is out to buy on DVD on December 10. Find out more at www.enjoyengland.com and www.visitlincolnshire.com

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SAY ALOHA

by **NICK MAES**

MY STAR-SPOTTING credentials are a little dubious. I once enjoyed a drink with a nice guy called Johnny, utterly oblivious to the fact that his surname was Depp. And on a film set, I casually asked an actress her name; a puzzled Barbra Streisand soon put me right.

This lousy track-record needed improving, so I set out to four of Hawaii's islands to hone my skills and unearth the places where the A-list stars hang out.

Hawaii has attracted the Hollywood elite since the 1920s. These exotic islands are just a five-hour flight from LA and their diverse nature means you can find anything from high-octane glamour to some welcome respite from the racy razzmatazz of Tinseltown. Whatever you are after, here's the low-down on the Hawaiian high-life.

O'AHU

HAWAII'S glitziest island is home to Waikiki Beach, dazzling nightclubs and bars, any number of flashy restaurants and shopping to make your eyes water. Yep, this is bling central: Bulgari, Cartier, Harry Winston and Rolex all vie for the attention of the very rich holidaymakers. And who could they be? Hollywood royalty, of course, in droves.

But they can be shy and difficult to track down — it's a case of finding their natural habitat. Browsing over diamonds and silks in any of the stores above is a good starting point. But you'll most likely catch sight of the B-list here as the top stars often have someone to do their shopping for them.

Instead, check into Hawaii's celebrated star-spangled haunt, The Kahala (kahalaresort.com). This is the regular stomping ground of Will Smith, the Osbournes, Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake.

If your budget doesn't quite stretch to sleeping alongside the celebs, then perhaps dining in the same restaurant, near Waikiki, will suffice. The breezy, relaxed vibe at the Halekulani Hotel's Orchids restaurant (halekulani.com) fits the bill perfectly. Ben Affleck, Cuba Gooding Jr, Morgan Freeman and our own Ruby Wax have all chomped their way through the pan-Pacific menu here; but not, alas, during my visit.

But that didn't put me off my search, and I headed over to Kyo-ya. Some of Waikiki's best Japanese cuisine is served up here by kimono-clad waitresses — and, after spotting a couple of covert snappers hanging out across the road, I figured a star must be in residence, too.

However, I don't have the killer paparazzi instinct and couldn't quite bring myself to trawl around the busy tables to find my prey, settling for the delicious sashimi instead.

Meanwhile, old-school glamour is to be found at the Royal Hawaiian Mai Tai bar (royal-hawaiian.com) Valentino (the actor, not the designer) drank here and Liz Taylor was partial to the cocktails on offer, too. What better way to soak up some fame by association?

And if you want to party long into the night, make a beeline for the Wonder Lounge atop of the W Hotel. Just make sure you have plenty of attitude as you stride into the hippest bar in town.

Catch a wave with Cameron or eat out with Oprah. Hawaii is the place to rub shoulders with Tinseltown royalty



MAUI

THIS island has an altogether different vibe, it's more homely and less frenetic, but also attracts some very high-calibre guests — and second-homers. Oprah Winfrey has a 200-acre estate on the island, known locally as Oprahland, but she obviously hasn't installed all the modcons yet — my tip for hobnobbing with the queen of daytime TV is to book

a session at the Four Seasons spa (fourseasons.com/hualalai).

There's just one snag: mere mortals have to stay here to do so. You'll be in good company though. Elton John likes to hang out here under the *nom de plume* of Fred Flintstone.

Over in Lahaina, 15 miles up the road, you'll find a bizarre mix of old-time fishing village and Hollywood ghetto. 'We see them all,' one local told me. 'But sometimes it's a shock. The other day, I was thinking just who is that old matron? And it was the rock singer Stevie Nicks. A lot of those rockers are just so wrinkly now.'

Celebs love Maui because it is far easier to be inconspicuous here. 'They love it man, because Maui is chilled' — at least that was the theory expounded by Kai at a gallery called Celebrities (celebrityfineart.com).

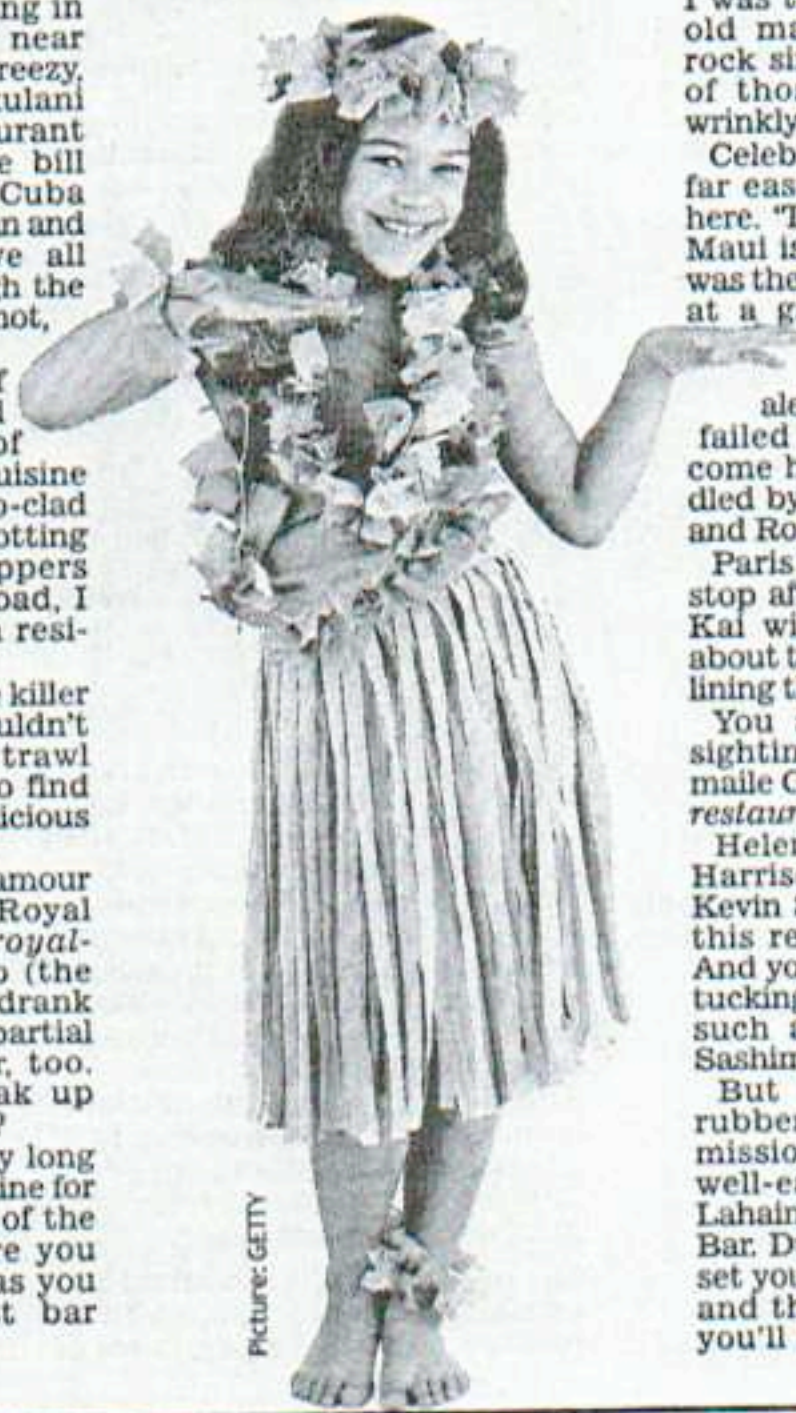
This place is the equivalent of Stars 'R' Us; if you've failed to spot the real thing, come here to buy artwork doled by the likes of David Bowie and Ronnie Wood.

Paris Hilton made it her first stop after getting out of jail and Kai will be happy to tell you about the scores of signed photos lining the walls.

You are virtually assured a sighting of high-fliers at Hali'i-maile General Store (bevgannnon-restaurants.com/halimalle).

Helen Hunt, Sharon Stone, Harrison Ford, Rob Lowe and Kevin Spacey are all regulars at this restaurant when in town. And you get the added benefit of tucking into some first-rate nosh, such as the house speciality, Sashimi Napoleon.

But if you get tired of rubber-necking, abandon your mission and head off for a well-earned margarita at the Lahaina Store Grille And Oyster Bar. During happy hour, one will set you back a bargain \$3 (£1.50) and there's always the chance you'll be joined by one of the



Picture: GETTY