

MUSIC

Zootopia Kicks Off Summer

An Interview with The Morning Zoo's Danielle Monaro

By Iris Wiener
info@longislandernews.com

Z100, "New York's Hit Music Station," will host its annual summer concert, *Z100's Zootopia*, on Friday, May 18 at 7 p.m., at Nassau Veterans' Memorial Coli-

seum. Danielle Monaro, a favorite voice from the Z Morning Zoo, is very excited to see some familiar faces from the Huntington area.

"We have great fans everywhere...New York, New Jersey, Long Island, everywhere. But Long Island is just a different feel. It's like a party atmosphere, people want to have fun. Whenever we have the show here you feel like you're really kicking off the summer because you're near the beach. You get that Jones Beach feeling that summer is coming. When I think Long Island I just think summer time!"

Zootopia began in 1999. "It started out

as a celebration of the Zoo (the hit morning show on Z100), a sort of birthday/anniversary celebration," said Monaro. This year some of the hottest artists to have hit Z100 will be helping Monaro celebrate. Gym Class Heroes, Maroon 5, Fergie, Daughtry, Katharine McPhee, Hilary Duff, Omarion, Rihanna, Dashboard Confessional, Robin Thicke, and Hinder will all be performing, plus Zootopia always offers some great surprises. "I feel like every year we do something to make it even bigger," said Monaro. "They have all kinds of surprises all the time at these shows. But unfortunately, they leave me in the dark!"

The surprises aren't the only things that keep Zootopia new and exciting year after year. "I am so excited to see Fergie. She always puts on an incredible show. I'd love to see Daughtry. Obviously we all loved him on *American Idol* so I'd love to see the band perform. I always get excited. It's so funny I always say, 'Okay, I've seen that person perform, I've seen that person perform already,' and then I get to the concert and they do something totally different and I get so excited!" she laughed. "I am so excited to see Hillary Duff because she's different now than the other Hillary Duff. So I'm really excited to see her and see how she's matured."

Perhaps the best part of Zootopia is that you don't have to have a ticket in order to enjoy the event. The concert will include a pre-show event entitled the "Z100 & *In-Touch Weekly's Z Village*." The free outdoor event will be action-packed with performances by Gym Class Heroes, Audio Club, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, and the



Fergie is among many acts to take over Long Island at this summer's Zootopia.

cast of Broadway's *Tarzan*. Z100 Zootopia artists including Hilary Duff, Katharine McPhee, Chris Carrabba of Dashboard Confessional, and Robin Thicke will be stopping by to sign autographs. The festival will feature music, interactive booths, sponsor giveaways and samplings. It will take place from 10 to 6 p.m. prior to the