

Poet reads in the Forum



Photo contributed by College Publications

Karen Swenson, poet, is the 1993 National Poetry Series prize winner for "The Landlady in Bangkok."

Amy Ku'uipo Bierman
Staff Reporter

Poet Karen Swenson, of Brooklyn, NY, read poems from her book "The Landlady in Bangkok" last Thursday in the Gregory Forum.

"Poetry is made of the deep responses to things you see," Swenson explained.

"The Landlady in Bangkok" poems were written from her experiences and travels in Southeast Asia.

"The poems came out of emotionally beginning to understand the things that I saw, deep feelings about the places and the people," Swenson said.

Swenson spent 10 years travelling through Southeast Asia, two months out of each year.

She travels alone as a woman, and says that it is much different than travelling alone as a man.

The poem "What Does a Woman Want?" talks about the differences in sense of adventure

and how women are viewed when travelling alone.

While travelling, she learned about the history and people of the countries and wrote articles for *The Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*.

"The Landlady in Bangkok" is organized by country, beginning with poems about Burma, and moving on through Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Each poem describes feelings of despair, imagination and hope, using a story or piece of history that Swenson read or observed while in the countries.

The language Swenson uses is descriptive and expressive, bringing reality and life to each poem.

"The Landlady in Bangkok" is a poem written about Suni, the woman who ran the guest house Swenson stayed in.

She said the lady was interesting and because they could not communicate due to a language barrier, she invented her.

Swenson speaks with conviction and knowledge about Southeast Asia, its lands, its people and its customs.

She had many stories to tell and background information enabling a better understanding of her poetry.

"The Landlady in Bangkok" is Swenson's fourth published work. Others include "An Attic of Ideals" and "A Sense of Direction." Swenson attended Barnard College, and taught at City College of New York.

Sarah McLachlan, Paula Cole visit Portland

✓ Crowds filled the seats of the "Schnitz" April 4

Amy Ku'uipo Bierman
Staff Reporter

Canadian singer Sarah McLachlan held a magnificent concert April 4 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

McLachlan performed songs from her albums "Fumbling Toward Ecstasy," "Solace" and "Touch."

She also previewed a song that she had written while on tour, proving to herself that she could still write, having not written for a year. This song about winter was beautifully written, and the echo of the piano, haunting.

Many of her songs are touching and heavy, reaching down into the innermost parts of the soul. According to McLachlan, she tried to distribute depressing songs evenly throughout the set, but it was kind of hard to do.

"Ice," which McLachlan said is her most depressing song, was written while helping with a video in Thailand and Cambodia. It deals with the feelings of staying somewhere or with someone because there are no other options.

This concert was McLachlan's third in Portland, and the third to last in her 16-month road tour through the United States.

Lights were used to accentuate various innuendos in the songs, and although the performance was excellent, her stage

presence did not compare to that of her opening act.

Opening for McLachlan was newcomer Paula Cole, who has a sensational voice and sense of rhythm. Her quality of tone and pitch was comparable to that of R&Bs

solo that was amazing.

It was clear and precise, flawlessly moving from octave to octave.

The lyrics to her songs were about real life, and the anecdotes she used to introduce them were heartfelt.

She told of how she had once wanted to be a cheerleader, but could not try out due to a broken bone in her foot.

She made the team the following year only to find out that "it sucked."

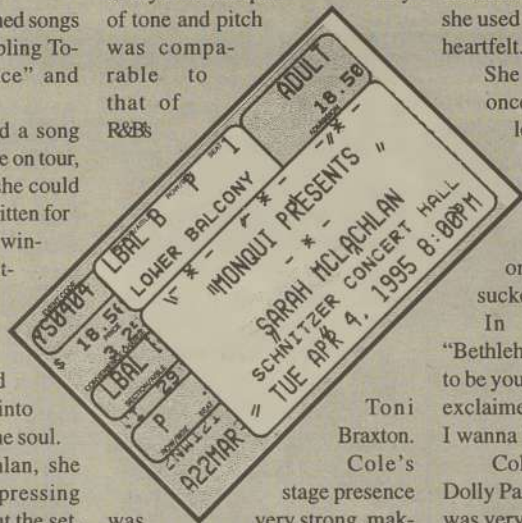
In Cole's song "Bethlehem," about not wanting to be yourself as a teenager, Cole exclaimed, "I wanna be a dog or I wanna be a rock."

Cole also did a version of Dolly Parton's song "Joline" that was very upbeat. Included were guttural throat sounds used to imitate the scraping sound of a washboard.

According to a flyer distributed at the concert, "Cole has toured with Peter Gabriel, and is the featured female vocalist on his 'Secret World Live' album and video.

"Her debut album 'Harbinger' has won critical acclaim from Rolling Stone, Billboard and the Boston Globe."

All in all, this concert was well worth seeing, and Paula Cole is definitely recommended.



Toni Braxton.

Cole's stage presence was very strong, making her set much more than just a performer singing her songs live.

A cookie pan and a five-gallon plastic bucket used as auxiliary percussion instruments were only part of the interesting props used to bring life to the set.

Also used were a carnival type mask, clapping hands and a clarinet she had played in fifth grade.

The band consisted of Cole, a percussionist and a guitarist. Percussion and rhythm were a big part of the set.

At one point in the song, Cole whistled an improvisational

Outbreak: surprisingly good!

Movie Review

by Jon Roberts
Staff Writer

When I went to see the movie "Outbreak," I was one of five people sitting in a movie theater made to seat over 100 people.

I thought "this movie can't be very good, if there are only five people here to see it."

Was I thoroughly surprised! The movie had it all: drama, action and suspense. It was an edge-of-your-seat thriller, up to the caliber of movies like "The Fugitive" and "Speed".

From the opening credits until the climactic ending, the movie never stops to come up for air.

This movie is about two hours long, but it moves so fast, it seems like only an hour.

The movie stars Dustin Hoffman as the heroic military doctor, Rene Russo as his ex-wife who is also a doctor, Cuba Gooding Jr., as Hoffman's cocky, rookie assistant and Morgan Freeman as Hoffman's military boss.

The premise of the movie is that there is a virus discovered that came from deep in an African jungle.

The virus is highly contagious and deadly when it contacts a human, causing death within twenty-four hours. The host subject for this virus is a monkey that is cap-

tured and smuggled to America. The monkey is stolen, then infects his captor, who in turn infects several other people, and the crisis is on!!

The virus becomes airborne and infects an entire California town. Hoffman, Russo and Gooding race to find a cure before the virus escapes from the town and infects the entire nation.

There are several interesting plot twists and revelations throughout the movie.

Hoffman delivers his usual strong performance and is very convincing as a doctor.

Russo, Gooding and Freeman are also believable and deliver

good, supporting performances.

This movie gets three and a half stars from me. The only reason it gets three and a half, not four, is that the last line of the movie is so incredibly cheesy.

This movie is a definite "must see." It will open your eyes to the dangers of a highly contagious virus becoming an epidemic in America.

The movie is rated R for violence, some mild language and a lot of dead bodies.

Over the last four weeks, "Outbreak" has made over \$48 million at the box office. It has been one of the top two movies for all of those last four weeks.

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