

JAMES BOND'S GIRL WAS A BOY

TOPLESS model Tula—a James Bond girl in the film *For Your Eyes Only*—has been guarding an incredible secret. She used to be a man.

In the village where she grew up she was Barry Cossey. But for years she lived as Caroline Cossey before finding fame as Tula.

On TV she was a hostess in early editions of 3-2-1, the Ted Rogers show, and one of John Alderton's girlfriends in *The Upchat Line*.

After living several years as a woman, Tula had her final sex change operation as a private patient in London's Charing Cross Hospital in 1975.

Another patient said: "Caroline had been a dancer and was already working as a model and a promotion girl selling champagne.

FAKE

"She had already had an operation on her breasts and another to reduce the size of her Adam's apple.

"She lived in Chelsea and really looked like a woman. She told us she had an Italian boyfriend and we thought he was paying for her £1,200 operations.

"Later she moved to a more expensive flat in Kensington."

Tula made up a fake background to conceal her sex change.

Almost three years ago she told me: "I was born in Rome of an Italian father and an English mother, but I've been in this country since I was 16."

She would only reveal her professional name, Tula.

Topless Tula hides a sex change secret

EXCLUSIVE
by
WILLIAM RANKINE

She refused to give her date of birth and would only discuss recent events in her modelling and show business career.

Six footer Tula, now 27, complained that her height sometimes stopped her winning modelling assignments—and said she had difficulty with boyfriends for the same reason.

In her home village of Brooke, near Norwich, her modelling success and her sex change has remained a secret.

Neighbours knew that the Cossey family's eldest son Terry had left home and that daughter Pam had gone to London, first to work at the Playboy Club then to become model Claudia.

All they knew of Barry was that he had gone to London to become a male model.

Factory worker Richard Ellis who went to the same schools as the Cossey children, said: "Barry was always a bit of a loner.

"He kept apart from the other lads of his age and didn't have any particular friends. I do remember he was always interested in acting.

"He was tall, dark and good looking, but maybe

just a little effeminate. He came back to the village once several years ago and caused a sensation by wearing what looked like hot pants."

Mrs Janice Bull, of Norwich, who went to Framingham High School with Barry and his sister, said: "We always thought he was just a bit girlish.

"He was always filing his nails and that."

Brooke village postman Ronald Mayes, who recognised Barry from modelling pictures of Tula, said: "He had a very distinctive smile.

"My younger boy always called him Smiler."

SHOCKED

Barry's father, bus company coachbuilder Mr Bob Cossey, said: "I haven't seen him for some years. I heard he'd gone to Italy.

"What would I think if I was told he's had a sex change? I'd be shocked, that's what I'd be."

Tula's agent, Yvonne Paul, insisted the sex change story is untrue and said her client was not available for interview.

We asked Miss Paul about a 1978 topless picture in which Tula and a model called Claudia were featured as sisters.

Claudia is Tula's real-life sister, Pamela.

Miss Paul said: "I'm not going to answer any questions."

TULA: Village boy who became a model girl