

## Jill Andrew

Newspaper columnist

# Budding Oprah

**JILL ANDREW.** Recognize the name? Not yet, perhaps. Currently she writes the "Ask Jill" column in Toronto's free daily *Metro*, named best column in 2005 by the Canadian Ethnic Journalists & Writers Club. This is "fabulous" – her favourite word – because the 27-year-old freelance journalist is building personal brand recognition as she prepares to produce sample interviews for her own TV talk show, then shop it around. The director of her own public relations company, JAM (short for Jill Andrew Media), she also does good works that raise her community profile, such as giving inspirational talks to women and youth groups and organizing charity events. Andrew meant to teach after earning sociology, theatre and education degrees part-time at York, but journalism has enthralled her ever since she pretended a spoon was a mike and "interviewed" her mother's friends. "I want to have a voice and help others discover theirs," she says. "I want to be the inspiration for that little kid who was bullied like I was into thinking she didn't have the right to dream." ■

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