

## What's Happenin': Tuesday, April 26, through Wednesday, May 11

Written by Mike Schulz  
Tuesday, 26 April 2011 06:00

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### Music

## Janiva Magness

The Redstone Room

Thursday, April 28, 8 p.m.

Acclaimed blues vocalist Janiva Magness performs at Davenport's Redstone Room on April 28, and included among the performer's many song titles are "Don't Do It," "That's No Way to Get Along," "Eat the Lunch You Brought," and "I Give Up." All things that our publisher, Todd, tells us at weekly staff meetings, but the words sound much nicer when Magness sings them.

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Currently nominated for four 2011 Blues Music awards for her CD *The Devil Is an Angel, Too* – B.B. King Entertainer of the Year, Album of the Year, Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year, and Contemporary Blues Album of the Year – Magness is certainly no stranger to the blues, having lost both parents to suicide, and giving up a child for adoption, while still in her teens. Yet if her early years suggest a particularly tragic blues song, it's one that wound up having a decidedly happy ending.

With her earthy, soulful vocals and reputation for electrifying live shows, Magness is considered one of the country's foremost blues-music powerhouses and in 2009 became only the second woman (after Koko Taylor) to ever be named B.B. King Entertainer of the Year at the Blues Music Awards.

Her laurels include three awards for Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year and nearly a dozen additional Blues Music Award nominations. And in a welcome bit of synchronicity, music critics appear to *agree* with the organization; Midwest Record Recap stated that "Magness sets the proceedings on fire," *Blues Revue* raved about her "incendiary vocal performances," and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* wrote, "Magness sings superb, potent soul-blues with a scorching intensity." If you're planning to applaud the vocalist during her area engagement, be sure to bring along some oven mitts.

The 8 p.m. concert opens with a set by local musician Alan Sweet, and more information on the night is available by calling (563)326-1333 or visiting [RedstoneRoom.com](http://RedstoneRoom.com) .

