



Smiling again: Leila Wilcox found success on *Make Me a Million* and her children's shampoo brand is now in most supermarkets

## Lucky escape for TV entrepreneur

By Richard Tyler

THE winner of Channel 4's reality TV programme *Make Me a Million*, Leila Wilcox, has broken her back in a head-on car crash in Oxfordshire.

Surgeons at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford successfully operated on the 25-year-old founder of kids' shampoo brand Halos n Horns and yesterday she returned home on crutches.

"We were so lucky. You don't have a head-on 60mph crash and have broken bones and walk out of hospital within two weeks," said Ms Wilcox, speaking for the first time about the incident from her home in Stonesfield, near Woodstock.

"I had a bone graft from my lower back put into my 12th vertebra, along with four bolts and some titanium. Luckily my spinal cord was not damaged. That was one of the worries of the operation on the spinal cord. I had a 1-in-200 chance of not walking again." Her mother Marilyn, 56, and two-year-old son Troy were also in the car, a Peugeot 206, when it collided with a VW Golf on the B4027 at Woodeaton on July 10.

"My son has bruising, a broken tooth and stitches in his thumb as he was sucking his thumb," said Ms Wilcox. "My mum has terrible, terrible bruising. She will not walk for three months." Last year, Ms Wilcox and her friend

Karen Dwyer were picked from thousands of budding entrepreneurs to take part in the TV show, starring insurance millionaire Ivan Massow. They set up Halos n Horns, whose range of chemical-free products is now sold in most supermarkets. It is forecast to turnover £9.7m in its first year.

Ms Wilcox said that "luckily" she had contracted the day-to-day running of the business to distribution specialists Ceuta to allow her to concentrate on developing the brand.

She had also planned to buy a Porsche 911 convertible. "That's definitely not on my list now. Can you imagine rolling in a convertible. I'm now thinking a big 4x4."