



Romi Mayes a lone traveller

Romi Mayes

With The Wheat Pool
Friday, 9 February at 9pm
Starlite Room

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Whether she's at home strumming away on her guitar or on stage playing to a sold-out crowd, passionate and talented Canadian folk singer Romi Mayes admits that as much as she loves performing, some of her favorite moments come from spending time with her seven-year-old daughter, who's a budding musician in her own right.

"One time I said to [my daughter], 'It's going to be great. Maybe one day you can be in my band,' and she looked at me and said, 'No mom, maybe one day you can be in my band,'" Mayes says with a laugh. "She plays harmonica and guitar and she sings. When my friends come over to jam with me, she just picks up a guitar and joins [in]."

Despite the fact that being a single mom can sometimes be distracting when it comes to her work, motherhood hasn't seemed to slow Mayes down. She's just released her second solo album, *Sweet Something Steady*, an eclectic mix of the folk, blues and country music styles, and in 2006, the album earned Mayes a nomination for Best Songwriter of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

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ROMI MAYES

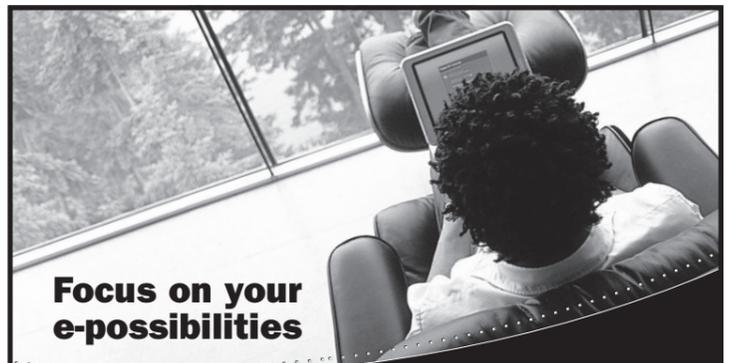
Today, though, the Winnipeg native and previous Juno nominee says that things weren't always so easy; she can recall a time when she was just getting into music and had almost nothing.

"I left home when I was 18 and

hitchhiked across Canada a few times. At that time I had a cassette tape of myself and a friend of mine. I thought that's how you toured. I wasn't really sure how to do it. I would show up in a little town at a pub or a bar with my guitar and this cassette tape. I'd say, 'Here's my tape; listen to it and I'll play tonight if you give me 50 bucks. But I need the tape back,' I only had one tape," Mayes laughs.

Touring has always been a large part of Mayes' career; she's played more than 400 shows in the past two years alone. But despite all her time on the road, Mayes says that her daughter is often what keeps her going as an artist.

"I've been single for a few years, so I don't really have any good love stories to write about," Mayes reflects. "It's kind of challenging being on the road, away from her. Instead of writing about lost loves I write about missing somebody and it ends up being my daughter. I guess that's why it's easier to be single; I sort of have that unconditional love thing going on already."



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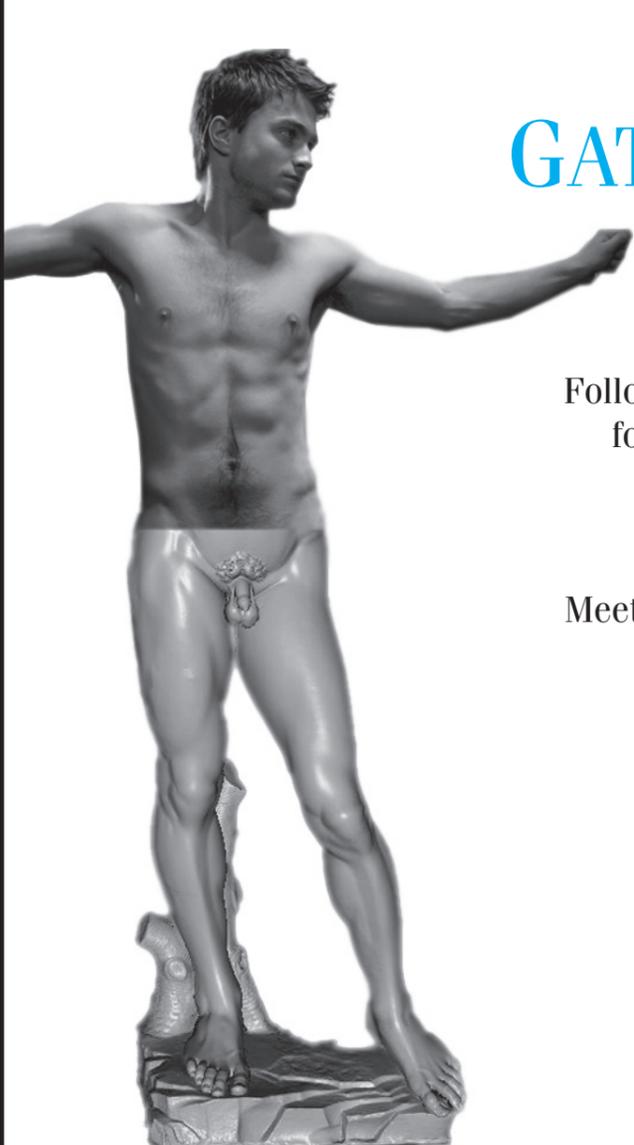
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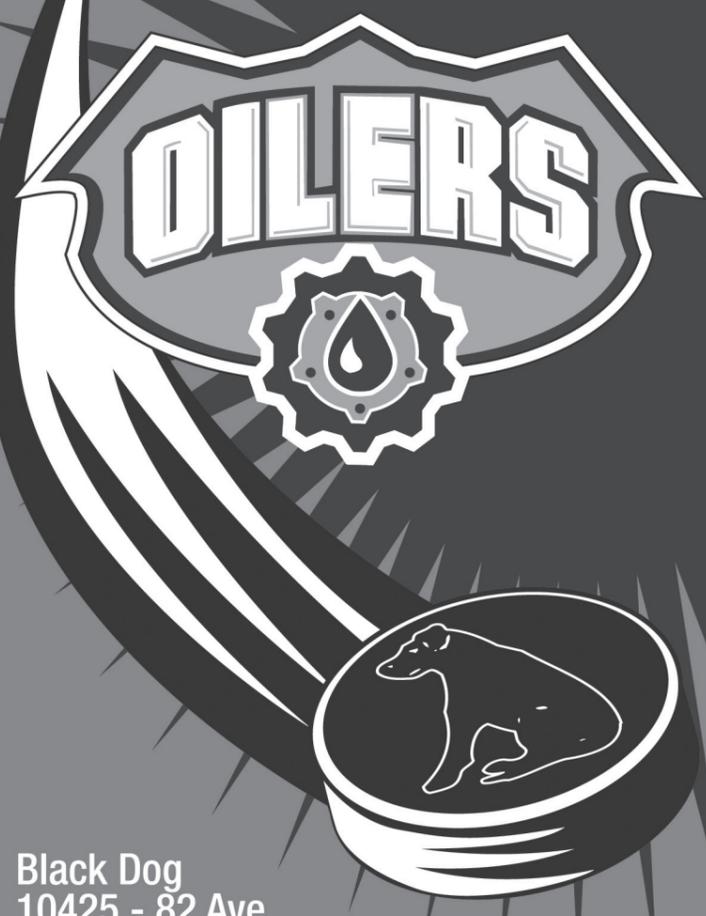


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