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**Marissa Jaret Winokur didn't have to be swayed into being on 'Dancing with the Stars'**  
 "I keep hearing these stories of how people turned it down a few times," Winokur, right, said at the William S. Paley Television Festival on Friday. "I banged on their doors. 'Please let me do this show. Please! Please! Please!' It's lived up to all my expectations." METRO



# Entertainment



**"We're talking suicidal thoughts here; we're not talking 'I'm a little bit miserable.'"**

J.K. Rowling, left, revealing to Britain's Sunday Times that she once considered suicide during a rough period as a struggling single mother. METRO

## Illustrious career of a multitasker

From Pacino to Manilow, Alicia Witt keeps good company



Witt

**AMBER RAY**  
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**INTERVIEW.** David Lynch protégé and piano virtuoso at the age of seven — either accomplishment would more than surpass most people's dreams. But for Alicia Witt, they're both just items on her increasingly impressive resume. With this season's guest star arc on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" and a co-starring credit alongside Al Pacino in the April release "88 Minutes," the 32-year-old has now switched over to songwriting mode — tonight, she's playing a benefit show for Ten O'Clock Classics, an organization that raises money to provide free music lessons to kids — at least until the next too-perfect-to-pass-up film role comes along.

You most recently played a

**feisty, quirky detective on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." Are people surprised by the fact that you're also very musically inclined?**

I've actually played music in some of my other roles, so I guess if they've only seen ["L&O"], they might be surprised. Music is just something that's always been such a big part of my life. When I was doing "Law & Order," I was writing songs in my dressing room between takes.

**Are you just focusing on music right now?**

I am focusing on music in a way I've never done before, but it doesn't have to be to the exclusion of acting. I've always been picky about what roles I take, but certainly if I read something and I don't think it's very good, I'm even less likely now to pursue it. I'd rather focus on my music.

**Do acting and playing music**

**fulfill different creative needs for you?**

They're completely different. They're similar in the sense that they're both trying to evoke a certain feeling and they're ways to express yourself, but the music is so much more personal. I'm a classically trained pianist; when I was little, I used to play in competitions. That was definitely a performance kind of thing, but it wasn't my own music. Now, it's very, very different. It means so much to me to be able to play my own songs and get people's reactions to them, because they're really me. It's not some character or somebody else's work — it's totally me.

**Are your songs influenced by the classical music you grew up playing?**

It's hard to describe. I always prefer to have people listen to them and give

their own opinions. They're up on MySpace [www.myspace.com/aliciawittmusic], and I am definitely going to do an album. Some of the artists I really admire are Fiona Apple, Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, Rufus Wainwright ... and I think there's a little bit of Barry Manilow thrown in there for good measure. I love Barry Manilow.

**Ten O'Clock Classics Benefit**

Tonight, 8, The Cutting Room, 19 West 24th St.

**Box office**

### Box office loves 'Who'

**NEWS.** Audiences are still listening to Horton and his Who pals. "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who," 20th Century Fox's animated adaptation of the beloved children's book, remained the top movie for a second straight weekend with \$25.1 million, according to studio estimates yesterday.

Featuring the voices of Jim Carrey and Steve Carell, the movie raised its 10-day total to \$85.5 million.

"Horton" fended off a rush of new movies opening over Easter weekend.

Lionsgate's "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns" opened in second place with \$20 million. "Shutter" opened at No. 3 with \$10.7 million.

Just behind it at No. 4 was Owen Wilson's comedy "Drillbit Taylor," which pulled in \$10.2 million. AP

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