

Best Bet

# Singer set for New Year's <sup>Paul Brigs.</sup>Limelight

iv November 29, 2011

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MN Dec. 29, 2011

Performing comes naturally to Mississauga singer Arlene Paculan.

The 29-year-old first took to the limelight as a child, when she picked up a pink plastic toy guitar and serenaded her mother with a song promising to buy her a diamond ring.

The St. Francis Xavier Secondary School graduate also took piano lessons for most of her youth and taught herself how to play guitar.

Now, in her adult life, after 10 years of acting, dancing and singing, she's honing her skills as a singer/songwriter.

She finished her first EP, *I'm Worth It*, last year and is performing at a number of venues across the Greater Toronto Area while she works on her next EP.

Paculan will be among a number of up-and-coming artists performing at the Limelight Block Party on Dec. 31 at Celebration Square.

She'll also be partnering with musician Sean Sroka to emcee the New Year's Eve party, which is hosted by the Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) and the City of Mississauga.

Paculan, who graduated from Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto and has been in several stage productions in Mississauga, Brampton and Toronto, says she's excited about what's to come in her career.

She said she's a firm believer in creating your own fortune and has been hosting open mic nights at the Naughty Nads on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

She has also been producing and organizing shows that highlight herself and other independent artists through her own production company Lene, Mean and Green.

"Rather than sitting back and sending my CD to agents and waiting for them to find me... I'm sending my work to radio stations and contacting venues myself," she said. "With hard work, people are asking me to perform."

Paculan describes her sounds as a combination of folk, jazz and blues inspired by her life experiences.

"For *I'm Worth It*, it came from the conversation I had with a friend," she described.

"It was a pep talk almost and it made me realize that the only limits you have are the ones you put on

yourself and so my goal for this son was to encourage and inspire individuals, especially women."

She adds her theatre background has helped her with her songwriting as well.

"In theatre and acting you put yourself into someone else's shoes and you create another character and imagine how character's feel," she said.

Paculan will be touring Montreal in January for a number of shows.

She has also set a goal of performing outside the GTA as much as she can for 2012.

For more information, visit [www.arlenepaculan.com](http://www.arlenepaculan.com).

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PACULAN, Arlene /