

Want to be a rock star? Read on ...

AJN STAFF

WHEN Moriah student Shannon Gaitz entered *The AJN's Ghetto Blasterz* competition last year, she was just one of a number of young hopefuls dreaming of a successful singing career. Two months later, having won over our readers and the judging panel with her song *I need me to be*, the 17-year-old was rocking the stage at Bondi Pavilion as one of the acts in the Shir Madness Sydney Jewish Music Festival. "It was the biggest thing I've done in music," said Shannon, who has since appeared on *Australia's Next Top Model* and is now a student at the Australian Institute of Music.

Fast forward 15 months and *Ghetto Blasterz* is back with the search on once again for the most talented young singer or band in the community.

But it's not just a spot at next year's Shir Madness that's up for grabs. While one overall winning act from across the country will perform at Bondi Pavilion on March 25 and scoop a day in a professional recording studio, *Ghetto Blasterz 2012* is being run in conjunction with the Zionist Council of Victoria's Kochav Nolad competition with a local win-



Last year's GhettoBlasterz winner Shannon Gaitz performing at Shir Madness.

Photo: Ingrid Shakenovsky

ner taking to the stage to perform at April's gala Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations in Melbourne.

Ghetto Blasterz is open to school-age bands comprising up to four people. All they have to do is send in a video of themselves performing an original song on a CD-Rom or DVD, together with the application form available on our website, jewishnews.net.au/ghettoblasterz.

The videos will then be posted online and it will be up the public to vote for their favourite bands. A judging panel will then choose the winners from the acts that receive the most votes.

AJN editor Zeddy Lawrence said: "We were overwhelmed by the

incredible talent on display last year and have been thrilled to watch Shannon's progress since she won. This really is an incredible opportunity for a young artist looking to get some exposure and a step on the musical ladder, so we'd encourage anyone with ambitions in that direction to get their entries in as soon as possible."

The deadline for entries is January 27. For more information and full terms and conditions, visit jewishnews.net.au/ghettoblasterz.

