

MUSIC

Punchy album marks Amy's debut

By Melissa Johnson
Freelance Reporter

If you're looking for insight into "the woman of the 1990s," or if you're just looking for an alternative to all the "alternative" music being crammed down your throat, Amy Arena might be for you.

Her self-titled debut album is an interesting mixture of the jazz, hip hop, new wave and rockabilly styles, integrating drum machines, synthesizers and simple guitar riffs.

That, along with Arena's spoken word insights and sing-song choruses, makes you feel like you are in a 1990s version of a smoky beatnik nightclub.

Self-described as a "multi-orgasmic, She-Goddess bitch," Amy Arena is a sarcastic and controversial woman who is unashamed of speaking her mind.

Her rant-laden, 12-track album takes you on an uncensored, upbeat and enlightening tour of her innermost thoughts about living in the 1990s.

Amy Arena throws the biggest punches toward men and society's poor treatment of women. In "Excuse Me" she sarcastically apologizes for being the woman society tells men they are looking for.

"I Will Always Love You" is a fantasy of revenge on men for "5000 years of oppression" and



Amy Arena
Amy Arena

★★★★

"Get To Know Me" is a scathing little reminder for men to probe past the surface looks of their women friends.

The slow, grinding hip-hop beat of "And Then" is Arena's take on growing up and her feelings toward men and sexuality.

Reeking of the Adam and the Ants sound is "Proud To Be A Woman," a flowery little ditty about "what men think they want in a woman, which is frequently so very wrong," according to Arena.

But men are not the only thing about which Amy Arena has an opinion.

In the eerie, Eastern-sounding rhythm of "New Religion" Arena blasts the hypocrisy of modern religions and exclaims she will start a new one based only on good deeds. Religion also pops up in the short, introspective monologue titled "Why."

In the funky and tribal "Make Love To Myself" Arena touches on the subject of masturbation, and in the jazzy "Addicted To

Dirt" she rejects modern society and embraces filth. There's also a short monologue on homosexuality titled "Perverts."

In the appropriately titled "Shit," Arena rants about life's inconsistencies to a rockabilly beat and a sample of "Summer Lovin'" from the Grease movie soundtrack.

Discovered at an open mike night in a Los Angeles coffee shop, the 21-year-old college student has come a long way from being a 15-year-old runaway.

Her words show a wisdom that defies her age. Still, listeners will find the release is presented in a childlike, free-spirited way.

This CD is definitely not for everyone. Those who are easily offended would not enjoy this, so if you are a fan of Bob Dole or Tipper Gore this is not the CD for you!

I suspect that most men would go out of their way to avoid this album, but they might want to consider buying this for their girlfriends or another "woman of the 1990s."

Free-thinking sisters would enjoy the outspoken tone and freedom inherent in this work, whether they agree with her or not.

Overall, Arena proves to be an know... "same old."



COURTESY PHOTO

Richard Frazier will play his tuba at Beall Hall on Saturday.

Concert for children features tuba music at Beall Hall

Tuba Terrific, featuring Richard Frazier, the University tuba choir and the Oregon Tuba Association, opens the children's concert season.

The concert includes musical versions of the popular fairy tale The Bremen Town Musicians and other selections on the program include Teddy Bears' Picnic and Flight of the Bumblebee.

The concert takes place in the Beall Concert Hall on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 children or \$5 for a family. Call 346-3769 or 346-5678 for more information.

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