

THE ADVOCATE REPORT

the Buzz

The Pop Idol comes out

Cross *Survivor* with *Popstars* and you've got *Pop Idol*, the latest British pop cultural phenomenon (coming soon to Fox). The ITV reality series winnowed down 10,000 hopefuls belting out tunes to one lucky singer voted on by viewers. The winner? Will Young, a 23-year-old arts student who said his idol is George Michael and that his idea of the perfect date would be "tea with the queen." No one seemed to blink an eye when Young came out—making him the latest teen idol after Boyzone's Stephen Gately to say he's gay.

"I'm sure this will not come as a surprise to many people, although I've always been discreet and I'm not a campaigner when it comes to my sexuality," Young told the *News of the World*. "For me, it's normal and nothing to be ashamed about."

Released February 25, Young's debut single "Anything Is Possible"/"Evergreen" (not the Barbra Streisand song) became the fastest-selling U.K. single of all time—hitting number 1 and moving 1.1 million copies its first week, beating the old record of 750,000 copies set by Band Aid's all-star charity single, "Do They



The little girls understand, and they don't mind: Will Young on *Top of the Pops*

Know It's Christmas?" Young performed his hit on the BBC chart show *Top of the Pops* soon after his coming-out, with plenty of adoring female fans screaming along.

—Michael Giltz