

MUSIC

with Helen Clarke



Emmy The Great
We Almost Had A Baby
Single
Close Harbour
November 10
★★★★☆

SOMETIMES the most haunting songs are the ones that on first listen sound perfectly harmless.

Emmy The Great is a master at this, and no where is this clearer than on this latest single.

An unassuming country tinged track with a swell of 60s girl group melancholy, its subject matter is hidden away until the second listen. Emmy's soft, wispy vocals sound close to tears throughout this tale of a brittle relationship that almost sinks into permanence.

The rolling melodies are quirked up with jingling percussion. A brilliant, sparkling pop song and an insight into her debut album, due in January.



Tom Jones
24 Hours
Album
Parlophone
November 10
★★★★☆

AT the age of 68 Sir Tom has put pen to paper for the first time and taken on the bulk of the writing duties for his latest release – but you wouldn't have guessed because it's business as usual for the Welsh legend.

From the cheesy, 'sexy' horns to the cringey lyrics, it's Jones by numbers.

In *Style And Rhythm* ("I see the girls by the pool and they're playing it cool") and *Sugar Daddy* ("I've got man intuition, I've got sexual ambition") see him at his hip-swivelling best.

His take on Bruce Springsteen's *The Hitter* shows off his voice which, at a time he could legitimately be drawing his pension and singing around the piano in his local boozier, is as powerful as ever and can still fill a room 10 times over.

It might not be new and exciting, but let's face it, we'd probably be disappointed if it was.



Seal
Soul
Album
Warner Bros
November 10
★★★★☆

IN the run-up to Christmas the shops are always packed with these kind of records – compilations, best ofs... perfect for that friend or family member you don't really know that well.

But this one's actually worth a listen. One of the most distinctive voices in pop lends his thick, velvety voice to a collection of 12 classic soul tracks.

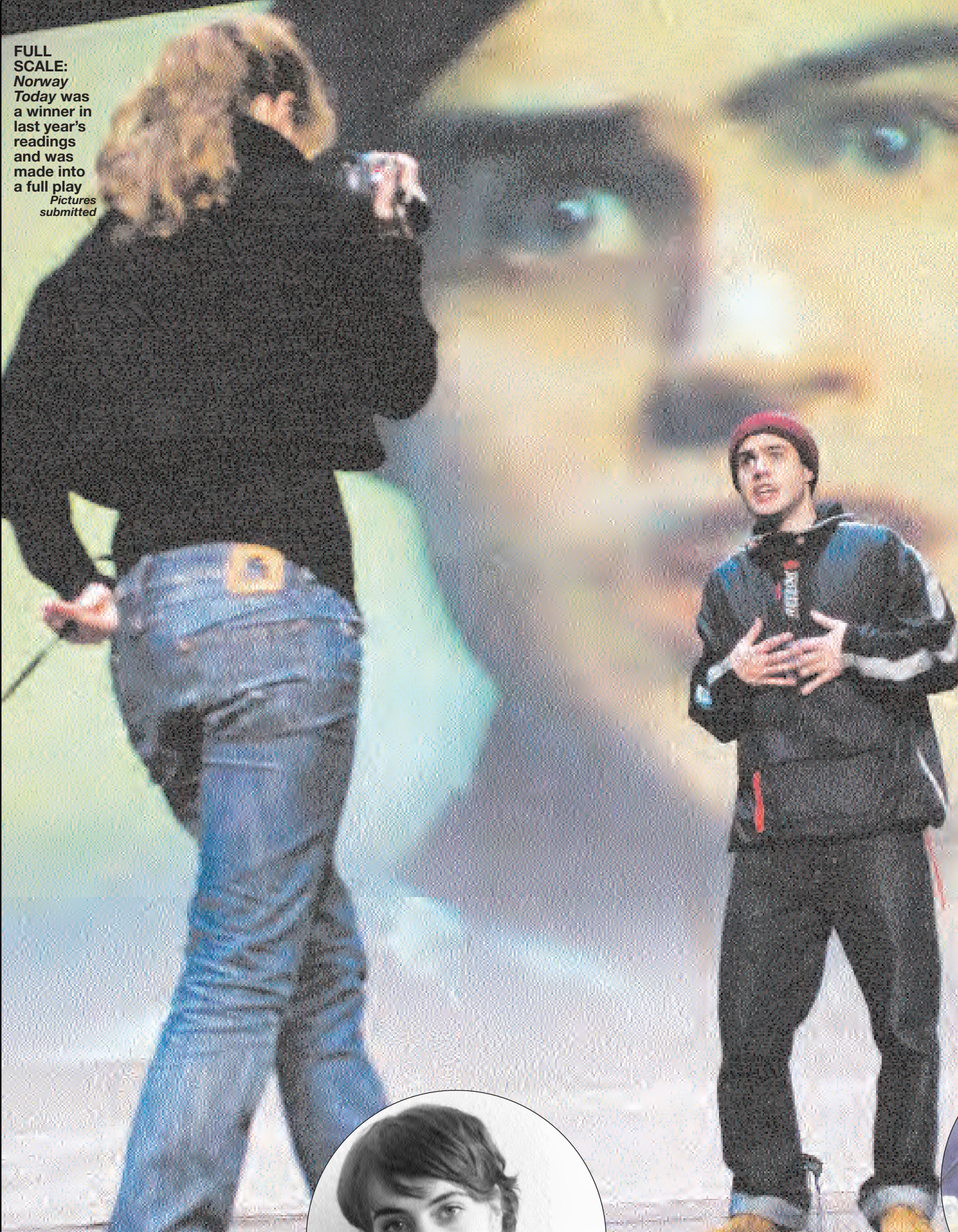
Covers include Ann Peebles' *I Can't Stand The Rain*, James Browns' *It's A Man's Man's Man's World*, *Knock On Wood* by Otis Reading and *Stand By Me* by Ben E King.

They're all straight cover versions, but for soul fans it's a great compilation and Seal fans will be glad to see their idol – who's released just five other albums in his 17-year career – back so soon after 2007's *System*.

**WHAT'S ON
IN YOUR AREA?**
www.london
informer.co.uk

informer review

FULL
SCALE:
Norway
Today was
a winner in
last year's
readings
and was
made into
a full play
Pictures
submitted



THROUGH YOUNG EYES

JOHN Retallack spotted a gap in the theatre market. "Not enough plays for teenagers and not enough transfers from Europe," says the Theatre Café Festival director.

Now in its fifth year, John's detective work is beating Britain's bad habit of ignoring its continental counterparts.

Scouring theatre festivals from Lisbon to Ljubljana, the five-day festival then presents its findings with a series of scripted readings. Last year's favourites, *Norway Today* and *This Child* (France),

THE BEST YOUTH THEATRE FROM ALL OVER THE CONTINENT IS TRAVELLING TO LONDON. DON'T MISS THE THEATRE CAFE FESTIVAL, SAYS CHRISTIAN MCLAUGHLIN

went on to be developed into full productions for this year's festival. Of the five hopefuls this year, one stands to win a £20,000 development grant.

All the plays have been translated especially, so grab the kids and take your pick.

● Last year's winners are at the Southwark Playhouse, corner of Tooley Street and Bermondsey Street. £8-20, book early for cheapest seats. Call 020 7407 0234. See www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

● *Norway Today* by Igor Bauersima runs Fri-Sat (Nov 14/15). 7.30pm. Internet buddies Julie and August make a suicide pact. Armed with tents and a camcorder they arrive at the foot of a desolate cliff in the Norwegian wilderness to begin their final ascent.



● *This Child* by Joel Pommerat runs Mon-Thurs (Nov 10-13). 7.30pm. A huge hit in France, *This Child* examines the struggle between parent and child. A cast of seven adults and five teens flow from the noblest to the most shameful of emotions.

WHAT'S ON
This year's readings are at the Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley Street. Call 020 7645 0560. See www.unicorntheatre.com

■ **SENSES**
by Anja Hilling (Germany). Divided into five separate scenes, *Senses* follows teenagers as they explore love

■ **SANDHOLM**
by Anna Clemenssens Bro (Denmark). A young woman by the name of Job arrives at the gates of Sandholm, an

and the inevitability of heart-breaking choices. Tuesday, November 11 at 10.45am.

■ **NIGHTBLIND**
by Darja Stocker (Switzerland). Leyla's life is on the verge of collapse. A tale of liberation versus endurance – as well as the necessity of dreaming. Wednesday, November 12 at 10.45am.

asylum centre near Copenhagen. An investigation of hope based on real interviews. Tuesday, November 11, at 1.45pm.

■ **HEADCASE**
by Esther Gerritsen (Holland). Lena is a successful painter – with a secret. No one knows that she is paralysed from the neck down and paints all her pictures with her mouth.

Unsentimental, witty and winner of the Dutch-German Youth Theatre Prize in 2008. Wednesday, November 12, at 1.45pm.

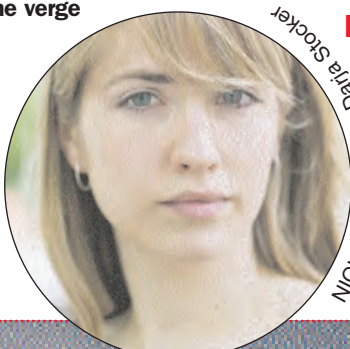
■ **BULGER**
by Klas Tindemans (Belgium). "We were old enough to end up in prison, but too young for anyone to listen to us." Loosely based on the 1993 murder trial, *Bulger* challenges common perceptions of guilt and innocence. Thursday, November 13, at 10.45am.



SENSES: Writer Anja Hilling



SANDHOLM: Writer Anna Clemenssens Bro



NIGHTBLIND: Writer Darja Stocker



HEADCASE: Writer Esther Gerritsen



BULGER: Writer Klas Tindemans