

port security? [Last November in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., LuPone was subjected to what she called "a breast exam" by a screener with the Transportation Security Administration. The previous September, changes in airport security increased the number and intensity of "pat-downs" after two Chechen women blew up a Russian jetliner.]

PL: I was just one of many. There were so many articles written, and so many women complained.... These Chechen women had bombs strapped to their midriffs, and so now [the government] can feel women's tits? ...This is a very scary and dangerous place we're living in.

FS: Did the incident change your views on those issues at all?

PL: No, I've always had strong opinions about them. That's why I got in trouble; I spoke up. I didn't take it. I asked a friend who said, "It happens to me all the time—I wear a padded bra." I said, "You let it happen?" A lot of women just took it because we're a bunch of lemmings and afraid for our lives, but they're pitting us [Americans] against each other. Each of us is a potential terrorist, and each of them [TSA officials] is a potential idiot.

The problem was communication. I'll do what you want, but you have to tell me what you want. They wanted me to take off my shirt, and I told them I would be exposed, so then they moved me into secondary screening. Then a woman came over and, without asking,

felt up my breast. And not with the back of her hand. I said, "What is going on?" They wouldn't tell me.

FS: But the policy has been changed now?

PL: They are not allowed to touch women on the breasts any longer...I was only instrumental in bringing it to the front. There was a woman who went to the [American Civil Liberties Union]. There was going to be a lawsuit. There were just enough women who said this has gone too far.

FS: Who would play Patti LuPone in the movie of your life?

PL: Patti LaBelle. Everybody calls me Patti LaBelle, so she might as well play my life. She never gets called Patti LuPone, but I always get Patti LaBelle.

FS: How have you been able to sustain your voice and career for more than 30 years?

PL: I wish I knew...I was blessed with a strong set of pipes. [F]

PATTI LUPONE performs *Matters of the Heart* at 7:30 p.m. April 5 to 8, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. April 9 and at 1 and 6:30 p.m. April 10 at Keller Auditorium, 222 S.W. Clay St. Tickets are \$10-\$46 from 503-241-1802 or Ticketmaster.

FLOYD SKLAVER appears as Evita in the privacy of his own home.

REVIEW

Matters of the Heart

Patti LuPone • Varese Records

The CD *Matters of the Heart* is a revelation. Patti LuPone, who was parodied in *Forbidden Broadway* as an imperious, inarticulate diva, has produced a recording of enormous intelligence and beauty.

The collection of 20 songs, only a handful of which were written for the theater, draws from contemporary pop composers as varied as John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Judy Collins. LuPone's versions of rock ballads are surprisingly effective, particularly her cover of The Hollies' "The Air That I Breathe." She is aided throughout by exceedingly classy arrangements for piano and string

quartet. (The sophisticated minor-key arrangement of the Rodgers and Hammerstein chestnut "A Wonderful Guy" makes you hear the song with new ears.)

Overall, though, one is reminded of just what a remarkable instrument LuPone's voice is—able to go from full brassy belt to a hushed whisper without so much as a breath. Her rafter-raising takes on Sondheim's "Not a Day Goes By" and "Back to Before" (from the musical *Ragtime*) are guaranteed to give you goose bumps. Throw in some comic turns, and *Matters of the Heart* provides not only a textbook lesson on how to craft an emotionally satisfying concert experience, but a fitting testimony to a supremely talented artist.

—FS



Corner of Sandy Blvd. & NE 64th
3106 NE 64th
Portland, OR 97213
503-280-8080

It's My Pleasure
Gifts for Romance in an Elegant Setting

Your #1 choice
24/7/365

503.227.1212



SORDID LIVES

a play by
Del Shores



A comedic story of unconditional love, acceptance, and "coming out" in a Texas family.

PRESENTS...
TRIANGLE PRODUCTIONS!
with the generous support of
just out

April 8 - May 7, 2005

Theater! Theatre! 3430 SE Belmont

\$19/advance \$23/at door

For tickets call **503-239-5919**

Purchase online www.tripro.org

15

15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT

ROSE CITY GAY FREEDOM BAND

GETS DOWN WITH SYMPHONIC AND POP MUSIC

INCLUDING PERFORMANCES BY
ROSE CITY SWING AND THE RCGFB MARCHING BAND

SATURDAY
APRIL 9th
8:00PM

Kaul Auditorium
at Reed College

TICKETS
\$12 \$8/SENIORS/STUDENTS
at Music Millennium



ROSE CITY GAY FREEDOM BAND is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization 503 790-2170 www.rcgfb.org