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Johanna Sillanpaa will play the Leacock Theatre on April 21.

Johanna's Good Life lessons

Mike Bell
Calgary Sun

April 21, 2006

It's rather fitting Johanna Sillanpaa will release her debut solo CD 10 years almost to the day she performed her final recital at Grant MacEwan College.

Especially when she explains what she thinks the disc, Good Life, says about who she is.

"I'm grown up," Sillanpaa says lightheartedly.

"I think it definitely describes where I am right now, and it doesn't explain the journey I've gone through, but definitely (shows) the maturity, in the sense of all the years I've been slugging away in the clubs and late-night gigs and the different types of projects I've been involved in."

That real-world education — the one the Swedish-born performer received in Calgary's jazz clubs as a solo vocalist, or in acts such as YOMOZO and Sillan & Young — can be heard in the smooth, sexy light jazz and R&B of Good Life.



JOHANNA SILLANPAA

The songs show off a confident performer very much able to compete on an international level.

"I feel like I've paid my dues and I'm as ready as I'll ever be," she says.

To that end, after April 21's release at MRC's Leacock Theatre, Sillanpaa is setting her sights on bigger stages here and abroad, hoping to continue her post-post-secondary education — possibly acquiring a doctorate in stardom along the way.

If not, well, Sillanpaa will continue to grow, continue to mature and continue to do

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the one thing she and those who've heard her sing know she was born to do.

Mike Drew

NHL Preview

"There has never been a plan B for me," she says. "I do it because I love it, and that's the most important thing. This is what I chose, this is what I love, and I'll continue to pursue it because of that."

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