

She could be the gourmet cook next door, the passionate singer at the small club or the daughter of a major rock legend.

As Astrella Celeste tours in support of her newly released CD, *Blue Star*, she seems determined to show her life is a rich tapestry—and really quite normal—despite her parentage. She credits her father, 1960s star Donovan, with prodding her to cultivate interests beyond music.

“When I was eight my dad pulled me back from music,” says Celeste, who then had a hit record. “My dad always said, ‘You don’t have to do this. If you want to, do it. Love it. But make sure you know who you are.’”

Rebellious teen years, sour familial relationships and a



WOMAN AT WORK

## ASTRELLA CELESTE Starry Background

romance with a heroin-addicted rocker all followed. It wasn’t until Celeste, now 34, met her future husband and developed a grounded domesticity—complete with pets, cooking and their own real estate business in Mallorca, Spain—that she really came to know herself. Her musical creativity blossomed.

Not that her artistry was dormant. Through the years, Celeste collaborated with her father and other musicians, including David Gilmour, Brian Setzer and Graham Nash. But it’s only recently that she combined the melodies she hears and the poetry she writes into songs available for public consumption. A mix of jazz, pop and country sounds, *Blue Star* has a soulful depth with accessible, upbeat themes. Think Bonnie Raitt meets

Sheryl Crow. Now Celeste, who teetered between the worlds of prominence and normalcy, has settled quite comfortably into both.

“When I got older, I realized this is who I am,” she says. “Music is in every

piece of me. Whether I succeed or not isn’t the point. I just want to jump in and enjoy.” ★ Nancy Dunham

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