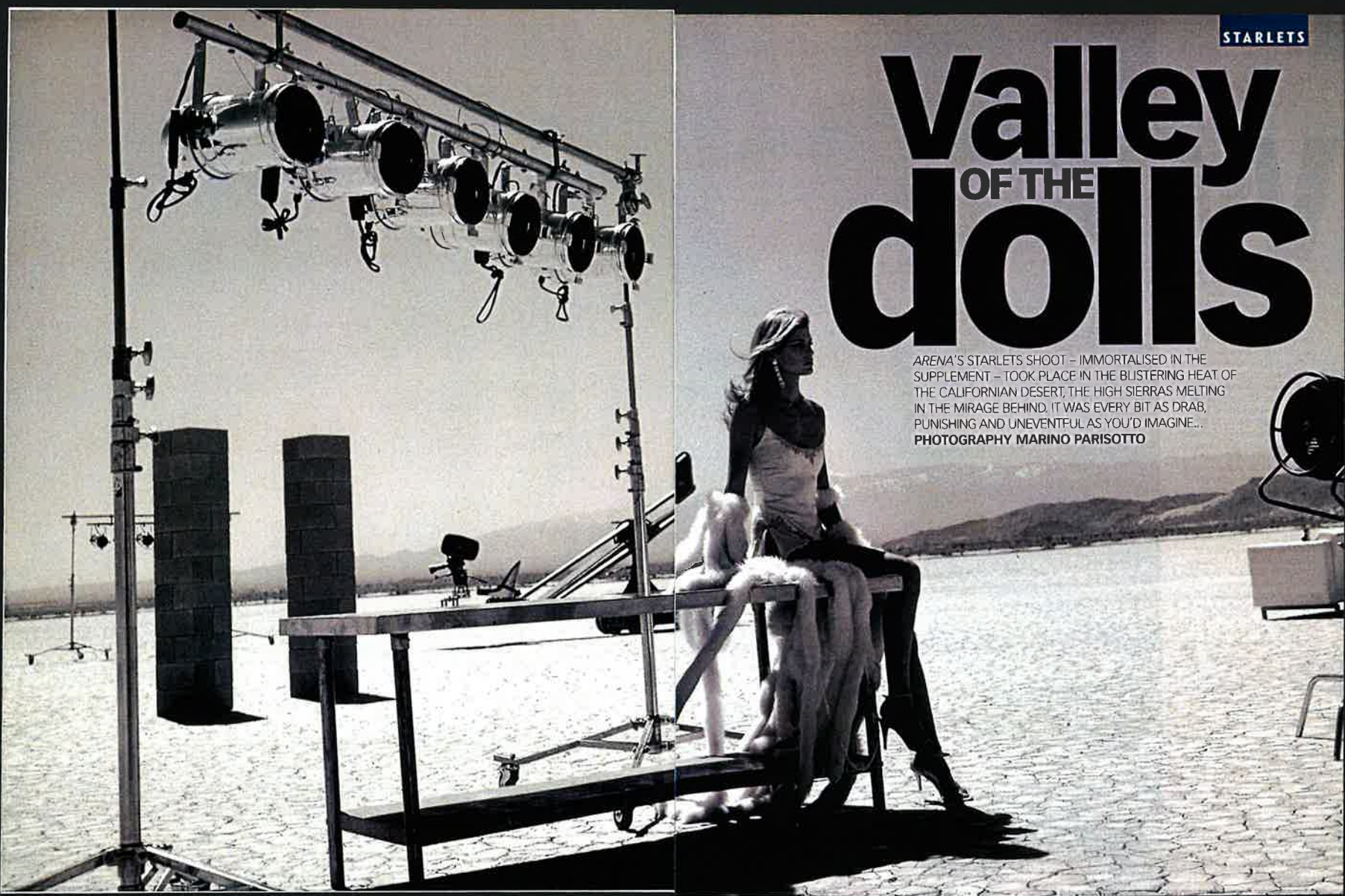


Valley OF THE DOLLS

ARENA'S STARLETS SHOOT - IMMORTALISED IN THE SUPPLEMENT - TOOK PLACE IN THE BLISTERING HEAT OF THE CALIFORNIAN DESERT, THE HIGH SIERRAS MELTING IN THE MIRAGE BEHIND. IT WAS EVERY BIT AS DRAB, PUNISHING AND UNEVENTFUL AS YOU'D IMAGINE...
 PHOTOGRAPHY MARINO PARISOTTO



WW

three hours drive from the nexus of western civilisation that is LA. Fifteen of the world's most beautiful young women, their bodies barely clad in the most exotic finery fashion could possibly offer, contemplate the spectacular scenery of the Californian desert.

Photographer Marino Parisotto has just returned from an inspirational spin round the desert in one of the *Arena* production crews' four-wheel-drives. 'I love to shoot in empty spaces,' he grins. 'The inspiration of the wind in the girls' hair... I have been telling the girls to imagine that they can just fly away into the endless horizon.'

Some of the girls are simply strolling around naked, sipping Coca-Cola. Daniela Urzi, an Argentinian whose face could launch if not a thousand ships then certainly a decent task force, is preparing for the attentions of Marino's lens. Aged 21, Daniela has already made a meteorite-like impact on planet modelling. 'She is a real woman,' emphasises Marino. 'For the *Armani* campaign, her face had a particular allure.'

Daniela's also had a role in Chloe Sevigny's ultra-cool *Imitation Of Christ* show. 'There were about 25 of us in a limousine. We pulled up outside, all the paparazzi were flashing away. We came out one by one, like we were treading the catwalk.'

Marino's magnum opus for *Arena* eventually takes three days. Normally after 72 hours of shooting, people are desperate to get home. But some of the models who'd headed home to LA actually came and joined us for the wrap party. Mexican, Greek and English accents could be heard chattering away, excited, liberated. 'I always like to work with Marino,' proclaims Daniela, 'he certainly gets in there!' STEVE BEALE

