

Concert Review:**Ani is Rock n' Folk at its Finest**

By Zack Harding
Arts & Life Editor

An anxious murmur drifted through a capacity audience at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium last Sunday the 11th. There were young dreadlocked couples, plump middle aged couples, many young lesbian couples, and my brother and I, all waiting to see Ani DiFranco.

Being a "newbie" to her music, I had little idea what to expect, though the excited tension that welled around me clued me in to an imminent first-rate concert experience. When the band took the stage the crowd detonated into a roar more voracious than perhaps I have ever experienced at any other show I have been to. Immediately a few fervent fans rushed toward the stage, leaving their seats behind.

The group opened

excellently with the energetic "God's Country," immediately



setting a strong and festive mood. Minor sound issues, such as percussionist Mike Dillon's volume, were soon overcome and the foursome knocked out song after song.

Midway through the show

everyone except Ani left the stage so she could play "a couple of tunes like the day they were born." After playing a tune solo, she put her guitar down to masterfully recite a poem. During these two performances I noticed how very muscular Ani is, and given the way plays guitar, it is no surprise.

She is vastly underrated as a guitarist. She plays acoustic guitar like Les Claypool plays bass: slapping, strumming, and plucking the instrument with fierce intensity. At the same time her arpeggios are clean and articulate, intricately moving through one jazzy chord A highlight of the night was "To

The Teeth," a scathing commentary on firearms that says "school kids keep trying to teach us what guns are all about. Confuse liberty with weaponry and watch your kids act it out." Songs like this prove that Ani is such a strong lyricist that her words often make you feel uncomfortable, which is exactly what they were meant to do.

The other members of the band fit well into the songs, especially the psychedelic flavorings of Mike Dillon's vibraphone, but this was Ani's show, no doubt about it.

The encore chants and screams never fluctuated like they do at most concerts. As the band came back on, the crowd could no longer stay in their seats and fans rushed the stage to hear the closers "Both Hands" and "32 Flavors" in true rock n' folk format.

Rejects promote sex, violence and intuitive filmmaking

by Aaron Palmer
Editor-in-Chief

Last weekend, tribute was paid lesser known filmmakers through a weekend long festival honoring independent cinema around downtown Asheville. No, it was not the Asheville film festival.

As the prestigious middle-ages crowds flooded Patton ave. to view the most talked about new Phillip Seymour Hoffman picture, the militant film junkies trickled onto College ave. where select bars hosted the Rejects film festival.

Rejects played only movies that were denied from other

festivals due to outrageous material or blatant disrespect to standard filmmaking. The guest of honor for the event was Lloyd Kaufman, the founder of the oldest independent film studio in the country, Troma.

Boasting such infamous titles as The Toxic Avenger and Class of Nuke 'Em High, Kaufman proudly hung out and discussed with fans the secrets behind his shameless incorporation of sex and violence into his films.

"The nudity is a political statement," claimed Kaufman. "It depicts the depletion of natural resources in our

economy. So, it would be wrong to not show all of those boobs."

Much like the Mel Brooks of B-movies, Lloyd Kaufman has never made one serious film. His studio is about sheer entertainment. The Troma seal, if nothing else, guarantees poignant slapstick humor, severed body parts galore and lesbian scenes.

Though this may not be for everyone's taste, nor was the Rejects festival. It was however for film fans, a rare delight to see applaud so heartfelt for something other than the recurring mainstream unoriginality.

Upcoming events at the Thomas Wolfe:

Saturday, Nov. 17
Asheville Symphony:
Masterworks 3,
American Impressions

Wednesday, Nov. 28-
Moscow Ballet's
Great Russian Nutcracker

Sunday, Dec. 2
Asheville Bravos
Concerts: King's
Singers

Sunday, Dec 16
Asheville Symphony:
Holliday Pops