

SEX-SWAP TULA CHANGES HER LIFE

TULA, the stunning glamour girl who was born a boy, is still a top-liner in the modelling world — but with a difference.

Glamour girl's cover-up vow

For the scandal over her amazing sex-swap revelation has dramatically changed her life. Since her secret came out, the former Page Three topless beauty has vowed: "From now on I'm keeping my clothes on."

Tula once featured in a series of daring vodka adverts that showed off her 37-25-37 curves to the full. In one, she was pictured water-skiing behind the Loch Ness Monster, wearing the skimpiest of swimsuits and nothing else but a smile.

But now she says: "I won't be doing that sort of thing again. I don't want any more work because of n. past."

Scandal

"From today on, I want to get jobs solely on my merits as a model."

Six-footer Tula, who was born Barry Cossey, 29 years ago, added: "I lost a lot of clients after the news of my sex-change came out. But I wasn't really surprised."

"I used to specialise in swimwear and corsetry—bread and butter money it was really."

"But I can't blame manufacturers for not wanting to advertise their bras on someone with a scandal behind her."

Now Tula—who has just made three TV commercials—earns most of her money from modelling

The Rosalie Shann INTERVIEW

hats, furs and shoes. She is also constantly in demand for pictures of herself modelling jeans and says, "that's because I have a rounded bottom."

In her newly-published book called Tula, I Am a Woman, she says she sets out to explain the many problems she faces as a trans-sexual.

Her birth certificate, for example, shows her as male—which means she might never be allowed to marry the man she loves, Italian aristocrat Count Glauco Lasinio.

Then there were the cruel taunts Tula had to endure.

Shopkeepers who had always called her "darling" suddenly began greeting her with "hello mate" when the sex op was revealed.

Now Tula's model sister Pamela, 27, has come to her aid in the fight

Speaking out for the first time, Pamela — also a former Page Three pin-up — said: "I'm fed up with the way people treat her."

"For years Tula lived as a woman before having the final operation. She

looked so feminine. Then the news got out and everybody's attitude towards her changed."

Pausing to wipe away tears dark-haired Pam, who is fighting to have her sister's birth certificate changed from male to female, added:

I lost a brother and gained a sister when Tula had her operation. It made me so happy and proud because she is a fabulous, kind woman.

But it has brought enormous problems, too — like not being able to marry in our village church with Dad giving her away.

Bribed

To begin with, our parents were shocked by the change and asked themselves if they were to blame. But later they were marvellous.

Today they accept that Tula and I live in a flat in London and are really close, sharing each other's clothes the way most sisters do.

As schoolchildren, Pamela had to look after Barry — even though he was

older — because of merciless bullying.

She recalled how he was nicknamed Cissy Cossey and bribed other kids to leave him alone with cigarette cards.

"Often in the mornings I would find him weeping before school. 'Magic the day to go quickly for me,' he used to say. 'Magic the boys not to pick on me.'

"Sometimes he'd say, 'Pray for me'—but mostly he'd use that word 'magic.'

"Instead of playing football he'd play with my dolls and dress up in our mother's clothes."

"Barry's favourite disguise was as singer Helen Shapiro."

As we grew older, Barry's long hair and style of clothes caused increasing family tension. Eventually he moved to London.

"The first time I went to visit him I couldn't believe it. He had become beautiful Tula."

"He told me he was taking hormone tablets and wanted a sex-change."

"Finally the doctors agreed and it was performed in 1975—a tremendous relief for us all."

Now Pam says: "Our family, friends and neighbours have been wonderful. All we're praying for is that one day Tula will be free to marry and find lasting happiness."



DEVOTED: Pamela (left) and Tula, who wants to change her birth certificate

'I FEEL LIKE I'M REBORN'

MODEL Pamela Cossey told yesterday of the emotional scene when she first visited sister Tula after her sex operation.

She said: "Tula was in agony, but ecstasy, too. She cried out 'Oh Pamela, I feel so happy, I feel as if I've been reborn.'

Our parents were so proud and happy. The change was a success that she had never dreamed of. It happened as one of the most beautiful girls in a James

Bond film. But for five years we lived a lie, and when the truth leaked out two years ago, Tula threatened to take an overdose.

"Now she is in love with Glauco and everything is looking brighter. He is desperate to marry her—even though they can never have children."