

Spooky nookie

Matthew Macfadyen had mixed emotions when spy show *Spooks* hit the news last year, as glowing reviews were replaced by gossip of his affair with co-star Keeley Hawes. Here, he employs his best MI5 training to brood over the topic with Charlotte Moore. Photographs by Antony Crolla

“God, I’m really sorry,” shouts actor Matthew Macfadyen, weaving his way through a crowd of empty tables outside trendy East End restaurant Smiths of Smithfield. ‘I’m so hung-over. God, I’m really hung-over,’ he grins. ‘What do you want to drink? I’m

afraid I’m going to have to have a pint.’

It’s midday and we’re meeting for brunch to talk about *Spooks*, the superbly slick MI5 drama which made 27-year-old Matthew’s name, as well as his next starring role in *The Project*, another cool contemporary BBC series about New Labour spin doctors. He lights up a fag and wanders over to the bar. ‘I went out to dinner with my girlfriend and some of her friends last night, and you know what it’s like, too much red wine and...’ His polite, sexily posh voice trails off as he catches the eye of the bargirl.

The ‘girlfriend’ is sultry starlet Keeley Hawes, his co-star in *Spooks*. The couple scandalously fell in love on set only a few months after Keeley married cartoonist Spencer McCallum, with whom she has a two-year-old son. At the time, critically acclaimed *Spooks* was whisking newspaper columnists into a tizzy, first because of its gory plotlines (most notoriously when co-spy Lisa Faulkner’s face was shoved into a sizzling deep-fat fryer, just before she was shot dead – ‘deep-fried Faulkner’ is ▷

