

danielle returns

One of the favourite performers from PG past is coming back to visit. Singer/songwriter Danielle Hebert lived here in the early 90s, and worked for the venerable Other Art Cafe, contributing to its heyday. Now she is back to help re-launch another live music venue, the Fourth Avenue Blues Club. She hits the stage on January 28.

Danielle can impress an audience in both official languages, which is impressive all by itself. She has been building a reputation as one of B.C.'s best French performers, but in the whole nation there isn't a huge market for this, so she has to (and wants to) work in English as well.

"(The French market) has always been quiet," she says from her home in Vancouver. "In B.C. we have the summer festival (Festival d'Ete) but you maybe get to play it once every few years because there are so many artists, and it's one of the only places for them. I've been travelling a lot. I've been over the map - Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal a bunch of times, bars, cafés, schools. I've been performing a lot in English, I have to be honest."

"There is a French-language circuit, sort of, but if you do it once you almost have to have another album to get to go back. In Quebec they (the industry) sort of want you to live there to put any interest into you. My plans are to be who I am and what I am, or else you could become a sort of cultural pawn. As far as I'm concerned, this is my culture - bilingualism - not French, not English."

One of the problems in being an independent artist like Danielle is having to do all the grunt work yourself. In one 10-month period recently she only completed one song, because she was too



Danielle Hebert performs tomorrow night at the Fourth Avenue Blues Club.

bogged down in managing, publicizing and appearing on behalf of her career. For her tour of Quebec alone she made 400 phone calls in a single month! For someone born to create, that was a hard and unwelcome period.

Now the creative juices are flowing again. Her new album is about half-finished the recording process, she has a bunch of new material in the book, and for this trip back to northern B.C. she has her back-up band ready to go. She's excited to return.

"I have such good memories of Prince George," she pines. "When I went away, I was thinking that things would be as good for me in the next town as it had been in PG, but it didn't work out that way.

In Vancouver it was hard to meet people and get work, and in PG I was welcomed so fast and was brought into the community so fast. For me it was something really precious. You say to yourself 'aww, being in Vancouver, it's business' but if I was really honest with myself I'd leave it really fast."

True to form, when she comes to Prince George next week it won't just be a one-night-stand and on to the next town. She will also do a bunch of workshops in local schools and a concert at Duchess Park Secondary for their French students.

Danielle Hebert & The Book of 13 (her band) plays on January 28 at the Fourth Ave. Blues Club. Tickets available at the venue.

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1	Galaxy Quest	PG	1:55	4:20	7:20	9:30
2	Duece Bigelow	14A	2:15	4:30	7:10	9:20
3	Toy Story 2	G	2:00	4:10	7:05	
3	Supernova	14A				9:25
4	Talented Mr. Ripley	PG	1:30	4:15	7:00	9:50
5	The Green Mile	14A		3:00	8:15	
6	Play it to the Bone	14A	1:45	4:35	7:15	9:45

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