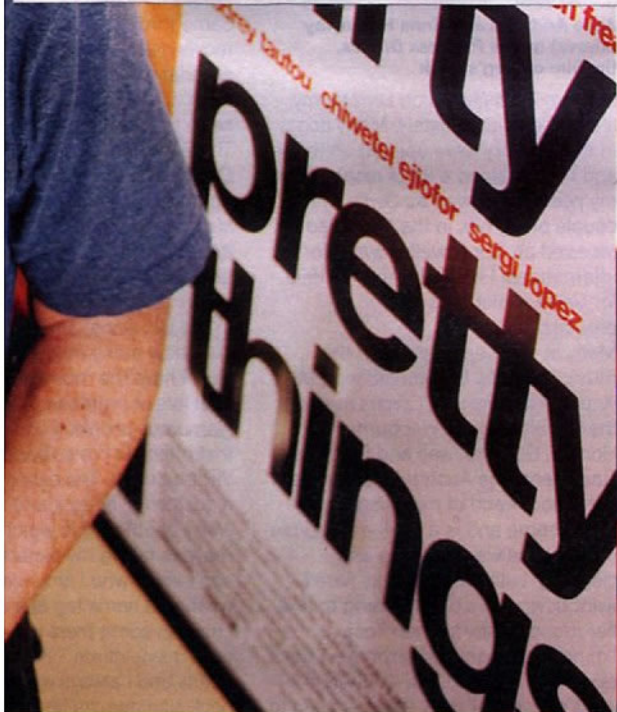


You've seen the films, heard the songs and read the books – but would you recognise the people behind them? We talk to three famous but 'invisible' faces



Pam (below left) wrote Christina Aguilera's hit *Genie In A Bottle*



Pam Sheyne, in her 30s, writes hits for stars such as Christina Aguilera and Billie Piper, and appeared on BBC1's *Fame Academy*. Originally from New Zealand, she lives in Buckinghamshire with her husband, Nigel Rush.

'I started my career as a singer and performed as a backing vocalist for Bryan Adams, Celine Dion and Elton John, among others. At the time, I wished the spotlight was on me. There's always been part of me that wanted to be famous, but I never made it as a solo artist – and I'm glad I didn't. When you're famous you have to wave goodbye to your private life. This is something I don't think most wannabe pop stars realise. It's also really hard work. You have a strict timetable of places to be, who to meet and what to do – public appearances, private performances, signings, TV shows etc. On top of that you've got the press on your back 24/7. It's the toughest job ever.'



'As a songwriter I'm my own boss and I still sing, without the added pressure of being an artist in the public eye'

If I'm honest, I don't think I'd have dealt so well with the pressure. I am a very emotional person and I think reading bad press about myself would have crucified my confidence. As a songwriter, I'm my own boss and I still sing, without the added pressure of being an artist in the public eye. I can go on holiday when I want, I'm not contractually obliged to do any appearances or interviews and I can walk down the street without worrying where the photographers are hiding. My husband and I have a house in LA which we visit regularly. But my work also takes me to Sydney, New York and all over Europe. When Christina Aguilera released

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INSIDE STORY



'When the six-figure cheque came through, I carried on working for three months and didn't dare cash it'

Julie Andrews and Anne Hathaway (above) in *The Princess Diaries*, the film of Meg's book

Genie In A Bottle, which I wrote, my life changed completely. Many doors in the industry were opened up to me and I felt I gained a lot of respect from my peers. I followed up *Genie* with a couple of big hits in the US. I also received an Ivor Novello Award for International Hit Of The Year in 1999 for *Genie*, which was one of my proudest moments.

Many of my friends are from the music industry. I've worked with Mike And The Mechanics, Cyndi Lauper, the Pet Shop Boys, Hepburn, The Honeyz, Geri Halliwell and Boyzone. Tina Arena, the Australian singer, is a very good friend of mine. She visits me at home and is a bit like an Italian mamma – always cooking and cleaning. Last time she was here I went downstairs one morning to find her mopping my kitchen floor. I'm not a big party girl anymore. I don't really do the circuit, but it's there if I want it. The best party I've ever been to was the Grammys. Christina Aguilera picked up a Best New Artist Award for *Genie In A Bottle*. The record label, BMG, had organised a massive party in this huge hanger building. There were lots of different rooms and the champagne never stopped.

I go unrecognised a lot of the time. I'm happy being a regular person and not being watched by all and sundry. Even Christina didn't recognise me when I met her the second time. Of course, being an artist you are pulled from pillar to post and meet so many people, so I didn't take it to heart. At one music party, the bouncers wouldn't let me past the red rope as they didn't know who I was – I think, on that occasion, I may have muttered, "Don't you know who I am?"