

Strange

Punks And Drunks And Flicks And Kicks

The Memoirs Of Richard Strange

Richard Strange

ANDRE DEUTSCH £20.00

Waspish recollections of singer, club host and thespian.

Richard 'Kid' Strange was briefly almost famous in the 1970s, as singer in the art-rock outfit Doctors Of Madness. A solo career in the '80s failed to advance his cause. Since then he has mainly worked as an actor, still hovering just below fame's radar. A self-confessed expert in under-achievement, Strange is a cultured, gregarious chap, who moves through London's gilded salons like a gangling Mr Punch, observing his peers' foibles.

A bit-part player in rock, the arts and media, and movies, he observes the vanities of the glitterati with a witty, generally benevolent eye, but his shrift can also be short.

He meets Kevin Costner through a fleeting role as executioner in *Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves* and notes: 'When Costner attempts gravitas he is laughable. When he attempts comedy, sadly he is not.'

Richard's memoirs are a rich mix of similar indiscretions. Of himself he says-, "My ambition and imagination, as always, far outstripped my talent." But he has no self-pity. Lacking a single hit record to his name, he reserves his sympathy for the one-hit wonder Peter Sarstedt, perpetually chained to one rotten song: 'So much better,' he decides, 'to fail and move on...'

Paul Du Noyer

MOJO Magazine September 2002