

**10 PAGE ENTERTAINMENT SECTION**

London's biggest and best newspaper guide to staying in...or going out

IN&OUTTONIGHT

# Pop princess is a precious gem



No fake: Welsh-Greek popstrel Marina Diamandis

CALLING all diamond hawkers — the endorsement deal of a lifetime has landed. “I definitely picked a great name regarding sponsorship,” giggles 24-year-old Marina Diamandis (Greek for diamond) who swears it’s her real name and wasn’t deed-poll’d from Marina Paperclip. But don’t put it past her. Marina’s snap decision to make theatrical, left-field pop (think Regina Spektor’s ivory bounce and Gwen Stefani’s melodic oomph) implies a certain dramatic temperament.

“At 15 I suddenly became obsessed with being a singer but didn’t tell anyone because I’d never sung before and was embarrassed that I wanted to be a pop star,” she chuckles over a post-gig hangover that sends her back to bed after our

## MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS

Marina plays Camp Bestival on Sunday.

3pm interview. “My parents thought I was mad but I needed an outlet to express myself. Now they’re really supportive.”

Since mum is supportive from Wales and dad is supportive from Athens, Marina — a Highgate resident who describes herself as “really bad at teamwork” — has ploughed a very independent route into the business. So independent that her Diamonds aren’t even a band, they’re us, the audience.

After writing some “really bad songs that make me massively cringe”, she

invested in Garage Band and taught herself the laptop. A deal with Warner’s followed a MySpace buzz, and when she finishes playing at “so many festivals I can’t remember the line-ups” she’ll release her debut album, *The Family Jewels*, a collection of broody, singalong melodies, in January.

I tell Marina I recently met an old schoolfriend of hers who remembers her bounding through classrooms declaring herself destined for fame. She howls with laughter (Marina’s dial is permanently set to “howl with laughter”).

“That’s hysterical! But fame isn’t as important to me now. What matters is creating something really special.” This is one diamond who’s determined to last forever.

MARTHA DE LACEY

### MUSIC

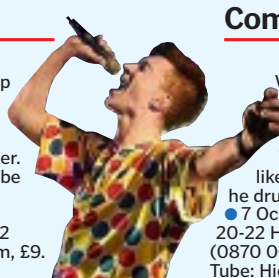
#### Today

**DON'T WAIT ANIMATE**  
THE genre-mashing “Strumstep” band, right, blend indie and dubstep. Support from Glint, Cathouse and The Art Factory.  
● 93 Feet East, 150 Brick Lane E1 (020 7247 3293, 93feeast.co.uk), 7.30pm, £3. Tube: Aldgate East



#### Tomorrow

**FRANKMUSIK**  
CROYDON'S electropop singer, right, dropped out of the London College Of Fashion to further his music career. The gamble seems to be paying off.  
● Heaven, Under The Arches, Craven St WC2 (020 7930 2020), 7pm, £9. Tube: Charing Cross



#### Coming Soon

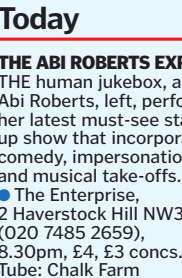
**J TILLMAN**  
WHEN Seattle's strummer, right, released *Vacilando Territory Blues*, it drew comparisons to Neil Young but sounds most like Fleet Foxes, the band he drums with.  
● 7 Oct, Relentless Garage, 20-22 Highbury Corner N5 (0870 060 3777), 7.30pm, £10. Tube: Highbury & Islington



### COMEDY

#### Today

**THE ABI ROBERTS EXPERIENCE**  
THE human jukebox, aka singer Abi Roberts, left, performs her latest must-see stand-up show that incorporates comedy, impersonations and musical take-offs.  
● The Enterprise, 2 Haverstock Hill NW3 (020 7485 2659), 8.30pm, £4, £3 concs. Tube: Chalk Farm



#### Tomorrow

**ENTERTAINER EXTRAORDINAIRE!**  
MONSIEUR MONTPELLIER, left, and his trusty sidekick Le Cabaret perform feats of magic and illusion as they recount tales from their past.  
● Canal Café Theatre, The Bridge House, Delamere Terrace W2 (020 7289 6054, canalcafe theatre.com), 7.30pm, £6, £5 concs. Tube: Warwick Ave



#### Coming Soon

**CANUXPLOITATION**  
VANCOUVER'S premier sketch and improv comedy group, Canadian Content, left, perform this partially scripted, partially improvised show about Canada, “God’s America”.  
● 4-30 Aug, Leicester Sq Theatre, 6 Leicester Place WC2 (0844 847 2475), Tue-Sat 7pm, Sun 5.30pm & 7.30pm, £15. Tube: Leicester Sq

### THEATRE

#### Today

**THE MOUNTAINTOP**  
KATORI HALL'S play about Martin Luther King's final night stars David Harewood, right, as the civil rights leader.  
● Until 5 Sep, Trafalgar Studios, Whitehall SW1 (0870 060 6632), Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £25-£55. Tube: Charing Cross



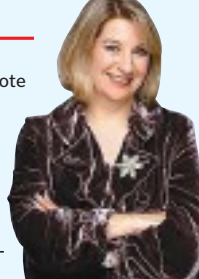
#### Tomorrow

**THE BLACK ALBUM**  
HANIF KUREISHI'S play, right, follows an Asian boy, Alexander Andreou, right, caught between his Muslim friends and a lecturer he's having an affair with.  
● Until 7 Oct, National Theatre, South Bank SE1 (020 7452 3000), tonight 7.30pm, other times vary, £10-£31. Tube: Waterloo  
See review on page 33



#### Coming Soon

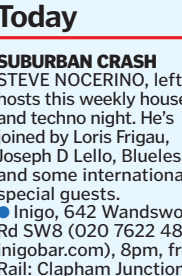
**TALENT**  
VICTORIA WOOD, right, wrote the music and lyrics and directs this “comedy with songs” about two friends who enter a talent show.  
● 23 Sep-14 Nov, Menier Chocolate Factory, 51-53 Southwark St SE1 (020 7907 7060), Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 3.30pm, £15-£25. Tube: London Bridge



### CLUBS

#### Today

**SUBURBAN CRASH**  
STEVE NOCERINO, left, hosts this weekly house and techno night. He's joined by Loris Frigau, Joseph D Lello, Blueless and some international special guests.  
● Inigo, 642 Wandsworth Rd SW8 (020 7622 4884, inigobar.com), 8pm, free. Rail: Clapham Junction



#### Tomorrow

**THE AGENDA**  
TECHNO, house and electro-acoustic collective The Boardroom returns to East Village with DJ sets from Billy Nasty, Rad Rice, left, Dave Congreve, James Moss, Tim Fairplay and PingMonster.  
● East Village, 89 Great Eastern St EC2 (020 7739 5173), 7.30pm, £3. Tube: Old St



#### Coming Soon

**KINKI MALINKI**  
RASMUS FABER, left, Funkerman, Prok & Fitch, Raymundo Rodriguez and D.O.N.S. spin some kinky house music at this summer special.  
● 1 Aug, Matter, The O2, Peninsula Square SE10 (020 7549 6686), 10pm, £20, £15 adv. Tube: North Greenwich