

it. But you know he's just got something brewing underneath—it's a Southern thing, it's very alluring. He's wonderful.

Did Hillary flirt with you?
No! But she's somebody that I actually know pretty well, and I really admire her. I've been going to New York and attending functions to raise money for her campaign. She's going to win, and I know that she's going to do a great job in New York, so I'm behind her all the way. I've been going and doing little cocktail things with her. She's really amazing, I think she's the best first lady ever.

Many articles about *I'm the One That I Want* call you "clean and sober." Does that mean you're straightedge and you don't even smoke cigarettes anymore?

Yeah, actually I gave up cigarettes quite a while ago. I don't really do anything.... You know what I just gave up, which is really weird? Nuts! Isn't that a weird thing to give up? I realized that I had kind of a problem with nuts—it was the cashews and almonds and peanuts and all sorts of nuts—and I got to the point where I hit a "nut bottom," and I had to stop eating nuts.

What's it like to be on *Sesame Street*? Is it difficult to keep a straight face while talking to a puppet?

No! Especially Big Bird, because Big Bird is so real, he's so yellow, and he's so

Margaret Cho and childhood idol Big Bird



polyamory, freaky, wild, sex deviant march. That's where my head is at—I'm really into that. I want to walk with the leather daddies and the bears, the people that I really connect with in the gay and lesbian community. I'm there representing Slut Pride, which is my own movement. I think it's going to be a really fun weekend; it's so volatile, all the stuff that's happening. I'm having my own sort of anti-March thing, but yet still being totally



tall.... When you're near Big Bird, the emotional memory of always wanting to be near Big Bird comes out, you really become a child again. I felt really young, I felt really excited and very close to Big Bird. I also felt like it wasn't a man inside there—I thought, Big Bird is Big Bird, it's not a man in a suit, it just wasn't. It really made me believe in the magical land of *Sesame Street* and made me remember how important *Sesame Street* was to me growing up.

Speaking of puppets...what's your involvement in the Millennium March on Washington, and what do you think about the anti-March movement?

I'm actually somewhat involved in the anti-March movement myself, because I'm going to be marching with the Freak March. I'm not actually marching in the Millennium March, although I'm going to be speaking at the Millennium March, which is great. But I'm marching in the Freak March, which is the leather,



Margaret Cho and the Prez

part of the March. I think it's just going to be awesome for everybody!

What's the status of your book and the film version of your show?

The film version of my show is coming out later this year. It'll be out in theaters in August. The book I'm still writing, and it'll be out next spring, in 2001.

You once said in a standup routine that your favorite pickup line is "Hi, my name's Margaret—stick it in!"

Do you have a new line now that you're more at peace with yourself, and what line do you use when you're picking up a girl?

I think that my pickup lines are generally gender nonspecific, so that they would work well with men and/or with women. And I find that I don't really have pickup lines anymore. It's more about finding communication—a look, a smile—it doesn't take much. Once you're about my age, you kind of get to understand people, you get to know people, and it's pretty easy.

Easy—that's Margaret Cho all right, easy like a fox. Slut pride forever!

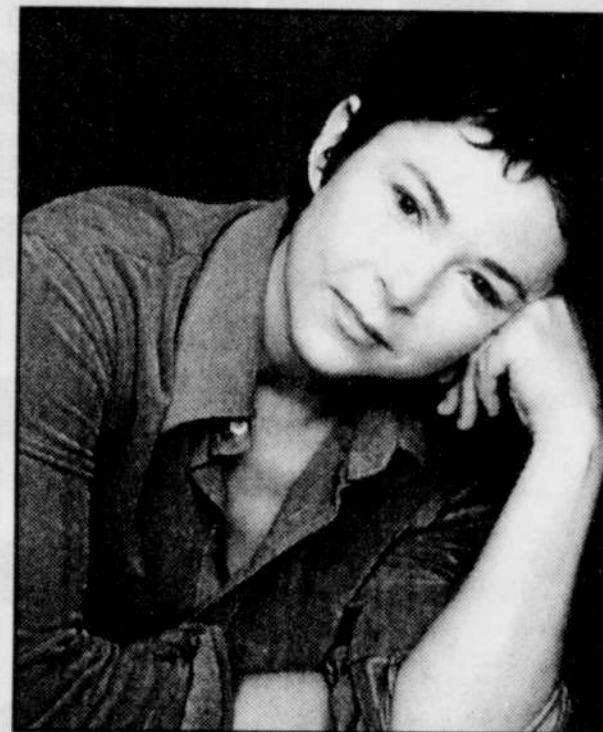
■ Margaret Cho performs *I'M THE ONE THAT I WANT* at 8 p.m. May 5 and 6 at the Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. in Portland. The show is open to patrons age 21 and over. Tickets are available at selected McMenamins locations, online at www.ticketweb.com and by phone at (503) 225-0047, ext. 239.

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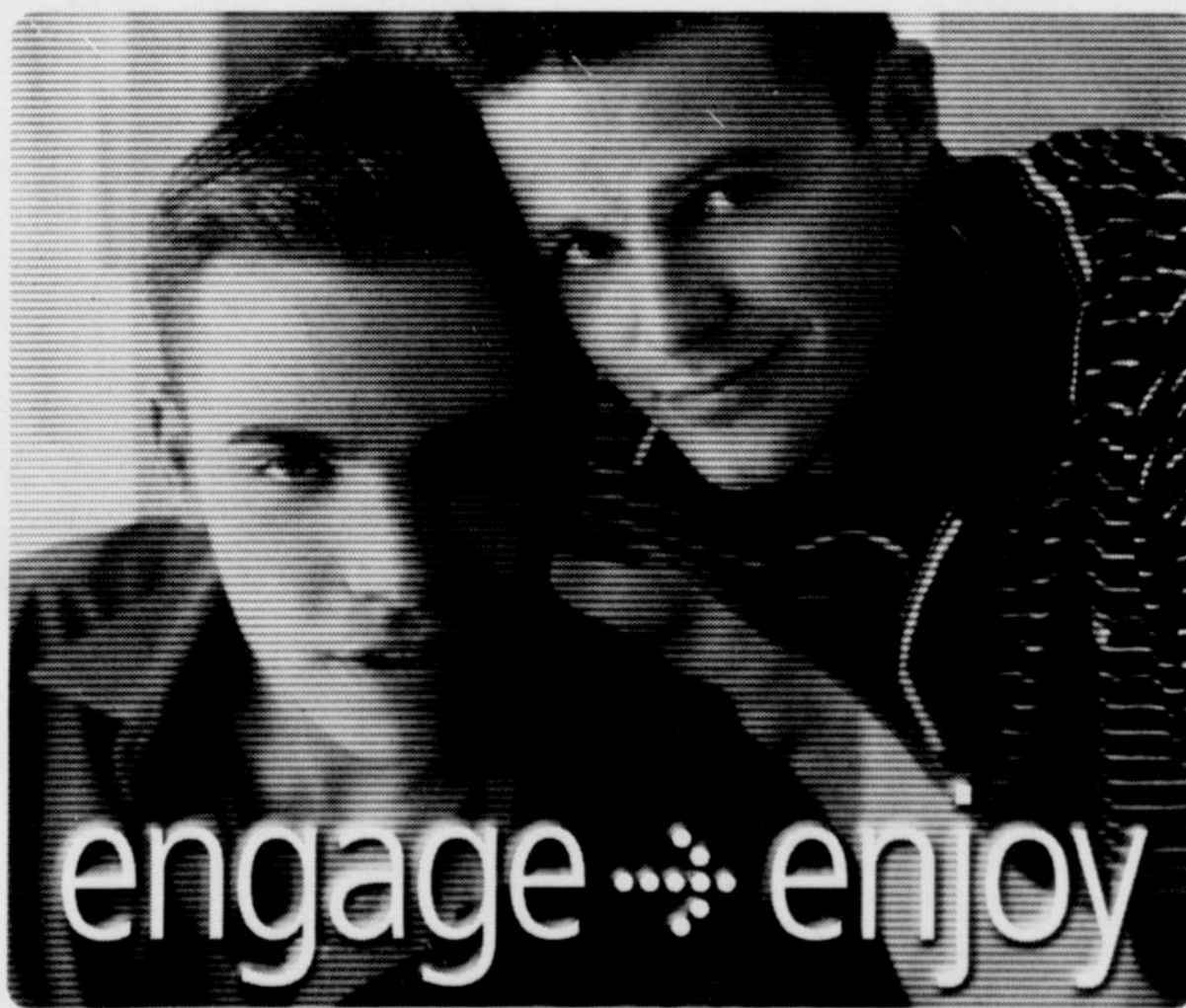
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