



**February 2, 3, 4 & 5, 2006  
Market Square  
Kingston, Ontario, Canada**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2006**

## **ROCK STAR: INXS ROCKS FOR FIRST TIME IN CANADA**

For the first time since her success on Rock Star: INXS, Deanna Johnston returns home to play the main stage at a free outdoor concert in Market Square on Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> as part of the Feb Fest 2006 celebrations.

Deanna and fellow bandmate Shawn Rorie along with locals Will McGonegal and Duncan Holt will perform a 90 minute set of original material and rock covers during the Feb Fest concert. The concert gets underway at 7pm with special guests Betablokka.

Born and raised in Kingston, Ontario, Deanna Johnston's unique bluesy, soulful sound and electrifying stage presence makes her one of the most memorable female artists to have emerged from this city. Deanna didn't truly discover her musical calling until early adulthood. While majoring in graphic design at St. Lawrence College, she began exploring her music skills and found more than she'd ever bargained for. Her vocal talent led to a touring offer from the band MASK; she accepted and never looked back.

Over a period of five years, Deanna became a successful player in the vibrant Vancouver music scene. Building on her success, she relocated to Los Angeles and has since shared the stage with several high profile artists including Edgar Winter, Chaka Khan, James Belushi, Kelly Clarkson and has even had the thrill of performing for Oprah Winfrey.

In early 2005, Deanna was one of the final 15 contestants selected from thousands of hopefuls from nine countries to participate on the massive hit show, produced by Mark Burnett, called Rock Star: INXS. Millions of viewers tuned in each week to watch the 15 contestants compete to be the next lead singer of one of the world's most successful rock bands. This extensive exposure, combined with the praise and support from the members of INXS, Dave Navarro and some of TV's top executives, has created a huge fan base and demand for Deanna's talent. Deanna's powerful voice also inspired INXS to hire her to sing on their new single "Hot Girls" from their recent CD release 'Switch'. Deanna has been performing for 14 years and has received comparisons to such legends as Melissa Etheridge and one of her own great inspirations, Janis Joplin. What began as an unexpected detour from college has proved to be a successful career path for Deanna Johnston.

Kingston based band Betablokka will warm up the crowd at the outdoor concert. Band members Matt Hanlon, Zane Whitfield, Jon Midwood and Casey Fisher have just finished their first full length album entitled “Reset The Standard For Life In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century” and will feature some of their new material for the crowds at Feb Fest. Their new CD is set to be released in February 2006.

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