



Jack the lad: Peñate in his element

## Jumping Jack is just the ticket on The Platform

**WHO IS HE?** A South Londoner who is challenging notions of the singer-songwriter as a miserable chap strumming in the corner while his fans cry into their beer. Vibrant and colourful, he dances uncontrollably on stage and elicits a similar response from the floor.

**WHY THE FUSS?** Peñate is becoming an irresistible force. His new single, *Torn On The Platform*, is set to storm into the Top Ten this weekend, while Mark Ronson caught his London show this week.

**SO WHAT DOES HE SOUND LIKE?** His influences, according to MySpace, include Bob Dylan, James Brown, Sam Cooke and Jackson Browne (twice!). In reality, his energetic tunes combine classic skiffle and pop while harking back to the Eighties jangle of The Smiths.

**WHAT'S HIS BACKGROUND?** Peñate is grandson of writer Mervyn Peake. He began playing guitar at 11 and formed his first band with Felix White, now of The Maccabees, while at school. After studying classics at London, he began gigging, supporting Lily Allen.

**AND THEN?** Spotted by the XL label, he released his first single, *Second, Minute Or Hour*, last year. Limited to 1,000 copies, it now changes hands for £50 on eBay. A second single, *Spit At Stars*, came out in April.

**SO WHAT'S NEXT?** Peñate plays Brighton's Concorde tonight, Bristol's Thekla tomorrow and Portsmouth's Wedgewood Rooms on Sunday. He also makes festival appearances at Leeds, Reading and the Isle Of Wight. Details: [www.jackpenate.com](http://www.jackpenate.com). His debut album follows in September.

ADRIAN THRILLS

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**A**on tour with Justin Timberlake for five weeks, was out partying the night before and has spent much of today 'practising for the Diana thing'.

We are at recording studios in South London and in the room next door, the band starts playing Elton John's *Candle In The Wind*. Tired or not, Natasha still manages to belt out the song in the soulful manner which has already seen her become a huge success on both sides of the Atlantic.

'The Diana thing' is of course The Concert For Diana taking place at Wembley Stadium on Sunday. Natasha is performing alongside an eclectic mix including Duran Duran, Lily Allen, Kanye West and, of course, Sir Elton John.

'It was a real honour to be asked to perform,' she says, 'because I was always very inspired by Diana. Every girl wants to be a princess, doesn't she?'

'I remember the day she died so clearly. I'd come downstairs to answer the phone and my grandma told me to switch the TV on. I just remember the disbelief and thinking the response to her death was similar to that when Marilyn Monroe died.'

**N**ATASHA had never met Diana and at 25 is too young even to remember her wedding to Prince Charles, but admits she is rather excited about the event.

'The Princes invited every person to perform on the show and I'd like to think they handpicked me — I'm about the same age as William.'

'The moment that really got to me at Diana's funeral was seeing the card they had written which just said: "Mummy."

'I related to it from the perspective of thinking of how I'd feel if I lost my mum and that started me crying. The Royal Family is meant to be the ideal family, too, and you just don't expect bad things to happen to good people.'

In anyone else, such naivety could be irritating, but while Britney Spears can have a private meltdown and Amy Winehouse exposes her emotional vulnerabilities for all to see, Natasha — a committed Christian — is self-contained and profes-



Wembley-bound: Natasha joins a starry cast of si

## Natasha Bedingfield the honour of appearing at the Princess's concert

sional. It's hard not to admire a young woman — particularly a strikingly attractive blonde one in the music business — who has forged success pretty much on her own terms.

Many people, certainly initially, believed she was riding the wave of success of her brother Daniel Bedingfield, who had a No 1 hit in 2001 with *Gotta Get Thru This*. But when, three years later, Natasha had

a UK No 1 with *Torn On The Platform*, followed up with a tour, her status was

With such success has sold over 6 million worldwide, she's a quite easy target. I try not to compare what I always do when you're touring, no one's all seem

### The couch potato's guide to the royal gig

SOME of the late Princess of Wales's favourite artists, along with newcomers reflecting her sons William and Harry's taste, will line up to mark the tenth anniversary of her death, on what would have been her 46th birthday. Unlike at similar large-scale events, the organisers refuse to reveal a running order to help plan viewing or listening, so It's Friday would like to suggest its own, starting with the headliners:

Elton John, Rod Stewart, P. Diddy, Tom Jones, Duran Duran, Andrew Lloyd Webber medley (featuring Anastacia, Sarah Brightman, Jason Donovan, Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Donny Osmond, Lee Mead and Chicken Shed Theatre), Take That, Bryan Ferry, English National Ballet, Will Young, Joss Stone, Pharrell Williams, Natasha Bedingfield, James Morrison, The Feeling, Kanye West, Fergie, Roger Hodgson of Supertramp, Orson, and Status Quo.

Interspersed with performances will be ten films of personal stories from those affected or inspired by Diana and her work. There will also be filmed contributions from world figures and celebrities.

#### Tune in for ...

■ **SUNDAY:** (R2, 4-8.30pm, 9-11pm). Even for a bigmouth like Chris Evans, the act of talking for seven hours — give or take breaks and performances — should be exhausting as he heads Radio 2's coverage, with reports from Lauren Laverne.

#### Switch on for ...

■ **TONIGHT:** (BBC1, 7.30pm). Fearnie Cotton should provide an unstuffy chat with William and Harry about their mother, her work and the concert.

■ **SUNDAY:** (BBC1, 5.30-10.30pm). Jamie Theakston and Claudia Winkleman will be overlooking the Wembley stage from the restaurant area and talking to stars while Fearnie Cotton will be in the Green Room next to the players' tunnel grabbing artists after their performances, egos permitting.

#### Log on for ...

■ Tickets have long been sold out, but log on to [www.concertfordiana.com](http://www.concertfordiana.com) for details of charities supported by the concert.

SPENCER BRIG