Beth Allen, also known by her stage name, Bif Naked, is an iconic and outspoken rock star who has overcome enormous personal challenges to inspire a new generation of female artists and to empower those who struggle on the edges of society to find hope and good health.

Ironically, this Juno award-nominee who has earned a global reputation for transparency and emotional honesty was in fact born in secret in 1971 to two teenagers in India. Hidden in a psychiatric hospital, she was later adopted by American missionaries and brought to Manitoba. It was there, in the 1980s, that her love of performing arts led her to Winnipeg’s thriving punk rock scene.

With no female role models or mentors, Bif endured relentless resistance and restrictions in the male-dominated music business. Eventually she took the reins of her own career and launched her solo career in 1994 with a critically acclaimed self-titled album. Today, Bif has her own record label and has released 10 successful albums. Her 1998 platinum-selling album, *I Bificus*, containing the single “Spaceman” is the highest-spun independent song in Canadian history.

Bif is also known for her writerly talents, both as a social media personality—she is @bifnaked on Twitter—and as a memoirist. She is beloved by her many fans and followers for her authentic voice and frank narratives about the many personal challenges she has faced, including overcoming substance and sexual abuse, eating disorders, breast cancer, kidney failure and heart surgery.

Unrelentingly strong and resilient, Bif has turned these setbacks into an opportunity for self-growth and has focused her energies on giving back to the Vancouver community. She is a cancer-patient mentor, a volunteer with the Vancouver Women’s Advisory Committee, an animal rights activist and a speaker with the National Speakers Bureau. She is a passionate advocate for cancer research, treatment, prevention and survival and, as an openly bisexual woman, for the rights of LGBTQ+ communities.

In recognition of her inspiring musical career, unwaveringly authentic artistic expression and passionate social advocacy Beth Allen—Bif Naked—is conferred the degree Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*. 