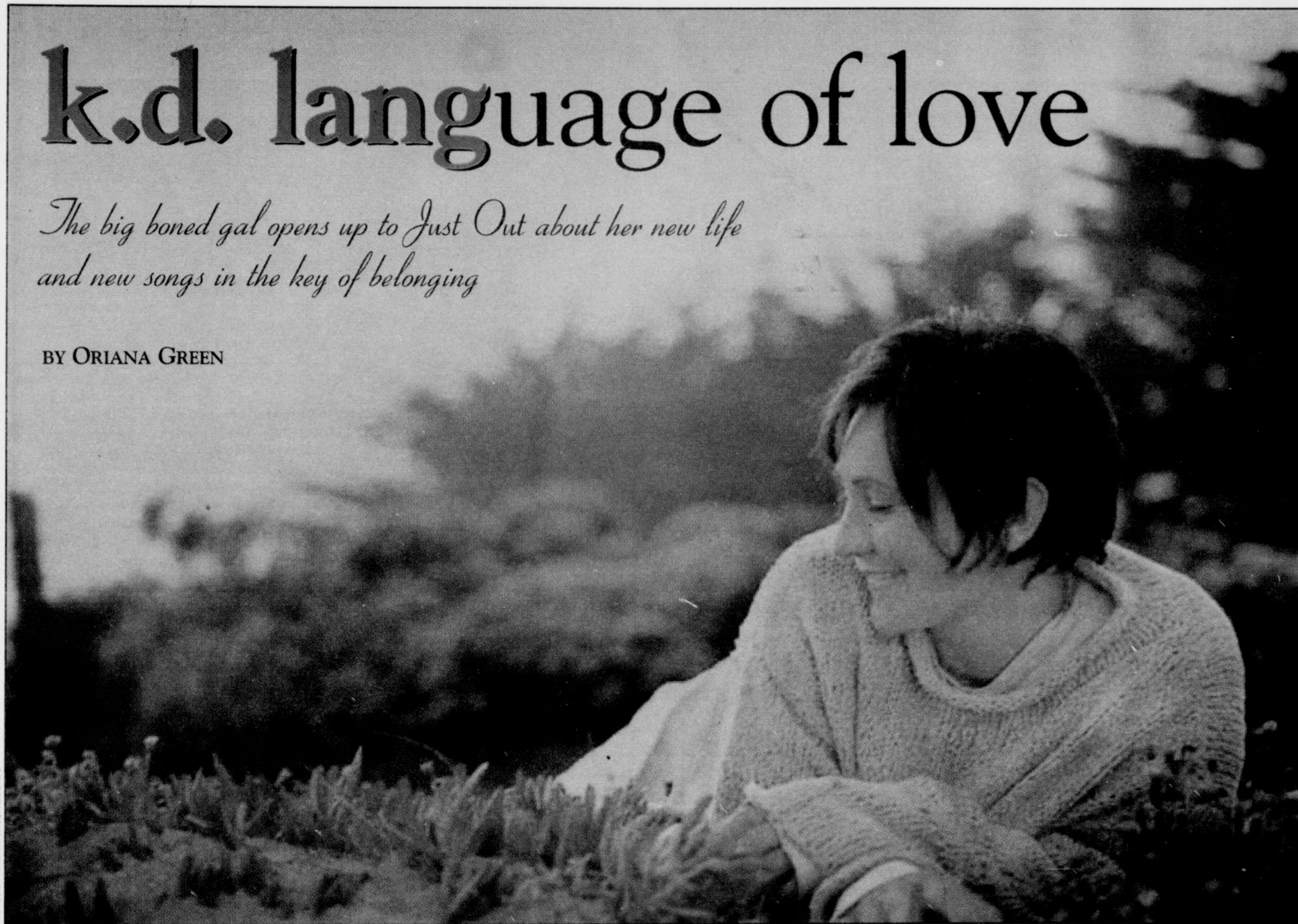


k.d. language of love

The big boned gal opens up to Just Out about her new life and new songs in the key of belonging

BY ORIANA GREEN



PHOTOS BY WARNER BROS. RECORDS

*"I feel in love
with my music again,
my discovery of my core,
my invincible summer...
it's a youthful
feeling."*



She can't see anyone, the glare of the white spotlight is so intense. But she can hear the crowd, and she feeds on the energy they return to her. When k.d. lang strides onto the stage in the cavernous Rose Garden Arena, she needs to seize control, knowing most of the people in the half-empty hall aren't even there to see her, but to see Sting.

"I need all my ego and all my self-confidence to go out on stage and believe in myself, believe that I'm good," she admits during our recent phone interview.

Indeed, the incredible nerve and sheer guts it must take to perform in such a vast venue never has been more clear to me, but lang shows no fear and begins to seduce the audience.

"It's all about love here tonight," she purrs, working the mostly straight crowd at her Portland concert July 29. The universality of that statement resonates with the small but vocal contingent of her faithful fans and with the rest of the audience, which is warming up to the sunny groove of her set.

"Everything I do is to allow me to be on stage...the muse is the audience and the band and I...the stage is the meaning of my entire career," lang says loud and clear from her home in Los Angeles just before she leaves for her first gig.

Watching her cavort gleefully around the stage, it's easy to see she speaks her truth. And although she says she consciously shied away from vocal fireworks on her new record, on stage she lets loose all her lung power. Already, on just the fourth stop of her tour, the live versions of her new songs have evolved into more dramatic, fuller renditions.

"I feel good about being open to audiences on this tour," she predicts before it starts.

She should feel even better once the first 10 dates as an opening act are over and she plunges into headlining her own tour. The Sting thing is a maneuver to widen her audience.

"Radio is afraid of me...it's very rare that I get played on the radio," she explains, then quickly cops to the fact that her music isn't easy to program or pigeonhole. At her concert, looking like she just strolled in from the beach in white pants and a loose red shirt, she enthusiastically thanks KINK-

Continued on page 21