

Acting up a song for a pal



STAR ATTRACTIONS: Hugo Weaving with Jenny Morris, and (below) Bryan Brown in a scene from the video.

Pictures: DAVID ANDERSON

TWO of Australia's leading actors are set to appear in a music video clip for Jenny Morris's new single *Downtime*, after a glamorous shoot in Sydney last week.

Hugo Weaving and Bryan Brown agreed to mime the lyrics to Morris's new song, alongside a host of actors including Matt Newton and Peter Fenton.

It helps to have friends in high places, and Morris is a good friend of all the performers.

Weaving found a gap in his schedule for the shoot, in between filming for *The Matrix* and *The Lord Of The Rings* sequels, and Bryan Brown happily agreed to a cameo role. Both men performed for free.



"It's very exciting to have stars of this calibre in the clip," Morris said.

Morris was crowned Australia's best female artist at the ARIA awards in the late 1980s but *Downtime* is her first release in six years - mainly due to motherhood.

Morris spends much of the video clip crooning inside a

funky nightclub setting, but neither Weaving nor Brown were keen to show off their dancing skills.

Instead, the men spent an afternoon inside the stylish Civic Hotel in Pitt Street, pretending to be nightclub patrons, and miming the words to Morris's new song.

"Jenny and I have kids at the same school, and we

starting talking about the video during a school fundraising trivia night," Weaving said.

"She forced a lot of red wine down my throat and put on the hard word."

Weaving, who commands some of the highest rates of any Australian actor after his roles in *The Matrix* and *The Lord Of The Rings*, was happy to do a favour for his long-time friend.

But the actor was jokingly concerned about his role in the nightclub scenes: "I'm playing a pervert sitting on my own in the corner. Why does Bryan Brown always get the girls?"

Morris's new album *Hit And Myth* is due out in August.