

College Rules



Tyler Wintermute

Beck turns somber on new CD

The solemn songs on his album "Sea Change" show mature vocals and fine-tuned guitar skills

CD review

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

Like many great performers, Beck Hansen's music is best discussed with a larger perspective in mind. There is no "best" Beck

album, because each one of his nine-odd releases (counting some that aren't readily available anymore) seems to gain strength in comparison to the others. This is like a puzzle that isn't quite completed, but each time an album is released, you see more and more of the picture.

A good example is "Sea Change," the musician's newest release. It's not that a listener would be lost if this happened to be their introduction to Beck, but — not all Beck sounds like this. This album is just

as produced as his previous, "Midnite Vultures," but where that release was bustling full of up-tempo tracks replete with flamboyant horns and Beck's shrieks, "Sea Change" is more somber — so much that the album could be viewed as one big song.

In the past, Beck's lyrics have tended to juxtapose the inane with the ironic. On "Sea Change," however, he has given his words a newfound, naked strength. The sound is decidedly reflective; on "Paper Tiger," he sings, "There's one road to the morning / There's one road to the truth / There's one road back to civilization / But there's no road back to you." Listeners will easily be able to determine the themes that "Sea Change" touches upon: Love, loss, confusion and sadness.

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Today's crossword solution

F	O	R	D	S	M	A	M	A	S	S	O	S	
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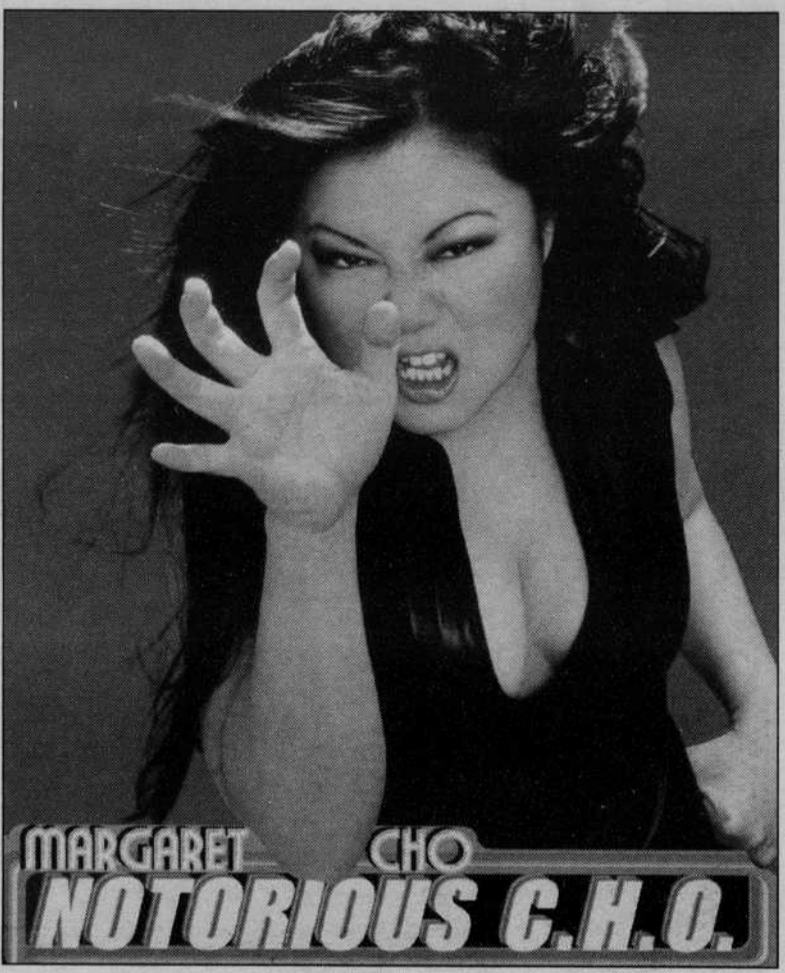
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Margaret Cho turns tragedy into laughs in concert movie

The comedian leaves little to the imagination in the hilarious Notorious C.H.O.

Movie review

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

Like any great art form, stand-up comedy is a "chew 'em up and spit 'em out" business consisting of mostly forgettable performers aiming for audiences with short attention spans. For instance, you're not likely to find any in-depth discussions of Carrot Top any time soon. And like all great artists, comedians who endure do it because their craft is simultaneously fresh and timeless.

Margaret Cho's concert movie "Notorious C.H.O." proves the rule. But more than simply that, this chick just rocks.

If Jerry Seinfeld is the voice of the every-man, then Cho is the voice of the every-other-man. Her people are the outcasts. And the proof is offered in the opening moments of this Seattle performance as we see her fans marching into the auditorium, stopping by the camera for short professions of love for their idol.

For her part, Cho offers up comedy that is truthful and rich, even if it isn't always universal. She's seen a lot and done a lot, but her art comes from a youthful sensibility. You get the sense that Cho is in a constant state of discovery about herself and the world.

From her teenage drag queen friends to a candid discussion of

bondage, Cho gives hilarious insights into the absurdities of life that Richard Pryor would be proud of. Venturing into her own bouts with eating disorders and low self-esteem, she proves why the greatest comedy comes from the most painful places. There's a strength of character that can only come from someone who spent much of her life being told to stay in the background. It is impossible to not get a charge from watching someone bust loose so thoroughly.

By now, Cho's impression of her mother has become a crowd favorite. And "Notorious C.H.O." offers enough to satisfy but not wear thin, mainly because of the story she relates about her father's brush with a friend he thought was gay. Throw in a dash of menstruation and female orgasm humor and any predictability is quickly swept away before she launches into an afternoon colonic story that leaves nothing to the imagination. And we won't even get into the fisting.

All of this is unabashedly in-your-face, but not for simple shock value. Cho is a person who woke up one day and decided she wasn't going to settle for the status quo or believe the false prophets of advertising and Cosmopolitan. This is "empowerment" comedy. Her approach to life is summed up in these words: "Love yourself without reservation. Love each other without restraint — unless you're into bondage, then by all means, show restraint." "Notorious C.H.O." will come to the Bijou starting Oct. 25.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com.

FUN stuff in the **ODE Classifieds** (Off The Mark, your daily horoscope and of course the crossword.)