



Tara ON TV

BY TV EDITOR TARA CONLAN

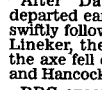
Grey all over? It is now



IS THE BBC trying to ease out grey-haired presenters? They Think It's All Over host Nick Hancock and panellist Rory McGrath have been threatened with the axe.



The Beeb is keen to use new young talent such as Ian Wright, Patrick Kielty and Blue Peter's Konnie Huq, and wanted to apply the same 'refreshment' to the popular sports quiz.



After David Gower departed early this year, swiftly followed by Gary Lineker, the shadow of the axe fell on McGrath and Hancock.



BBC executives said, privately, that they wanted Hancock to lose a bit of weight and have a makeover if he was to remain on the show. They felt it needed younger blood.

HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU...

POPIDOL is nearly upon us again. The series that brought Gareth Gates and Will Young to our already-wandering attention starts again this autumn. The rumour is that ITV wants the finale to be screened on Christmas Day.

ANITA LAND, uber-agent and sister of former Channel 4 boss Michael Grade, is the latest agent to turn presenter for a C4 series by Lion TV about religion. Anita talks about Judaism, while former Today editor Rod Liddle covers the Anglican church, and Big Brother's Little Brother host Dermot O'Leary speaks about what it's like to be Roman Catholic.

JOHNNY VAUGHAN (right) is making a big-money entertainment series for the BBC with Celador, the producers of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? The BBC meets today to decide all its new shows, and should reveal what else it has planned for its £2 million signing.

WHAT'S the real story behind the back-room battle over the future of Real Story, BBC1's answer to Tonight With Trevor McDonald? The Fiona Bruce-fronted series had a disastrous debut and was shunted around the schedules. While Tonight With Trev's makers, Granada, are about to be rewarded for their string of scoops with a new deal with ITV, the Real Story team is to receive a slightly different reward. It's likely to move from Manchester to London, and will be overseen by Paul Woolwich, an executive producer on BBC1's Kenyon Confessions. In February, Woolwich was described

WANNABE TV
★ ARE you a Shirley Valentine who has moved abroad (or is planning to) in order to follow the path of true love? Then TV channel Five wants to hear from you for its documentary, Leaving For Love. E-mail ewallace@mentorm.com.uk or call 0207 258 6818.

and unconvincing witness, following a failed attempt to sue a previous employer for wrongful dismissal. The judge also decided that Woolwich was guilty of persistent aggressive and bullying behaviour towards junior staff at TV company Twenty Twenty Productions. However, with Director-General Greg Dyke's plan to crack down on bullying at the Beeb, I'm sure the Real Story

It's Friday! Music

Mope springs eternal

WITH School Disco-type compilations flooding our record shops, and Paul Young, Kim Wilde and ABC priming themselves for another nostalgic trek around Britain's arenas, the Eighties revival shows no sign of waning.

But while the current wave of interest has focused on the stylised 'glamour' acts of the New Romantic era, the decade's more bookish stars — the angst-ridden idols of bedsit pop — have remained untouched by the resurgence. Until now, that is. These two albums are a reminder that the Eighties wasn't all about robot dancing and frilly shirts. The first is a fascinating trawl through Morrissey's personal record collection; the second is a new studio release from Lloyd Cole.

Former Smiths frontman Morrissey has kept a ludicrously low profile since his last album, 1997's underrated *Maladjusted*. Then, his introspective, enigmatic songs were at odds with Britpop's brash, all-lads-together mentality, and it was no surprise when 'Mozzer', who went six years without a record deal, abandoned Britain and moved to Los Angeles.

Now, with Britpop long gone and many music lovers bored with gangsta rappers, pop princesses and nu-metal numbskulls, the notion of an erudite singer-songwriter with an Oscar Wilde fixation is something that the music industry thinks it can sell back to the mainstream.

Earlier this month, it was announced that Morrissey had secured a new record deal, with Sanctuary, and he is working on a solo album.

In the meantime, the singer who once said he wanted to 'hang the DJ' (on Panic, a classic Smiths single) is spinning the discs himself, rummaging through his record collection on *Under The Influence*, an entertaining album packaged in a Smiths-style, black and white period sleeve.

Morrissey's reputation as the Pope Of Mope wasn't undeserved; but he was also famous for a wicked wit, and his more vaudevillian songs, such as the



Angst in his pants: Morrissey plans a comeback



Reviews by **Adrian Thrills**

MORRISSEY: Under The Influence (DMC)

Verdict: Mozzer prepares for his comeback ★★★★★

LOYD COLE: Music In A Foreign Language (Sanctuary)

Verdict: Cole waits for a new boomtown ★★★★★

Elsewhere, the more expected figures of The New York Dolls (*Trash*), Ramones (*Judy Is A Punk*) and Patti Smith (a cover of Jimi Hendrix's *Hey Joe*) pay homage to Morrissey's punky past.

There are surprises, too. Considering that Morrissey once proclaimed that 'reggae is vile', the presence of a ska cover of *Swan Lake*, by The Cats, is just one shock on a surprisingly upbeat collection — one which whets the appetite nicely for his comeback.

Whereas Morrissey was either heroically depressed or hilariously acerbic, Lloyd Cole was usually just grumpy. But the Victor Meldrew of jangly-pop could write a good song, and his 1984 debut album with the Commotions, *Rattlesnakes*, was full of sharp lyrics and melodies. Another Eighties

icon who relocated to the States (in his case, New England), Cole plays acoustic guitar and earns his living these days as a troubadour, often playing covers-only sets which lean heavily on Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen.

Now, having honed his act with these shows, he is taking his new, stripped-down approach into the studio.

Music In A Foreign Language, his first album since 1995's *Love Story*, augments his simple strumming with lap steel, piano and some subtle electric guitar flourishes from original Commotion Neil Clark.

A languid, back-to-basics affair, the record has nothing in common with the modern pop Cole claims to despise. But, despite some pretentious lyrics, songs including *Late Night* and *Early Town* suggest that his tuneful talents remain intact.

With a British tour continuing in Newcastle upon Tyne tonight and Edinburgh tomorrow, Cole aims to win back old fans — just don't expect him to start a commotion.

Picture: STEVE GILLET

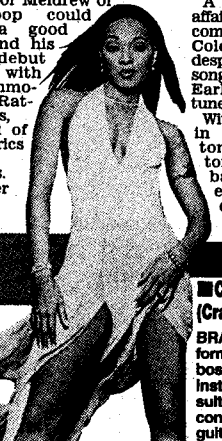
Same moniker, new sound

HOW times change. When U.S. teen star Monica Arnold had a huge UK hit with *The Boy Is Mine* — a duet with Brandy — the other young, female singers in the chart were Billie Piper and B*Witched. Most of the Class Of '98 have faded away, and fresh benchmarks

MONICA: After The Storm (J Records)

Verdict: Former teen star matures in style ★★★★★

stupendous voice. She has developed musically, too, incorporating



WORLD MUSIC

CIBELLE: Cibelle (Crammed Discs)

BRAZILIAN singer Cibelle, a former model, combines chic bossa-nova with modern instrumentation. With her sultry vocals backed by congas, shekers, acoustic guitars and old analogue