

# Raunchy rock n' roller walks off with top Juno

By JOANNE LOVERING

The raunchy rock 'n' roller on stage last week receiving the Juno Award for Most Promising Female Vocalist of the Year was one of our own Mississaugans. According to many reviews, she has also earned the title of "the consummate, ultra-liberated, man-hating bitch."

Lydia Taylor, of The Lydia Taylor Band, has lived in Mississauga for the past four years, and although she will be on the road until June, her "family" waits here. (Family being her live-in boyfriend and his relatives; her closest blood relative is a brother who mines in her hometown of Sudbury). Her record label, Falcon Records, is also here in Mississauga.

The energetic lady under the Bette Midler hairdo and behind the Kim Carnes voice has often been accused of singing put-down songs, aimed directly at men.

But Taylor explains that she sings "from the woman's point of view" and most of her stuff is done tongue-in-cheek.

"I have a big love and respect for men. But as life goes along, let's play by the same rules. We have the same needs," she says.

Take the lyrics from a song on her latest album, *The Lydia Taylor Band*: "So tell me what's wrong with a little on the side? You've had it for years, now my turn's arrived!"

And then there is the song about male strippers, called *Take It Off*, which she includes in her stage show along with suggestive comments made to an imaginary dancer.

Her act, complete with short shorts, is just an attempt to do what she has always wanted to do — entertain.

"The interest came when I was 7 or 8. I just loved to sing and dance in front of people ... It's not a phony act, I put a lot of expression into my delivery of material. I try to give good entertainment value and make my people laugh," she explains.

Describing herself as "older than Brooke Shields and younger than Debbie Harry," she laughs when asked if she is an overnight success story.

"Oh gosh, I've been hacking away at this for 10 years," she exclaims.

Not encouraged at all by her parents of European descent, she came to Toronto against their will in 1964 and was on her own until she landed a job playing keyboards in a showband. She was in a number of bands before breaking out on her own and teaming up seven years ago with guitar player Richard Zwicewicz, who writes most of her songs.

The future? It's all in the entertainment field, she says. She expects the Juno will boost her career significantly.

The band's new album, *Bitch*, will be out next month, she says. It is named after one of the cuts which is about waking up in the morning and feeling just awful because everything goes wrong, she explains.

Aware of the strong title for her album, she says, "I'm prepared to live with the consequences either way."



LYDIA TAYLOR