

FLARE

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*Flare Was There special!*

## WOMEN WHO ROCK

The hottest acts in Canada rocked the 2008 Juno Awards in Calgary  
*Photography by George Pimentel*

### THE GROUNDBREAKER

**Martina Sorbara** of Dragonette revs up before going onstage at the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre. **For the record:** As frontwoman/stylist for the coolest pop band to come out of Canada in years (*Galore*, the group's debut album, proves it), Sorbara's unconventionally slick vocals and vision helped earn Dragonette a Juno nomination for New Group of the Year. **Sorbara says:** "Our record has 50 different influences on it, and I think the same thing's happened to our image. How we look is how we sound." **Up next:** a new video for their next single, "Competition," then back to the studio in London, England, to write and record a second Dragonette album



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**THE GIRLFRIEND**  
**Avril Lavigne** kicks it up a notch backstage. **On the record:** The Napanee, Ont., native's Juno-nominated third album, *The Best Damn Thing*, may have debuted at No. 1 in 15 countries, but Lavigne's most recently penned song, "I Will Be," is slated to be one of the breakthrough songs on U.K. pop star Leona Lewis's debut album. **Lavigne says:** "The more experienced I become, the better I'll get. I'm never satisfied." **Up next:** Besides finishing up her Best Damn Tour dates, she stars in a soon-to-be-released thriller with Richard Gere and Claire Danes called *The Flock*.

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**THE SOUL QUEEN** **Jully Black** grabs a cab on Ninth Avenue. **For the record:** Like a hit of Viagra to Canada's R&B scene, Toronto-born Black's passionate persona is as real as it is addictive. Like the lyrics to her loud-and-proud track "Queen" (off her latest disc, *Revival*) suggest: "I'm a girl, I'm a lady, I'm a woman, I'm a queen—I'm everything I can be." **Black says:** "I dedicate my Juno [for R&B/Soul Recording of the Year] to all the 'sheroes' in my life, including my mom and all the women who kept me from quitting!" **Up next:** Black will be joining the cast of *Canadian Idol*, serving as a mentor and coach for all the bright-eyed contestants.



**THE VOICE** Jazz crooner **Sophie Milman** plays belle of the ballroom in *The Fairmont Palliser*. **For the record:** Though she was born in Russia's Ural Mountains, Milman's Canadian Dream was certified when she immigrated to Toronto at the age of 16. She found her way into the world of jazz via listening to greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and George Gershwin, eventually releasing two albums, including this year's Juno-winning masterpiece, *Make Someone Happy*. **Milman says:** "Every time I go onstage, I get to tell my story." **Up next:** Milman will be touring in Japan this summer and has plans to finish her commerce degree at the University of Toronto.

**THE POET**  
**Serena Ryder** takes a breather outside the Juno cocktail reception. **On the record:** Ryder's tone and delivery puts her on par with music vets such as Melissa Etheridge and Patti Smith. Her critically acclaimed disc, *If Your Memory Serves You Well*, nabbed her New Artist of the Year. **Ryder says:** "I'm aware there's a power behind what I do that's greater than me." **Up next:** She'll be performing at a Leonard Cohen tribute concert and at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival in August and making a new album in L.A. at the same studio where Fleetwood Mac recorded *Rumours*.



**THE HOMEGIRL**  
Calgary's **Feist** backstage after her epic five-Juno win. **For the record:** As Canada's sweetest export since maple syrup, Feist's smash album, *The Reminder*, hit the big time due to her catchy song "1234" and an iPod Nano commercial—which shot her straight to No. 1. **Feist says:** "There's something in a good song that resonates with me. It goes above and beyond normal feelings. It's a thing of beauty I always hope I can absorb." **Up next:** An avant-garde new video for her next single, "Honey, Honey" (which features creations by Calgary-based artists called The Old Trout Puppet Workshop), and she is currently touring Europe and North America.



**THE FRENCH CONNECTION**  
**Pascale Picard** hanging by a Calgary railroad. **On the record:** Produced by the same people who were responsible for the sounds of Cirque du Soleil, the Pascale Picard Band's Juno-nominated debut disc, *Me, Myself & Us*, blends the best of rock, electronica and folk for a sound that packs an emotional punch. **Picard says:** Quoting the lyrics to their hit song "Gate 22": "There's too many dreams I must chase down/Though sometimes I bite off more than I can chew." **Up next:** back to the studio in Montreal to record a followup disc



**THE ROCK STAR** **Suzie McNeil** behind the curtains at the Junos telecast. **For the record:** Channelling Stevie Nicks on the red carpet (with black gloves and high pumps, to boot), the former *Rockstar: INXS* contestant experienced success à la Jennifer Hudson this year (with a Juno nomination for New Artist of the Year), garnering two hits ("Hung Up" and "Believe") after getting cut from the reality show. **McNeil says:** "Life's too short to second-guess yourself. There are plenty of people in this industry who will do that for you!" **Up next:** a new album due this fall

