



Opening this week Brighton Rock at the Almeida Theatre

Was it just the title that inspired Bill Kenwright to commission a musical version of **Brighton Rock**? Whatever it was, Graham Greene's 1938 novel set in gangland Brighton is getting the guitars and greasepaint treatment in a new production that opens at the Almeida Theatre in Islington on Tuesday (020 7359 4404).

Playing Pinkie is Michael Jibson (above centre), a

rising star who played the lovable scallywag Joe in the Madness musical *Our House* – a rather different role from the sadistic hood immortalised by Richard Attenborough in the 1947 film. Attenborough's son, Michael, takes on directing duties here, working from a script by Giles Havergal.

The music comes courtesy of soundtrack supremo John Barry, who, as luck would have it,

had been dreaming of just such a project for decades. In fact, he even discussed the idea with Greene himself, who had a bash at writing some lyrics. This time round, it's Barry's long-time collaborator, Don *Tell Me on a Sunday Black*, who's done the honours. 'Hale knew they meant to murder him before he had been in Brighton three hours.'

Altogether now! **Catherine Shoard**