

**You're playing a character called Whatsername in American Idiot - how did that come about?**

I was on tour with Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat when I got a phone call from my agent saying I'd been asked to audition for it. And when I looked into it, the musical has won two Tony awards, it's a Grammy-winning album - it's huge! I got offered the female lead and my partner Steve [Rushton, from pop-punk band Son Of Dork] auditioned too and got the part of Will, so it's very exciting.

**Did Steve go for a part in American Idiot because you were?**

No, it's because



**Dream job:**  
Steve Rushton

Steve is the biggest, most dedicated Green Day fan ever. There is no one who deserves to be in the show more than him. For him, this is like a dream come true.

**Do you enjoy working together?**

Steve's been my guitarist since I was 16 and I actually find it harder not working with him. Being in Joseph was difficult because I was away from him for quite a long time. The

# 60 SECONDS with AMELIA LILY

The former X Factor contestant, 20, is now performing in Green Day musical American Idiot in the West End



American Idiot cast were worried because you would assume a couple will have arguments but they can't believe how laid-back we are. Aaron Sidwell [EastEnders' Steven Beale] plays my love interest and Steve has a love interest in the show, too. But it's work - you have to keep reminding yourself of that.

**Are you a big Green Day fan?**

Not as big as Steve. I was a bit young when Green Day came out - I was more into Disney and stuff! But everyone knows Green Day songs such as Wake Me Up When September Ends, and American Idiot is one of those albums everyone knows the songs from.

**What would you be doing now if you'd not gone on The X Factor?**

I have no idea - I'd probably be at a drama school. I grew up wanting to do theatre and was lucky enough to get on to The X Factor and create a profile for myself. The fact I'm about to have my



with my name on them and I shed a tear. I remember being ten years old and coming to London with my family to see We Will Rock You or Mamma Mia! and I'd look at those posters and think, 'I hope I'm on one of them one day.'

#### **Who do you stay in touch with from the show?**

We've all kind of drifted away and gone down different paths. But if I see anyone then I'll always speak to them because we were like a family. I see the Little Mix girls quite a bit and it's great because it's like nothing's changed. I shared a bedroom with them so it was pretty full-on.

#### **How do you handle fame and criticism?**

I've been quite lucky and haven't really had any negative press, touch wood! Everyone makes mistakes and, in this industry, you can say one thing and people can take it the wrong way so it gets blown out of proportion. I've always been myself and honest.

#### **What do you think of the new X Factor line-up?**

I'm glad Cheryl is back because I think she's a great judge. We've seen Rita Ora judge on The Voice so we know what to

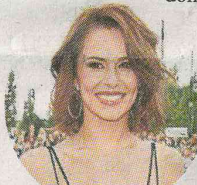
Rita and Cheryl. It's a TV show, you have to change it up otherwise people will get bored.

#### **Who are your idols?**

Pink and Katy Perry, mainly because I think they set good examples, and the fact they write songs so well in terms of what they've gone through in their lives. You never really see bad press about them. They're both super-talented and very successful and they've done it the right way.

#### **What are your career plans?**

I'm quite an open book. I'm only 20, so if I want to do certain things, I have time. I'm still with my



**She's back:** Cheryl Fernandez-Versini

record label so my music is always going to be there, but I'm happy doing theatre as it feels like where I'm meant to be right now. I've wanted to go into TV presenting for a while but who knows what next year might bring. I like things appearing out of nowhere, which they did with American Idol.

**RACHEL CORCORAN**

*Green Day's American Idiot The Musical is at the Arts Theatre from tomorrow until September 27. [americanidiotwestend.com](http://americanidiotwestend.com)*