

# Alexa Woodward Brings Her Banjo to The Sherman Cafe

Alexa Woodward will pick her banjo, strum her guitar and serenade patrons at the Somerville News Poetry and Music Series event July 9 at The Sherman Cafe. Lo Galluccio will be the other featured artist, performing both music and poetry.

Woodward packs a variety of punches with her demo of 11 tracks, including one cover. "Montreal" is subtle and alluring— Woodward's voice comes across as light and agile —like a breeze kissing your face and moving away as quickly as it came. "Brighter still," "Parents" and "River" change in rhythm as well as speed. The pensive tone of "Eleanor" and "Ashes" pave the way to Woodward's take on "Amazing Grace" —the latter sung slowly with sinuous high notes that rise with a flutey, airy quality.

A graduate of Gordon College, Woodward has played in many local venues including the In a Pig's Eye in Salem, Captain Carlos and the Art Space, both in Gloucester. She also regularly frequents The Burren in Davis Square.

"Life has so many bright and dark stories, playing themselves out before us and in us constantly... for me music connects those

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stories to our unspoken places. I did a lot of traveling a few years back— spent a few years in India, Cambodia, New Zealand, and Denmark... and during that time saw such a wide variety of human life that it kind of transplanted me into a different musical space— sharing some of the richness of the human experience. I love the energy of Bob Dylan and Joan Baez and the early Greenwich village scene—the communal aspects of sharing music. Recently getting to know more local musicians and becoming more a part of the Boston acoustic/indie/folk scene has been inspiring... there is some remarkable talent in town at the moment," she said.

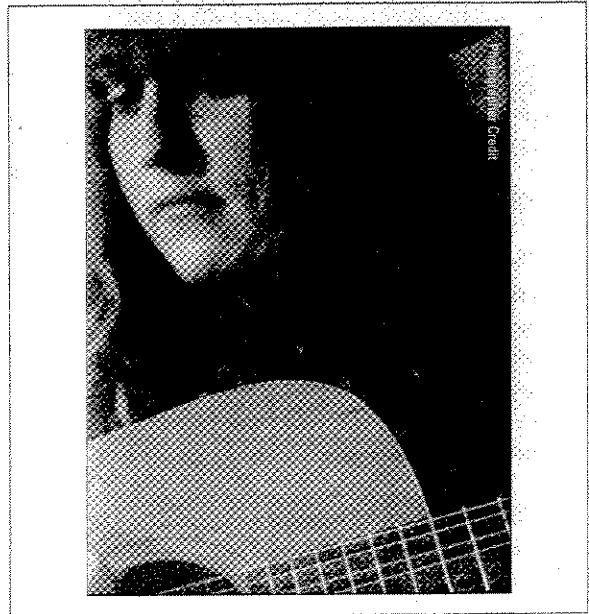
Woodward said she began singing to entertain herself.

"I was an only child and my parents worked like crazy, so I often found creative ways to entertain myself... one of those was creating musical extravaganzas in the living room— often times for no audience in particular, just for the sake of keeping things in-

teresting. I picked up piano for a while when we lived in South Carolina but someone stole ours and we couldn't afford a new one, so I went instrument-less for a few years. And I have to credit growing up in church for the early growth of a love for music."

Woodward said the church gave her soul, but today she goes elsewhere for a shot of soul.

"There is soul in music, and sometimes there is soul in church, but I mostly stick to bars these days for my soul quotient," she said.



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