

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Whoa, Nelly! It's time for the Juno Awards



Nelly Furtado to host the 2007 Junos.

by Julianne Philpott

Canadian singer-songwriter and producer Nelly Furtado will host this year's Junos on Sunday, April 1st on CTV. Broadcast live from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Juno Award winner Furtado will grace the stage of the Credit Union Centre, as many Canadian and international Juno nominees also hope to do. Here's a little bit about our host-to-be...

Born in Victoria, BC, Nelly Furtado was known as the little girl with the big voice. She began singing at the age

of four, and hasn't looked back. After the release of her debut album, *Whoa, Nelly!*, she became internationally recognized for her superior musical talents and snagged a Grammy for her single *I'm Like a Bird*.

Best known for her unique style, she went on to release two more albums, *Folklore* (2003) and *Loose* (2006), the latter doing much better and still producing singles. She is up this year for the Fan Choice Award, Single of the Year, Album of the Year, Artist of the Year, and Pop Album of the year -- absent only from the categories that she can't actually fit into! On top of all that, Nelly is set to host the 2007 Junos this Sunday, an exceptional achievement for any Canadian artist.

This year's nominees are a fine group to say the least. There are five Canadian artists up for Fan Choice this year, and it might be a close

run. There's only one baby this year amongst the group, Quebec newcomer Gregory Charles, who shows a lot of promise and potential for 2007. Alongside Charles are music veterans like Michael Bublé, Nickelback, Sarah McLachlan, and this year's host, Nelly Furtado.

Although I haven't heard much chatter about McLachlan's album this year, every second song on the radio has been a hit from Nelly's new album or one from our favourite boys, Nickelback (cough, cough). In my opinion, I think Nelly will take the cake, but you never really know how the Canadian fans will vote in 2007.

The next category is Single of the Year. Battling it out this year is Billy Talent with *Devil in a Midnight Mass*, Chantal Kreviazuk's *All I Can Do*, Blue Rodeo's own Jim Cuddy with *Pull Me Through*, k-os with *Sunday Morning* and, finally, Nelly Furtado

featuring Timbaland with *Promiscuous*. Again, I think Furtado has a good shot at getting this one. *Promiscuous* was probably played more than any of the others combined, making it the hottest collaboration of 2007. If she doesn't win, the other four will surely be neck-and-neck for this year's award.

International Album of the Year also promises some hot competition. Girl group The Dixie Chicks are up again this year, with their album *Taking the Long Way*. If you're a country fan at all, you've noticed how much play the song *Not Ready to Make Nice* has received. Joining the chicks is Simon Cowell's creation *Il Divo* with *Ancora*, Madonna with *Confessions on a Dance Floor*, and Stadium Arcadium from the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Last but not least is Justin Timberlake with *FutureSex/LoveSounds*.

I've got to say that this album is my guilty pleasure and I love, love, love it! *SexyBack* and *My Love* have both hit No. 1 in Canada, as has the album, debuting at No. 1 in the US, Australia and the UK. He's sold over five million albums worldwide, and the number continues to grow. Clearly, all the albums in this category deserve a Juno, but I've got my fingers crossed for a certain someone.

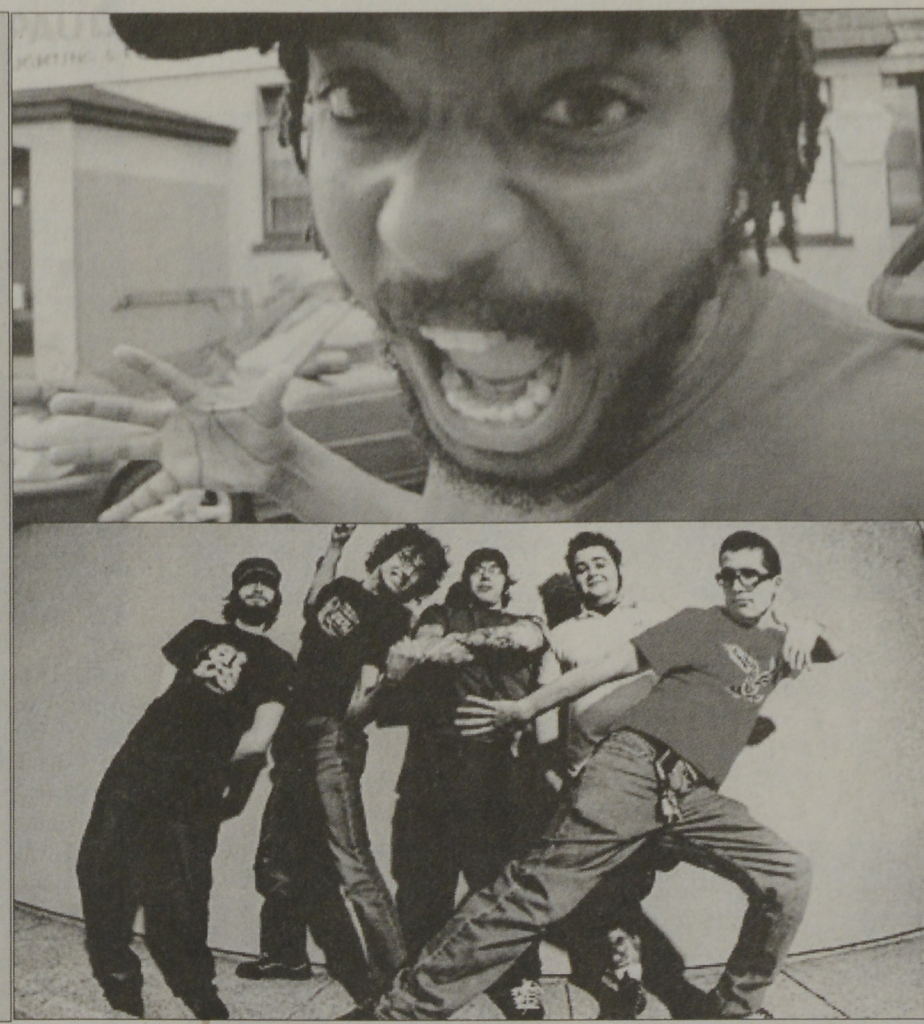
Another major category is Album of the Year. Grabbing a spot in this category is Billy Talent's *Billy Talent II*, Gregory Charles' *I Think of You*, Hedley with their self-titled album, Our Girl Nelly with *Loose*, and ONE-X from *Three Days Grace*.

Three Days Grace is also up for Group of the Year, along with Alexisonfire, Billy Talent, Hedley and The Tragically Hip. This category is a hard one for me, because I absolutely love Alexisonfire and The Hip. I was really

impressed with Alexisonfire's album *Crisis* and I still listen to it everyday. If not Alexisonfire, I'd love to see The Tragically Hip take this one home for World Container. Keeping it real, they still mention different regions of Canada in their songs, which I always thought was pretty cute and totally loyal to their Canadian roots.

Other categories this year include New Artist of the Year, New Group of the Year, Songwriter of the Year, Country Recording, Rap Recording, Vocal Jazz, Classical, R&B/Soul, Rock Album, Pop Album and Alternative Album of the Year.

You see the same faces in nearly every category that they can fit into. It's not so much now the question of "Who will win?" as it is "How many will they win?" Nevertheless, each Juno will go to one well-deserving artist. Best of luck to all the Juno Awards nominees!



Internet

Theatre UNB's season finale



Jordan Dashner as the conniving Hugo and Kathleen Heaney as the charming Isabelle.

Ring Round the Moon plays March 28 - 31 at 8PM in Memorial Hall.

by David Arthurs

That old magician of UNB Theatre Len Falkenstein still has a few tricks up his sleeve. After a string of heart-wrenching productions, he's assembled his *English 2170* action team for another ambitious play. Beginning Wednesday, March 28th, Falkenstein and co. will perform Jean Anhouil's *Ring Round the Moon*, a comedy set in 1940's France. I had the chance to catch a preview show this past Sunday night; I ate it up like so much foie gras and champagne.

Of course, no such delights were actually served at the performance, but it carried enough style to more than make up for the lack of appetizers. Set in a lushly decorated garden, *Ring Round the Moon* follows the schemes of the fabulously wealthy as they mill about a grand ball.

Central to the plot are twin brothers Hugo and Frederic. The one is

conniving and arrogant. The other is sheepish and bumbling. Hugo aims to upset his brother's engagement to Diana, a snotty heiress, whom he may or may not be in love with. To do so, he hatches a complex plan involving a common-class dancer named Isabelle. Unfortunately for him, her clueless mother tags along and throws everything into chaos.

While the plot does get complicated at times (I recommend keeping a colour-coded chart), it never fails to entertain. Anhouil's witty dialog is given life by the capable actors of *English 2170*.

Playing the dual roles of Hugo and Frederic, Jordan Dashner lends both the essential nuances. Hugo is the very caricature of a meddling millionaire, while Frederic plays like one of Shakespeare's moon-eyed lovers. The sudden changes between the two as one leaves and the other enters had me laughing out loud.

As Isabelle, Kathleen Heaney delivers the single best-rounded performance of the show. The warm heart of the story, she convincingly skirts the line between distress and compliance to her place in Hugo's machinations. I was charmed.

Though the rest of the cast was also excellent, I took special note anytime Isabelle's mother (Kim Burke) was on stage. Her character acts as comedic foil to Hugo's plots and schemes as she adopts the mannerisms of the rich even as she unwittingly unravels their plans. Burke exudes all the bright-eyed oblivion the role demands.

Though *Ring Round the Moon* is a comedy, it's not void of insightful commentary. (What Falkenstein production is?) The play offers social criticism on how the lower class is subject to the manipulations of the very wealthy. These unfortunate circumstances occur even though the rich don't necessarily represent the best and brightest humanity has to offer. Though the play offers a standard issue comedic ending, it allows you to draw your own conclusions.

And so, that's what I encourage you all to do. Falkenstein has directed another admirable addition to Theatre UNB's impressive track record. You will not be disappointed by *Ring Round the Moon*. What's more, you'll actually get to walk away with a smile on your face. This latest production is TUNB at its finest. Merveilleux! Formidable!

The incomparable Constantines



Andrew Robinson / The Brunswickan

MUSIC FOR THE MASSES

by Andrew Robinson

While at the Constantines/Jon-Rae & the River show last Sunday night, I walked up to the bar in between acts to order myself a drink. As I was waiting for my drink to arrive, I happened to look over my left shoulder and was pleasantly surprised to notice that Jon-Rae Fletcher himself was leaning on the bar sipping a beer.

I gave him a grin and said that I had really enjoyed their set, especially given the fact that I had missed their previous Fredericton show last October. He said thanks and that he hoped he wouldn't disappoint. I gave him a puzzled look, wondering what he was implying (as I love their newest album), glanced over his shoulder to where the Constantines were busy setting up for their set, and saw that maybe he meant "compared to them."

Well, as a fan of Jon-Rae & the River, I can honestly say that he and

his ragtag troupe of Toronto ruffians put on a hell of a show, playing a plethora of old classics along with material from their newest album *Knows What You Need* (#26 on my top 30 albums of 2006). Even without the gospel choir and his glasses (which he apparently lost in Sydney, NS) Jon-Rae et al. still blew my lips off with their whisky-soaked rock.

Even so, nothing compares to a Constantines gig. As I missed their appearance at last year's last-class bash, I sure as hell wasn't going to miss this one, and am I ever glad that I didn't. The Guelph-based quintet exploded into their set and within the first few chords, the entire crowd was dancing.

Crowd favourites like *Hotline Operator*, *Working Full-time* (both from 2005's *Tournament Of Hearts*), and *Shine A Light* (from the 2003 album of the same name) showed just how many fans there were in attendance; there were times you couldn't hear singer Bryan Webb's voice due to the number of people singing along. A few new songs (*Hard Feeling* and *Shower of Stones*) made their way into the set list, hinting at the sounds of their forthcoming album.

As a huge fan of 2003's *Shine A Light*, I practically soiled myself when the tambourines were brought out for *Insectivora* and the jarring drums of *Young Lions* started up. Their cover of a classic Eric's Trip song featuring former member Julie Doiron (who opened the show with her new band *Shotgun & Jaybird*) definitely prompted people to go home and check out the Sackville legends' music (I recommend the Peter EP).

As the gig wound its way down for the evening (with a startlingly sweet cover of *Thunderstruck*), the weary, but satisfied faces were all the indication that the Cons had put on a show of epic proportions that will be remembered until the next time they roll through our neck of the woods again.

For those of you lucky enough to have attended, you'll be telling your awed children that you once saw one of the greatest Canadian indie rockers in a tiny Fredericton club. For those of you who weren't able to make it, do not miss out on such a spectacle again.

More info on the Cons can be found here: <http://www.constantines.ca>.