

Blanchard generating a lot of buzz in entertainment scene

By Whitney Bysterveldt
Panther Post

Four music PEI awards, two ECMA nominations and a host of disparate accolades since the release of her EP *Changing Things* has situated Meaghan Blanchard in the limelight. From blurbs in major Canadian magazines such as *Chatelaine* to being a featured act on the live ECMA gala stage, buzz has been generating over one of UPEI's own. A third year English student, Blanchard has been honing her musical talents for years. She was born into a family with talent rooted deeply on both sides and started out, as many do, performing at church.

Although music has been a constant in Blanchard's life, following all the latest in commercial sounds is not high on her to do list "For someone who spends a lot of time making music I actually don't listen to that much: Patty Griffen, Joel Plaskett, a lot of strong female artists and local stuff." But all that time spent on her own work over the past few months has clearly paid off. Nominated in two categories at this past ECMAs, *Rising Star* and *Folk Recording of the year*, Blanchard claims "the best thing was to have my name up there, it was really cool to see." The awards also had her doing a lot of running around as she took part not only in the live gala but also in over six other showcases that weekend.

Blanchard's music blends intelligible songwriting with dulcet acoustic sounds to complement euphonious vocals. She has easily become affiliated with the traditional facet of East Coast folk but is currently working a lot of new songs that are a little more fiesty than those featured in her last album. Aside from recording Blanchard is at her best live, displaying a composed yet ardent presence on stage. This adeptness comes as no surprise as she has a background in theatre, filling a space alongside musicality, "theatre gives me something I don't get in music." And although Blanchard professes music is the road she wants her life to follow it's clear that her abilities will be revealing a number of opportune pathways along the way.

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For more information, please contact Ashley Jadis or Stephanie Jadis at 620-5126
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