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Popular Artist, Ani DiFranco, Could Be Making Last Trip to the Blue Moon

Singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco is tough as nails, well, nails and electrical tape actually. While most musicians pluck their guitars with their fingers or little plastic picks, the 23-year-old DiFranco hammers away at her guitar with press-on nails reinforced with electrical tape.

Locals
Chicago
Cent. IL

DiFranco, press-on nails, electrical tape and all, will perform at Illinois Wesleyan University's *Blue Moon Coffeehouse* for the fourth time on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 8:30 p.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

According to Darcy Greder, assistant dean of student affairs, and founder of the Blue Moon Coffeehouse, DiFranco fans will want to take advantage of this chance to see the popular artist.

"We acknowledge that she's gaining popularity, and that she's playing larger venues," Greder said. "It could be the last time we're able to bring her" to IWU.

Greder said that DiFranco is one of those artists who is better heard live.

"She's great in concert," Greder said. "She has this ferocity about her. She just leaps off the stage."

DiFranco's unique brand of folk music has caught the ear of many in the music industry.

In a *Rolling Stone* review of her latest album, which earned a three-and-a-half star rating out of four, Fred Goodman wrote "her rage and demeanor have more to do with punks than folkies." But Goodman also wrote, "she is one of the few artists around that can really paint the rainbows."

Now Magazine of Toronto, Ontario, called her a "one-woman acoustic punk band."

Many major and independent labels have tried to sign her, but, despite her youth, DiFranco has produced and distributed all seven of her albums. In an industry dominated by multinational corporations she started her own company, Righteous Babe Records.

"I have complete artistic control...I don't have to support a multinational music business/corporation scene that I don't wish to support," she said in an interview with the *Boston Globe*. "I don't understand why anybody would work for somebody else if they could work for themselves."

DiFranco has toured on both sides of the Atlantic, selling more than 100,000 tapes and CD's.

According to Greder, Blue Moon fans have enjoyed a great relationship with DiFranco. DiFranco has been one of the *Blue Moon Coffeehouse's* most popular artists. She even composed a song at IWU.

During her second of three visits to IWU, the Buffalo native wrote "Buildings and Bridges," the first song on her sixth album. She wrote it in the Cartwright Room of IWU's Memorial Student Center between sets.

While DiFranco may not compose any new songs on this trip to IWU, she will bring a show *Guitar Player Magazine* calls "as highly musical acoustic attack" to the Westbrook stage.

The *Blue Moon Coffeehouse* brings to the Illinois Wesleyan University community entertainment presented in a coffeehouse setting. While DiFranco will perform in Westbrook Auditorium, most *Blue Moon Coffeehouse* events are held in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center and feature flavored coffees, herbal teas and light pastries (for nominal cost), along with a varied program of acoustic performances.