

# making it **BIG**

London has long been a magnet for young performers wanting to make a name for themselves. *TNT* profiles three up-and-coming stars pursuing their dreams

WORDS DANIEL LANDON

I've definitely gone through every type of emotion in London. I love the place, there's nowhere else like it. But like any big city it can be really lonely, and you go through some dark times.

I've taken my music to different labels and been harshly rejected, because "there's no way of promoting an Australian rapper". But travel is my number one joy in life so I love meeting new people and learning the slang.

I expected it to be fast-paced, massive and multicultural, but not to the extent that it is. It blew my mind. I'm from Queanbeyan, NSW, so a huge place like this can be really overwhelming.

I moved to London after winning the British Council's Realise Your Dream competition,

[www.tntonline.co.uk](http://www.tntonline.co.uk)

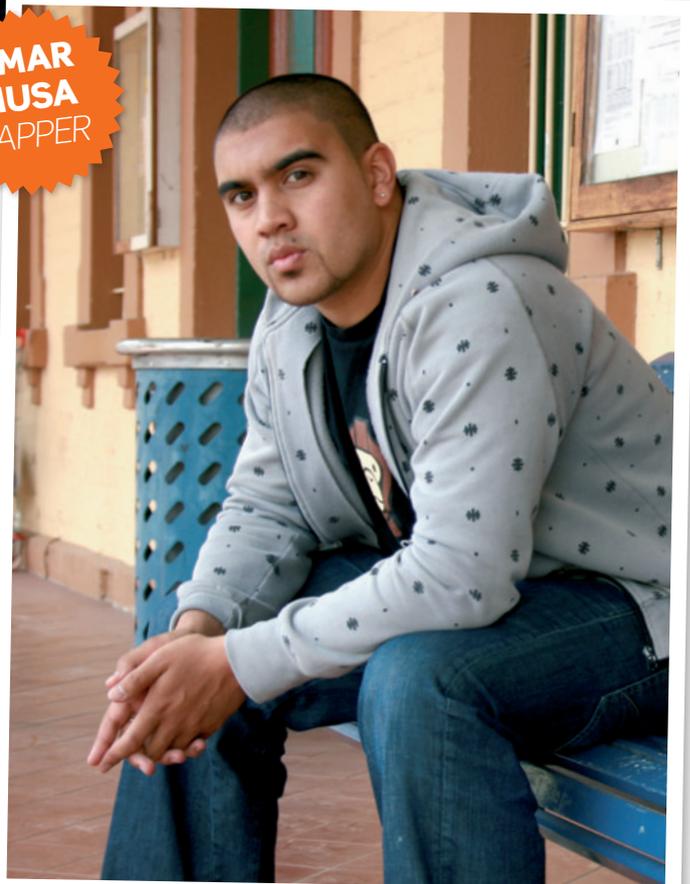
and I've written an album about London, *The Massive EP*, which should be out in November.

I'm working on some songs with a great rapper over here called Akala, and I've worked at a couple of well-known labels. Besides that I've been performing a lot at poetry slams, trying to introduce that Aussie hip-hop flavour to the people over here.

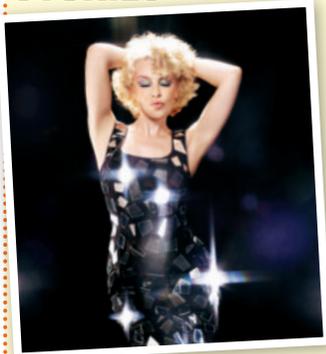
Every rapper has a big ego and thinks that their story deserves to be listened to, and I'm no different. Still, for the most part, I see myself as a student of the game, and so I came over here to learn — both artistically and about the industry.

» See [www.myspace.com/omarmusa](http://www.myspace.com/omarmusa) or get in touch at [omar\\_bin\\_musa@hotmail.com](mailto:omar_bin_musa@hotmail.com)

**OMAR  
MUSA  
RAPPER**



## THE SUCCESS STORIES



### Kylie Minogue

Ditched *Neighbours* for a pop career, going straight to No.1 with *Locomotion*. Minogue then travelled to London to work with Stock Aitken Waterman, the pop-song maestros producing a string of hits that made her name.

### Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

The Kiwi opera singer grew up in Auckland and in 1965 won a grant to study in London. After being told she had no singing technique, by the early 1970s she was an established star and sang at the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981.

### Kevin Pietersen

A talented cricketer, Pietersen left South Africa disenchanted by his homeland's racial quota system. Since 2004, he has stood out as the most talented and brash member of the England side, and earlier this season became captain.



**ANGELA PETERS**  
ACTOR



Acting is an absolute passion for me, and back home in Australia I was working full-time and not devoting enough attention to it.

After moving here and mentally committing to being an actor full-time, everything fell into place. It was daunting at first, but I found London to be really well equipped to deal with new local actors.

I've been in three feature films so far, all due out later this year or early next year. I've also acted in lots of short films and some commercials as well as picking up presenting roles and a few theatre roles. I'm currently in a Match.com series on the net showing how Jack and Jill meet from online dating, and last month I was in my first ever improv show.

I live and breathe acting over here, and it's unbelievable to be realising my dream — as clichéd as that sounds.

There are opportunities for being cast in big roles. You have the chance to get into TV, or to

tread the boards in the West End, and get feature film roles.

I would love to work full-time in film and television for the next few years, and eventually move into professional theatre. I would be lying if I said that I wanted to be in the UK forever, but London

is the perfect place to give my career the boost it needs and be taken seriously as an actor.

» See [www.angelapeters.tv](http://www.angelapeters.tv). Angela presents up-and-coming bands on the *New Grey Whistle Test* on ITVlocal.com

came in it got easier. London's not much fun to be poor in.

I do about five to seven gigs a week, all around the UK. The stuff I enjoy most is doing the comedy tents at the big music festivals such as Reading, Leeds, Bestival, and places like that. I also did a radio show for the BBC last year, which was great fun.

Being here makes you a better comic because you do far more gigs than at home. However, my heart is still in New Zealand and that's where I'd like to spend most of my year. I prefer London in short bursts.

» See [www.benhurley.com](http://www.benhurley.com) and [www.myspace.com/benhurley](http://www.myspace.com/benhurley). Ben will be supporting Ed Byrne at the Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd, Hammersmith (020-8237 1111; [www.riversidestudios.co.uk](http://www.riversidestudios.co.uk)) until October 11, and on Ed's 50-date UK tour that runs until November 30.

**BEN HURLEY**  
STAND-UP COMIC



I moved to London three years ago for the huge comedy scene. There are more comedy clubs in central London than in all of New Zealand and Australia combined, and my Kiwi comic mates, Rhys Darby and Brendhan Lovegrove, have done well over here — so I wasn't gonna let them grab all the glory. But being big doesn't necessarily mean better (right ladies?) — New Zealand's comedy industry is like a family, while here it's more like a bunch of people in the same office.

London is one of the most exciting cities I've ever been to, but it's also one of the most stressful. Living over here was a struggle at first, but as more and more work