

Kierston's lonely Christmas

EastEnders' Kierston Wareing talks Christmas plans, playing Delilah and leaving Albert Square...

Kierston Wareing sits sipping a cup of tea, looking fabulous in a white jumpsuit. "I've got a horrible cold," she sniffles. Best known for playing Kirsty Branning in *EastEnders*, she stars as Delilah in the mini-series *The Bible* from Saturday on Channel 5, 9pm. **When you first started on *EastEnders*, on Christmas Day, you said you thought**

Kirsty was a bitch. Do you still think that? No, I don't any more. But I don't have anything in common with her, either. **What do you mean?** Kirsty was fun at first - an ex-stripper, strong and no one knew if she was nice or nasty. Now she just works in a bar and chases Max around. **Is that why you're leaving?** No - they got rid of me

[laughs]. But I'm glad it wasn't my decision because you don't worry about things you can't control. But I'll always be very thankful. **Have you finished filming all your scenes?** No. I will still be on screen until the beginning of January.



Brannings at loggerheads

Are you going to miss the people you work with? Yes, especially Jake [Wood, who plays Max]. He's so laid-back and easy-going. A real pleasure to work with. **Do you see any of the cast?** No, I've got my own friends. You don't really see people once you stop working together, but that's just the business and it's fine.

What are your plans for Christmas? This looks like being my first Christmas alone with my dog. But it doesn't worry me. It's just a day. My mum's not around any more and I'm going on holiday a few days later with a friend. **Do you go to church over the Christmas period?** Yes, I'm Catholic. I believe in

a god and I do pray. I usually wear a cross that's been blessed by a nun. It's very important to me. Every time I think I've lost it, I have a panic attack. It's just wood but I believe it keeps me safe.

In *The Bible* you play Delilah. What do you think people will learn from watching her? Not to be like her? She was devious, greedy and manipulative. And I wouldn't call what she felt for Samson love. Money was her first passion and she betrayed him. But everyone knows the story of Samson and Delilah, so I was delighted to play her. **Where was it filmed?** In Morocco, and it was ridiculously hot. Just putting on a shawl made me sweat. I wanted to walk around in a

'They got rid of me. But I'm glad it wasn't my decision'



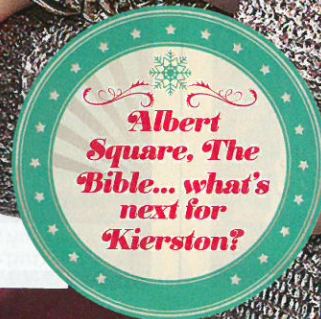
Playing Delilah in *The Bible*



Oprah's a big fan!

bikini all day. **The series has already aired in the US. Is it true Oprah tweeted how good you were?** Something like that. It doesn't get better than being tweeted by international superstar Oprah though, does it? **What's next for you?** Is there life after soap, you mean? I hope so. If the right film came along I'd say yes but I've earned a few mortgage payments, so I can afford to be a bit fussy for a while.

● *The Bible* Blu-ray and DVD is out on 26 December from 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment



The star has 'nothing in common with Kirsty'

'MY DEVASTATION AT LOSING MY BABY'

Kierston reveals her harrowing miscarriage ordeal...

When Kierston Wareing first walked into Albert Square a year ago, the 37-year-old was keeping a secret. She was pregnant with her first baby and couldn't wait to become a mum. Tragically, her happiness was to be short-lived. "I had a miscarriage at

four months, so that was all very hard," the star recalled softly. "I was in a hotel and about to go to work when I went to the toilet and that's when I saw the baby..." "It was really dramatic, and I was in a bit of a daze so I walked downstairs and I screamed for the

receptionist to help - but she was even more shocked than me. "She started screaming her head off. She couldn't call the ambulance because she was in even more of a state than I was." Lost in thought, the star continued: "Eventually, the

paramedics came and then I had to call *EastEnders* to tell them what had happened." Returning to work just days later, Kierston bravely insists that her ordeal hasn't put her off wanting to be a mother. "I'm broody," she admitted. We hope the New Year brings Kierston the happiness she longs for.