



Londoner's Diary

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No, I've never met Jacko

DERREN Brown describes what he does on stage as "psychological manipulation." Last night he was signing copies of his book of physically manipulated caricatures, Portraits, at the Rebecca Hossack gallery in Fitzroy Square, where an exhibition of the celebrity paintings was on show.

Stephen Fry was the only one of his subjects who actually sat for him (the rest of the 'portraits', including one of a grinning, bare-shouldered Queen, were done from photographs). He was also the only one who turned up at the gallery, having shed around three stone since he posed for Brown in a somewhat inebriated if jolly state.

Another subject is Uri "I was Michael Jackson's Friend" Geller, who also contributed a page to the book, writing about...himself. So I asked Brown what he thought of the old spoon bender.

"Let's just say that I don't believe in psychic phenomena", Brown said diplomatically. "And no, I never met Michael Jackson."

Phew, what a relief.

