



Fall 9-26-1996

## Tickets on Sale for Oct. 17 Concert Folk Singer Ani DiFranco to Perform at IWU

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### Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Tickets on Sale for Oct. 17 Concert Folk Singer Ani DiFranco to Perform at IWU" (1996). *News and Events*. 6687.

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September 26, 1996

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Chicago,  
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locals

**Tickets on Sale for Oct. 17 Concert**  
**Folk Singer Ani DiFranco to Perform at IWU**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Folk singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco will perform in concert at Illinois Wesleyan University next month.

The 25-year-old performer and record company executive, a veteran of IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse stage, will perform Thursday, Oct. 17, at 8 p.m. at the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson St., Bloomington. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$13 each.

Concert tickets are on sale at three Bloomington-Normal locations:

- IWU Office of Residential Life, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University, Bloomington.

Tickets also can be purchased by calling the Office of Residential Life at 309/556-3815. VISA and MasterCard will be accepted.

- Bec's Far East Texas Grill, 207 N. Broadway, Normal. Cash, check, or money orders only.
- Once Upon a Time Books, 311 N. Main Street. Cash, check, or money orders only.

In Champaign, tickets may be purchased at Periscope Records.

"Ani's IWU concert is her only stop in this region this year," said Darcy L. Greder, IWU assistant dean of student affairs-residential life. DiFranco will perform as part of IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse series, launched five years ago by Greder.

DiFranco's concert likely will feature cuts from the latest album, *Dilate*, which *Time* magazine described as "her best yet--her vocals and guitar work still seethe, but she's added atmospheric touches, such as a trippy hip-hop beat on a cover of the song *Amazing Grace*." The weekly newsmagazine added, "DiFranco makes folk relevant and fresh by incorporating other genres."

The music of *Dilate*, which reached No. 5 on the college market charts just six weeks after release--focuses on a traumatic romance DiFranco has been involved in. "The songs are sardonic, self-flagellating and self-referential," according to *Time*, "she tears into herself for the affair and then beats herself up for singing about it."

Her seventh album, *Not a Pretty Girl*, was acclaimed one of 1995's top releases in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Herald*, *Dallas Morning News*, and other publications. *Billboard*, *Option*, and *CMJ* touted it in editors' and readers' polls.

A *Dirty Linen* review of *Not a Pretty Girl* observed: "DiFranco speaks her mind and frames her words with equally emotive, angular music. In doing so, she has struck a chord with her Generation X

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peers, and offers a direct, if sometimes disturbing, view into the collective soul for anyone who stops to listen."

Much of DiFranco's music deals with social issues like abortion, capital punishment, and sexual identity.

The October concert will be DiFranco's fourth IWU appearance. During her second IWU visit, the Buffalo native wrote, *Buildings and Bridges*, the first song on her sixth album. She wrote it between sets in IWU's Memorial Student Center.

By 1990, when she was still a teenager, DiFranco was a seasoned performer with 11 years of stage experience. At that time, she decided that the best way to get her music to the people was to launch her own recording label. Righteous Babe Records was founded in Buffalo, N.Y., her hometown. In six years, it has grown from a living-room-and-car-trunk operation into a robust independent label with a downtown Buffalo office, seven full-time employees, a distribution network, and catalog sales of more than 300,000. Later this year, Righteous Babe Records will release the first in a series of projects by other performers: an album of spoken-word recordings by 60-year-old activist-storyteller-musician U. Utah Phillips. DiFranco is producing the album and has created instrumental music for Phillips' stories.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.