

Newsmaker: Ashley King

By [Matthew Santoni](#)

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Saturday, December 5, 2009



Ashley Rebecca King

Age: 27

Residence: New York City, formerly North Versailles

Family: mother, Cheryl; father, Richard; brother, Adam; sister, Allyson

Education: B.A., musical theater, Marymount Manhattan College, 2005

Occupation: Singer/songwriter/actress

Background: The daughter of a music teacher and a principal, King learned piano from her mother and has played the flute and violin. She has sung with the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra and the McKeesport Symphony. She went to New York in 2001 and has performed in the Midtown International Theater Festival.

Notable: A show King wrote with fellow Pennsylvanian Greg Portz will begin an off-Broadway run at the People's Improv Theater in New York in February. Titled "In a Polynesian Mood," the part-musical, part-monologue show follows a pair of cover band performers trying to make it to a South Pacific resort to perform. The performers' Pennsylvanian roots make it into the show when places like North Versailles and Tuscarora are cited. The cover songs were arranged by King herself.

Quote: "My Pap-Pap taught me how to play violin by ear. The first time I went for a lesson I brought a songbook with me, and he said, 'We don't play by songbooks.' I was terrified at first. ... But I couldn't do what I do now without it."

Photo Gallery

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[Ashley King](#)

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