

JIVING HER WAY ONTO OUR SCREENS

'I HAVEN'T MOVED THIS FAST FOR TWO YEARS!'

FORMER 'STRICTLY' RUNNER-UP **KIMBERLEY WALSH** TELLS OK! ABOUT REUNITING WITH PASHA KOVALEV AND WHICH JUDGE SECRETLY SCARES HER

For Kimberley Walsh, it's been a case of déjà vu as she kicks and flicks her way into the *Strictly Come Dancing* ballroom once again. The former Girls Aloud singer has been reunited with her professional dance partner Pasha Kovalev and she couldn't be more thrilled!

The duo were runners-up back in 2012 and will attempt to win the Glitterball this time with their lively jive to Kelly Clarkson's *Run, Run, Rudolph*.

With Kimberley set to host her entire family for this year's celebrations, the 36 year old is looking forward to settling down with husband Justin Scott and their adorable sons Bobby, three, and one-year-old Cole to watch the show on Christmas Day.

Here, the mum of two tells us how she's dying to get her husband dancing and her love of all things festive...

Will your boys watch the show on Christmas Day?

They'll be forced to. This morning, I told them: 'I'm going to go and be a reindeer with Pasha,' and Bobby was like: 'I don't want you to be a reindeer.' I was like, jeez, I'm doing this for you [laughs]! But they're too young to be embarrassed.

Do you feel under more pressure having reached the final last time?

I'm going to be jumping around like a reindeer for my children, and that's all I'm thinking about. They don't quite realise that I've nearly had a heart attack just getting to the end of the routine. My youngest is just coming up to one and I haven't moved this fast for at least a year, maybe two!

What are your plans this Christmas?

I've got everybody coming to me. Last year, I'd just had Cole so I could lie there feeding while everybody did everything around me. This year I'll have to actually chip in. My sister and her husband will come with their three



boys and then there'll be my mum, my younger sister and my brother. It's going to be very noisy with five little boys running around! We're all going to the Cotswolds for New Year too.

Are you a Christmassy person?

Yes, I had my decorations up in November! My little one keeps saying: 'Mummy, I love Christmas.' I'm like: 'That's because I keep telling you how much I love it.' We have Christmas music on every morning!

Have you danced much since your series of *Strictly*?

I've not danced for five years. I tried to get Justin to do some ballroom classes and he's not having any of it! He's a good dancer, that's what's annoying.

How's it been dancing with Pasha?

Brilliant. We got on so well the first time round and I feel so lucky that I get to dance with him again. He's a joy to



Above: 'I feel so lucky that I get to dance with him again,' says Kimberley of jiving with Pasha (above left). Left: Her boys, Cole and Bobby. Below: With husband Justin Scott

be around and it doesn't feel like any time has passed.

Are you nervous about facing the new judge, Shirley Ballas?

She's very technical, but Len Goodman was also about the technique. She does scare me slightly. I wonder if anyone's told her that the Christmas special is not quite at that level [laughs]!

Who have you been rooting for in this year's competition?

Alexandra [Burke] has been amazing and Debbie McGee is just brilliant. I hate to mention her age, but it's unbelievable what she can do at 59. I couldn't do it now! **OK!**

THE 'STRICTLY COME DANCING' CHRISTMAS SPECIAL AIRS ON CHRISTMAS DAY ON BBC ONE.

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