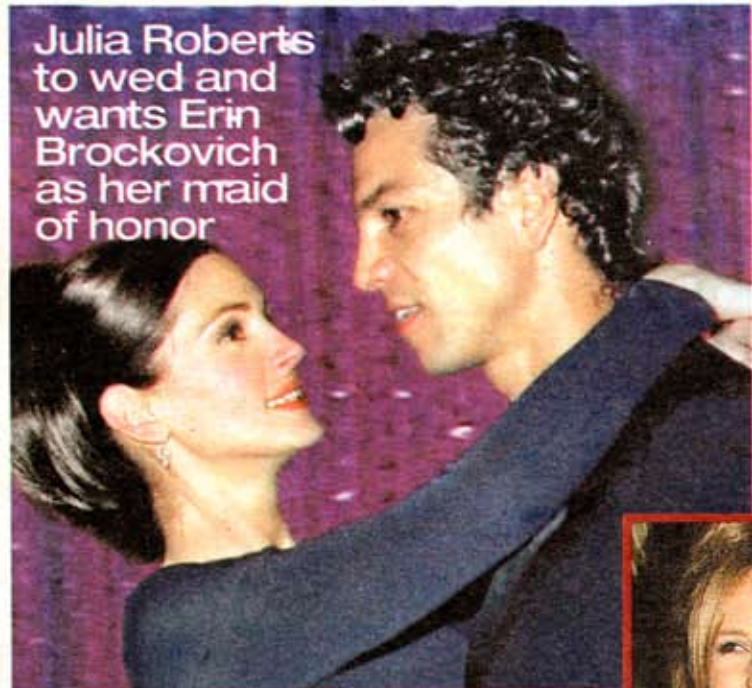




Pretty woman, pretty bride

Julia Roberts to wed and wants Erin Brockovich as her maid of honor



JUST hours after Julia Roberts won the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Drama for the movie *Erin Brockovich*, friends say she was gushing that she's finally ready to walk down the aisle with her longtime love Benjamin Bratt.

And she plans to make the real Erin Brockovich her maid of honor!

"I'm just shamelessly filled with joy," gushed the *Pretty Woman* in her acceptance speech.

'Julia can't wait to become Mrs. Benjamin Bratt'

And pals know that the award isn't the only reason Roberts is walking on air.

"Julia is on top of the world - and her

Golden Globe win is just the icing on the cake," a friend tells STAR.

"She and Ben have had an up-and-down year romance-wise, but they've survived their troubles and Julia has finally decided that he's the only man for her. She can't wait to become Mrs. Benjamin Bratt."

Former *Law & Order* star Bratt

couldn't be happier. Sources say he's given his bride-to-be the go-ahead to plan their special day.

"And if Roberts has her way, movie heroine Brockovich will play a big role in the celebrity wedding.

"They've become friends," says the source, "and Julia wants Erin to be in her wedding."

Brockovich's story of a broke, divorced mom-of-three who helped win a \$333 million settlement from Pacific Gas & Electric for residents of a town whose water was being polluted was the inspiration for Roberts' role, which critics believe will win her an Oscar, too.

And Roberts' feelings for the cleavage-baring law clerk didn't end when the director yelled, "Cut!"

"I'd love for her to be maid of honor at my wedding," the actress told a friend.

In her acceptance speech for the Golden Globe, Roberts, 33, made it obvious that Bratt, 37, is the only man for her. She thanked him,

saying: "All of the moviemaking stuff and going on location doesn't really mean much if you don't have someone who says: 'How was your day, honey?'"

"That's what Benjamin does for me."

It's been a three-year roller-coaster romance for the couple. STAR reported that in April of last year, Roberts hopped on a plane to Belize to keep an eye on Bratt, who was filming a movie with sexy Mili Avital, 28.

"When word got to Julia that Ben was romancing Mili, she booked herself on the next plane to Belize," a close pal reveals.

Months later, the tables were turned when STAR published photos that showed Roberts hugging and kissing ex-flame Jason Patric at an L.A. park.

Then, in November, STAR reported that Julia had "flipped" for her Notting Hill co-star Hugh Grant. The two were spotted cozying up at a posh Beverly Hills bar.

But Bratt forgave his runaway bride, and now things couldn't be better.

The two divide their time between New York and Julia's ranch in Taos, N.M.

But foremost in Roberts' mind is making sure everything is perfect for this coming trip down the aisle. It will be her second ride on the marriage-go-round, after a two-year union with singer Lyle Lovett in 1993.

"Julia is at the point where she desperately wants to start a family," says the pal.

"She's been acting since she was 18 and has achieved everything in the movie business that she set out to do. Now, she feels it's time for the next chapter of her life.

"Julia can't wait for her big day with Ben and says that having Erin in the wedding party would make it that much more special."

- JILL ISHKANIAN ★



ANNE HECH GETS COZY WITH LUCY

HERE we go again. Looks like Anne Heche is having a hard time staying on the straight and narrow. Heads were turning and tongues were wagging when Anne cuddled up to Ally McBeal star star-studded Golden Globes, while her ex-herman Coley Lafoon, looked on.

Heche has had relationships with then lesbian Ellen DeGeneres, then her ex-boyfriend, and now she's hand-holding with her new guy. Make up your mind, Anne!

