



Slightly twisted: Wes Snelling plays Tina Del Twiste.

A Del Twisted life

By **Ryan O'Shaughnessy**

THE Williamstown Mechanics Institute will host a string of lively floor shows when the Mechelec Cabaret Festival comes to town next month.

The festival, produced by Williamstown Theatre Company, will showcase eight performances over three days, including the multi-talented Wes Snelling as his alter ego Tina Del Twiste, a slightly bitter, gin-soaked entertainer constantly on the verge of super-stardom.

Snelling revealed the inspiration behind Del Twiste.

"I grew up in a caravan park and I guess Tina started at age eight when I would try on my mother's high heels.

"There was also a lady there who was just like her.

"My mum thinks she (Tina) is based on my aunty; at least

she looks a lot like her." Del Twiste is a self-proclaimed international star who sings blues, jazz and regales audiences with biting wit. "She's really just a bitch who drinks a lot," Snelling says. "Basically, she wanted to be Madonna but didn't quite make it, so now she hits the bottle.

"In fact, she drinks a bottle of gin during the show."

Despite her propensity to guzzle spirits, Snelling says Ms Del Twiste has a lot to offer as an entertainer.

"She has a fabulous singing voice and you get a lot of little insights into her life."

A blues version of *Waltzing Matilda* has proved a hit with audiences.

Tina Del Twiste performs at the Williamstown Mechanics Institute on September 7.

Festival details:
www.mechelectfestival.com.au