

Authors examine love and hate in the NW

ERINN LERTEN
Staff Writer

Contemporary fiction authors Jody Seay and Katie Schneider will read excerpts from their books during Authors' Night on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. in Gregory Forum.

Seay will be reading from her second novel, *The Second Coming of Curly Red*. The story is about a lesbian couple living in Reliance, Oregon, who become the target of brutal harassment. When a racist, misogynist gunman shouting, "All women are vipers!" kills

Texan Jimmy Heron's beloved wife of 50 years, Jimmy takes to the highway, hoping for a new life. Eventually, he lands in Reliance, where he is befriended by, among others, a lesbian couple who are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child. All is not well in Reliance though, as the residents are subjected to horrifying acts of harassment led by the nefarious Reverend Darryl Dimmer.

Seay won first prize in the 1998 Mendocino Coast Writer's conference and was a finalist in the 2000 Oregon Book Club Awards.

Schneider will be reading from

her first novel, *All We Know of Love*. It is the story of the creative and romantic life of a young woman, Joanna Shepard. She has her roots in the Pacific Northwest, where her mother died, her grandfather raised her, and her childhood friends Rene, Chuck and Jack live. But after she nurses her grandfather through his last illness, she takes her college money and goes to Florence, where she hopes to match the visions in her head with the art she needs to make. She meets Walter and Chad there: Walter has money and likes to spend it, Chad argues politics and studies occasionally.

Schneider is a native of Spokane, Washington, with degrees from Gonzaga University in both history and English. Her novel has received many award nominations including Book

of the Month Club Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction, The Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Association Award, the Washington Center's Governor's Writers Award, the Pulitzer Prize, The National Book Award and the Oregon Book Award. She is currently working on a second novel.

The authors' novels will be available for purchase and signing after the event.



Jody Seay will read excerpts from her second novel *The Second Coming of Curly Red* at Authors' Night.



Katie Schneider will be reading from her novel *All We Know of Love* at Authors' Night on October 17 at Gregory Forum.

Have
something
to
sell?

Take out a
Classified
Ad in *The
Clackamas
Print*

Call Nick
Barron @
657-6958
X2578

Ben Folds offers solo stylings with Five flavor

LUKE MAHAN
Staff Writer

As I handed the \$26 to the lady behind the Fastixx counter in Safeway, I wasn't quite sure what I was getting myself into. Two years ago I paid only \$18 for a Ben Folds Five concert, which I knew was going to be the best show I had been to (to date). In this case, I had only heard short clips of Ben Folds' recently released debut solo album, "Rockin' The Suburbs,"



Courtesy of cdnow.com

Ben Folds recently performed selections from his solo debut at the Roseland Theater.

and I could tell only that Folds had added guitars and more reverb to the same music his Five had been playing for years.

With satisfying tunes but wholly unimpressive production, the al-

bum tracks didn't well up any awe within me. Paying \$13 seemed a reasonable price to see them performed live, in the hope that they would be better. When I found out the tickets were \$25.50 a piece, attending the concert was in great question. However, my friends had already purchased their tickets, and I had already committed to providing rides. So I took a deep breath.

Citizen Cope took the stage first. He seemed like your typical "guy with a guitar," a concept I'm not particularly fond of. After hearing a small sampling of his stylings, I decided to retire to the downstairs restaurant area of the Roseland Theatre to enjoy a burger and fries. Upon my return to the main audience chamber, I was shocked and appalled to find said "guy with a guitar" had abandoned his instrument and was singing along to tracked music (enough said). My anticipation for Ben Folds grew; I'm sure my feelings were shared with most of the concert-goers.

Folds and his band finally took the stage amid much cheering and screaming, and promptly blasted through "Not The Same," a very BFF-sounding number, complete with fuzz-bass and transcendent

harmonies. I knew immediately that my financial sacrifice was not in vain.

Then came "Losing Lisa," "Zak and Sara," "Gone," "Fred Jones Part 2" and "Fired," which sounds like a track straight off BFF's album "Whatever and Ever Amen." The band tore through the set with little talking from Folds in between songs (with the exception of a little background information about a new song titled "Hiro's Song"). Turning to the crowd after each number, he showed his broad and humorous smile, relaying his high spirits.

Joining Folds onstage were a drummer, a guitarist (whom Folds introduced as "Snuzz"), and bass player Millard Powers, who played with Folds and Bill Owsley in a band, called the Semantics in the early '90s. Powers also on Owsley's self-titled debut album. Folds stuck to playing piano throughout the show.

During the ninth song, the humorous "Make Me Mommy," the guitarist broke a string, forcing a short break in the concert. Folds took it upon himself to fill the gap by playing an impromptu piano-only version of "The Best Imitation of Myself," from BFF's self-titled debut album. Taking advantage of the situation, Folds then instructed Snuzz to sing along to a

song familiar to them both. The guitarist's seemingly subconscious hand gestures offered comic relief.

They ended the somewhat short set with "The Ascent of Stan" and a powerfully energetic version of "Rockin' The Suburbs," during which Folds played a shoulder-slung midi keyboard, enabling him to go wild. The backwards red hat he wore during the song added to his middle-class white adolescent image. His zany antics only left the crowd wanting more.

After about 10 minutes of cheering, clapping, chanting and stomping for an encore, Folds returned to the stage by himself for



Courtesy of BenFolds.com

Ben Folds returns to the music scene on a solo project called "Rockin' the Suburbs," which keeps with the familiar sound of his former group, Ben Folds Five.

an encore of five songs, including a super-extended version of the hit "Song of the Dumped."