

Eliane's new Swiss role



Swiss actress Eliane Chappuis portrayed a prostitute in Martin Scorsese's thriller *The Gangs Of New York*. This week, she shows a completely different side of her talent with her single *Christmas Time*.

A seasonal song of innocent beauty, it is in sharp contrast to the desperate character she played in the 2002 Oscar-winning blockbuster.

"I still believe in Christmas, even though the world has grown ever more cynical and materialistic," says Eliane, 31.

The song's sentiment of universal mercy is rooted in her unusual and exotic background.

"My father was an English professor, my mother a Vietnamese aristocrat," she explains. "I was born in Los Angeles but I was raised in Switzerland."



Christmas Time is another step in an ever-changing career that has taken Eliane from modelling assignments with Vivienne Westwood to being mentored as an actress by Kathy Bates at Robert Redford's Sundance

Workshop. So has she garnered any special wisdom along the way?

"Daniel Day-Lewis was extremely nice and gave me lots of tips about acting," says Eliane. "He said that the preparation for the roles is always the most exciting part. He compared the preparation for a role to making a pair of shoes. He reckoned a solid foundation is very important."

● *Christmas Time* is out now.

SINGLES



GEORGE MICHAEL
December Song

★★★

It's a fine, seasonal chestnut from the man who slumps (over a steering wheel, usually) to conquer. But it was when he released it last year, too. What's wrong, George? Too busy 'driving' to come up with a sequel?

KID HARPOON

Once ★★★★★

A cut above your average one-man bedroom band, the Kid – who hails from Chatham in Kent – surrounds himself with choice collaborators. On the title track of his debut album, he gives them a slippery but tasty curling eel of a tune to get to grips with. Juicy.



READERS' WIVES

Secrecy And Sex

★★★★

This wry, lovingly-nurtured EP from boisterously impressive Dubliner Niall James Holohon's band is raw, earthy and flesh obsessed. A bit like a loved-up Joe Strummer fronting the The Smiths. Lead track *Sexually Attracted To Myself* must be the autoerotic hitpick of the week.



ON THE NET

DEAN JOHNSON