

TATLER

ABOUT TOWN

Photographed by
FELICITY McCABE

THE PERFUMIER

Oh dear, you think. Another celebrity scent. Isn't the distinguished star of *Withnail and I* above this? 'Steady the Buffs,' says Richard E Grant, 56, in a low, theatrical way. 'Making a perfume has been my dream since I was a small boy, when I collected rose petals and mixed them with sugar water that I'd boiled in jam jars.' His more recent endeavour – called Jack because he's infatuated with all things British (*Union Jack*, keep up) – is an entirely different beast.

It's infused with marijuana for a start. 'The leaves smell so gorgeous and sexy and grrrr!' says Richard, who in the flesh is all those things himself, even though he insists he has a forehead like a Munster. There is also lime, nutmeg, cloves and oud. Imagine being hugged by Cary Grant in a smoking jacket. That's what it smells like. 'And I've self-financed it. I know exactly what everything costs – it works out at 9p a spray,' he says.

Swaziland-born Richard was encouraged in his quest by Anya Hindmarch, who found him with his head in a gardenia bush while they were holidaying together in the Caribbean two years ago. 'I'm just obsessed with smells. Anya said I had to do something about it.' He picks up a nearby Smythson handbag and runs his nose along it, as though he's snorting a line of cocaine, and then grabs the make-up artist and nuzzles her neck. 'What are you wearing? It's marvellous!' he roars. Steady the Buffs indeed. **SMC** Jack scent, £95 for 100ml, by Richard E Grant

RICHARD E GRANT WEARS HIS OWN CLOTHES. GROOMING BY VICTORIA BOND. USING BUMBLE & BUMBLE, MAC AND SISLEY SKINCARE

