



Scout and father Bruce Willis (far right) with Anouchka Delon and her father Alain



Korean deb Jeehae Kim with her cavalier



Franklin Adler, Christian Louboutin and Carlo Adler

of the first dance, most of them have cracked it. Some of the mothers become rather emotional – there are a lot of “you must be very proud” whispers. Then someone nudges me, almost spilling my champagne, and I am shaken out of my reverie: it is Mr Willis. “Hey kid,” he puts his arm around Tallulah, who I failed to notice next to me. He is still humming the Viennese Waltz. Tallulah laughs and pats him on his bald head – it’s a pretty surreal scene.

After the ballroom dancing, the disco gets going and the waltz

teachers start throwing some shapes, encouraging the debutantes and their escorts to join in. Footwear king Christian Louboutin is hovering on the edge of the dancefloor and almost gets garrotted by the flailing limbs of one of the more exuberant cavaliers. Louboutin cannot be convinced to join in and shuffles off (in very nice shoes) while the rest of society’s elite start bopping to The Weathergirls’ *It’s Raining Men*.

“This was the first Lacroix dress they showed me. It was love at first sight”

SAYS SCOUT LARUE WILLIS

When the “grown-ups” have gone to bed, the debutantes and their escorts get ready to make their escape to the after-party. There is a great sense of camaraderie as the girls walk arm in arm, all agreeing, in slightly manic and overexcited tones, that the night has been “amazing”. They vow to keep in touch, and each girl is given an Adler bracelet: a small circle of diamonds in

a special design, so that they can all remember each other and their day.

As they approach the marble doorway of The Hôtel de Crillon, there is a gasp: it is snowing, and a dusting of white has covered the city while they have been inside. The Champs-Élysées and the Concorde are sprinkled with snowflakes. Debutantes, descended from royalty, rock ‘n’ roll or just plain riches, scramble into taxis. Scout is bundled up in a thick black coat and grabbed by the hand by Tallulah, who drags her out into the snow to join the other girls. The taxi doors close and they disappear into the Paris night. ■

5 It-Girls To Watch

A closer look at the top names from this year’s guest list



PALOMA URQUIJO ZOBEL DE AYALA

The Philippine debutante, 17, hails from the billionaire Zobel des Ayala business dynasty and spends her time between college in Boston and homes in Europe and Asia. She’s a keen fashionista, choosing couture by Carolina Herrera, a friend of her grandmother’s, to wear for the ball.

ENAYAT YOUNES

Enayat, 17, is the daughter of Farouk Younes, an Egyptian entrepreneur whose lineage traces back to the distribution of the Nile Valley water. She also happens to be best friends with Paloma [above], has been asked to be the new face of luxury jeweller Adler, and has invited all the new debbs to her 18th birthday party in July – the social event of the summer for the new elite.

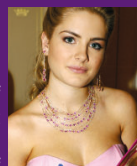


COUNTESS TATIANA DE PAHLEN

The Italian minx is the third daughter of Count Serge Pahlen and Marguerita Agnelli to participate in the Crillon Ball, and her older sister Anna is now presenting for French TV station M6. Tatiana has all the looks and style of her sibling, plus a wicked sense of humour – could we also be seeing her on the small screen before long?

PHILIPPA CADOGAN

The English rose, granddaughter of Earl Cadogan and known as the beauty of Heathfield, has the world at her feet after appearing in *Bratler* (the teen edition of society magazine *Tatler*) and convincing Luella to design her ballgown. What next for the style queen of teen London?



JEEHAE KIM

Korea’s new deb, 19, is the daughter of Sung-Joo Kim, owner of luxury accessories brand MCM. Her gown, designed by French couturier Dominique Sirop, is a gothic-esque creation with PVC fingerless gloves and a bondage-style basque cinching in the waist. Renowned as a bit of a wild child, Kim could take fashion in a whole new direction if she takes over her mother’s business in the future.