

WRITERS and rock stars from Salman Rushdie to Nick Cave crowded into Notting Hill's 20th Century Theatre last night to celebrate the launch of The Kindness, a novel by Polly Samson, pictured in yellow above with her husband David Gilmour and his daughter Sara. Catching sight of fellow novelist Sebastian Faulks, The Londoner enquired how his hunt for an office job was going? "Badly," said Faulks, resignedly. "The Evening Standard are the only people to have offered me a job. I could have been your colleague. But I won't be. I think my working days might be over." Nick Cave was puzzled: "Isn't being an writer an office job?" he asked. Perhaps Faulks just needs a watercooler to make his life complete.