

The Insider

Agnes joins Beatle trail

SHE comes from the land of pop's most famous quartet, but it seems Swedish superstar **Agnes** has more of a passion for another Fab Four.

Far from being gripped by **Abba**-mania, like everyone else with a DVD of Mamma Mia, the singer confesses she's loving **The Beatles**.

The 21-year-old, who won Sweden's Pop Idol four years ago, has been spending a fair bit of time in Liverpool lately.

She's signed to 3 Beat records and DJ **Anton Powers** remixed her massive dancefloor hit *Release Me* earlier this year.

Agnes tells Insider that she's enjoying everything Liverpool has to offer, especially the music tourist trail.

"I've been here a few times to do promotion so I went to the *Beatles Story*," she says. "I called my dad and told him I was there and he's a big, big **Beatles** fan and he said 'oh, I wish I could be there' so I'll really have to bring him next time."



Agnes was just 17 and a student when she wowed judges to win the reality show in Sweden, propelling her to huge fame in Scandinavia.

But she says it was always her ambition to break other

charts, especially Britain.

"It's been my dream for people to know my music outside Sweden and *Release Me* was my first chance to see how they would like me," she says. "When I heard that a lot of countries in Europe started to play it I was so happy and then it went to number one on iTunes in Britain and lots of people started to call my management and my record company."

"Anton heard my songs and he told 3Beat about me. I love Anton, he's an amazing person, but all of the people at 3Beat have worked so hard for this and I'm so excited."

Agnes will be back in Liverpool this Saturday performing a PA at the Space 20th anniversary tour at Nation.

"And this time I'm going to make sure I go shopping," she says, "because I didn't get time before and I really love to shop!"

SWEDE SUCCESS: Agnes

Hollyoaks' own Croc Dundee

HE'S the strong silent type, with just a hint of campmate romance, but **Stuart Manning** couldn't be a more worthy *King of the Jungle* according to his former *Hollyoaks* pals.

The gorgeous actor has been given the nickname **Croc** by his fellow contestants on *I'm A Celebrity* because of his hands-on survival skills.

But mates from the C4 show say that's not the only reason the 30-year-old former model deserves to pick up the crown.

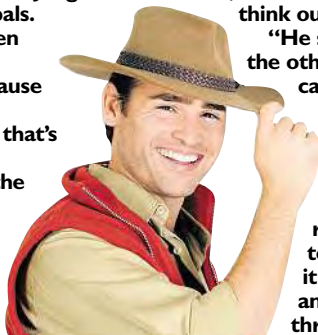
"Stuart's a lovely, lovely guy and no-one who knows him is surprised by how popular he is in camp," says our *Hollyoaks* source.

"The tears he shed on Tuesday

night's programme were absolutely genuine, everyone here knows how close he was to his dad, and the fact they have so much time to think out there really got to him.

"He seems to have got on with all the other celebrities and he's such a caring bloke that he's always doing things to make sure everyone else is OK and has got what they need."

"We're obviously really rooting for him to win, but we'd love it if he came anywhere in the top three."



Spotted

◆ **HERE** Come *The Girls* stars **Lulu**, **Anastacia** and **Chaka Khan**, pictured, at the



- ◆ **PERMA-TANNED** antiques expert **David Dickinson** sitting in the window of the London Carriage Works restaurant for dinner
- ◆ **HENRY Winkler** in Sainsbury's on Old Hall Street ... and then in Sayers buying toast!
- ◆ **THE** Blues big-haired striker **Marouane Fellaini** in Chaophraya with a pal
- ◆ **FORMER** Red turned soccer pundit **Steve McManaman** in San Carlo Italian restaurant on Castle Street
- ◆ **EX-**Tranmere boss **John Barnes** walking down Moorfields
- ◆ **ABBEY** Clancy having a girlie night out in Newz Bar
- ◆ **BILL** Nighy having drinks at London Carriage Works and at Hard Day's Night hotel



SHOPPING TRIP: B2K

SHOPPERS at Bold Street's Resurrection clothing store found themselves sifting through the rails alongside platinum-selling US boy band **B2K**.

The band popped in to stock up their wardrobe in the run up to Liverpool Fashion Week and posed with fans before picking up Royal Ts and Stars and Straps T-shirts.

B2K, or Boys of the New Millennium, were formed in 2001 and were behind the Number 1 US Billboard hit *Bump Bump Bump* featuring **P Diddy**.

They disbanded in 2004 but two of the original line-up, **J Boog** and **Lil Fizz**, recently got back in the studio and now rumours of a reunion are rife.

Certainly everything was looking harmonious when the lads landed in Resurrection before being whisked off by their management to play a date in Birmingham.

No one wants to sit next to Wayne

NO-ONE likes Man United, but even Insider's surprised to hear they're up there in the hate stakes with politicians and dictators.

A new survey by travel cover specialists InsureandGo found that **Osama Bin Laden** was the man people would least like to sit next to on a plane. But coming in close behind was **Gordon Brown**, **Colonel Gaddafi** ... and **Wayne Rooney!**



◆ **ALL** style credit to **Scouse** actress **Jennifer Ellison** who won the battle of the bumps at a glitzy charity London bash to raise money for cancer research. Jen, who is seven months pregnant, looked fabulous on the red carpet in a strapless Grecian gown at the Emeralds and Ivy Ball organised by Boyzone's Ronan Keating. The event, in aid of the Marie Keating Foundation, attracted a bevy of celebs including newsreader **Natasha Kaplinsky** who also happens to be sporting a rapidly expanding baby bump at the moment. She looked all white on the night too, but there was no doubt that Jennifer – accompanied by her new hubby **Robbie** – was the glowing star of the show.

◆ **DON'T** all rush for the super-strength hairspray at once, but Insider hears a certain reality TV duo could be giving Liverpool fans a pre-Christmas treat. Our sources say the terrible twins, aka **Jedward**, are on their way to the city for a one-off appearance on **December 20**. Watch this space ... no screaming girls.

