

Ex-Spice Girl Melanie Brown not daunted by Broadway

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — Most women in their 40s facing the prospect of singing and dancing on Broadway eight times a week might ask to shorten their high heels. Melanie Brown wants hers taller. No wonder they call her Scary Spice.

"If you're into high heels, you want them the higher the better," Brown said as she prepares to join the cast of "Chicago" playing Roxie Hart.

Doesn't it matter that it's a physical role and she'll appear for her first song on a ladder 15 feet in the air? Not to Brown.

Brown, who since the Spice Girls' chart-topping exploits

has become a sought-after TV judge, said she's relishing the chance to play a jail inmate who kills her boyfriend and sings about her newfound celebrity. She made visits to the recording studio in her Los Angeles home to prepare.

Brown has been on Broadway before, playing Mimi in "Rent" in 2005. But this time

her task has Bob Fosse-inspired choreography, skimpy outfits and killer songs.

"My 9-year-old said, 'Why did you choose that part? It's such a big part,'" she said. "And I'm like, 'Cause it's good to challenge yourself.' And then I'm thinking, 'Why did I choose that one?'"

Brown shot to fame as part

of the five-piece Spice Girls, known for its girl-power attitude thanks to songs like "Spice Up Your Life." The group marked its 20th anniversary this year.

Brown has been a contestant on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" and was a judge on the Australian and UK editions of "The X Factor." She's a cur-

rent judge on "America's Got Talent." Simon Cowell got her involved in judging; she said she tries to concentrate on who-ever is performing in front of her. The rest comes naturally.

"Doesn't everybody do that at home — yell at the TV and go, 'Oh my God, are you kidding me?'" she asked. "I think we all have that inside of us."



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

LISTINGS

Evening listings FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels and programs.

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