

Olsen's '10:01' reads like poetry

Ken Conley
Clackamas Print

Write the fact that the hectic... in Lance Olsen's "10:01" the simultaneous effect of... me in while being just... ed enough to fade parts of... blur, I thought that over... rather interesting. Theoretically the book chron-... the seemingly random... of movie goers at one... Mall of America's movie... The entire contents of... 7-page book take place... 10 minutes and one... as I stopped searching... plot and started reading... I would poetry, taking it

for just what it was — images, ideas and beliefs strewn together trying to convey something to us without ever having a whole story — then I enjoyed it.

Olsen's fictional creations, although sometimes less than half-formed, show a great flair for what some would call the "unique." His words had a way of making me think of things I never had before, or think of things I had thought of a million times before in a new way. This, combined with the book seen from the perspective of a cat, a ghost and the consciousness of a once-beautiful woman compressed into nothing by a tear in reality, made me wonder what form Olsen's muse takes.

On the down side, sometimes

reading it gave me a feeling similar to talking to a pseudo-intellectual who seems insistent on using overly embellished vocabulary to show how intelligent they really are.

Something I did like was Olsen's ability to capture true emotion and desperation in his characters by expressing their hopes and dreams in one sentence and then crushing them in the next, in a way mirroring our own perceptions of our lives. At the same time he portrays with almost sickening accuracy how truly pathetic and mediocre some branches of the American population have not so much let themselves become, as have chosen to become, and the truly mundane paths people walk.

Olsen also gives an excellent view into the perverse sub-lives and cultures those who we deem "normal" create for themselves. Whether those stories came from his own mind or experiences related to him from others I don't know, but they are truly chilling at times.

When all is said and done I thought the book although chaotic was well written and thought provoking. It held my attention and my senses and drew me in, so that my own mind started working in the way I believe Olsen's must have while writing it. Whether or not one would want to read this book depends on taste in literary style, but I'd recommend it to those who have a taste for truly bizarre, those



OLSEN

who like peering into the crevices of the human psyche, where no one else wants to look.

Final 'Sopranos' season makes offer you can't refuse

Delzell
Clackamas Print

... you may not be like a complete 'Sopranos' or you may not even be mob-related stories at all, the last season of the hit show may change your

Episode 66 starts out with a new character and New York mob boss Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) doing his usual mobster thang, thang. He is thoroughly enjoying the life until the last scene when the former boss Junior Soprano (Dominic Chianese) is killed and shoots straight-up in the gut. I was speechless. The episode was painfully confused and more.

The next few episodes show Tony in the hospital in a very dramatic way... the writer take us into Tony's dream-world, where we may see it as Tony's trip to purgatory. It was a jump



Internet Photo

from the normal knee bashing, whacking and shaking down that one is accustomed to when watching mob drama. It goes way more into the drama side

of the characters life and much less into the mob side.

As the season progresses, Tony wakes while half of the family has already counted him dead. It makes for quite the interesting story lines in episodes 67-69. I would have to say that the most dedicated fan will probably question the

story lines and wonder why the producers would take the show in a direction like this.

Well, here is my answer:

If a show doesn't make one ask questions, then the viewer is not interacting with the show. Why would you want to watch a series that numbs your mind? This season of the 'Sopranos'

has much less to do with mob violence, making it easier on the average one-time viewer.

This brings us to the latest episode, 71, entitled "Live Free or Die."

In episode 71 Tony is back to about half strength after the shooting. Tony has to corral a mob family that was counting on his death. He has to deal with a capo (under boss) that has been ousted from the family when it was revealed that he is a homosexual. He also grapples with the idea that his cousin Christopher (Michael Imperioli) may be selling guns and stolen credit card numbers to Al Qaeda members.

In this latest episode, the writers do an excellent job of keeping the last season of the 'Sopranos' relevant with current events in the world. It seems to me that the writers of the show have tried to show a different side of the mob, a real life side that takes the viewer on a roller coaster of emotions. And with Tim Van Patten and Steve Buscemi as directors the last season may be the best and most significant season yet. Yeaha-Yeaha! Fhagetaaboutit til next week, dedicated viewers.

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Quasi performance hits the Jackpot

Sam Krause

The Clackamas Print

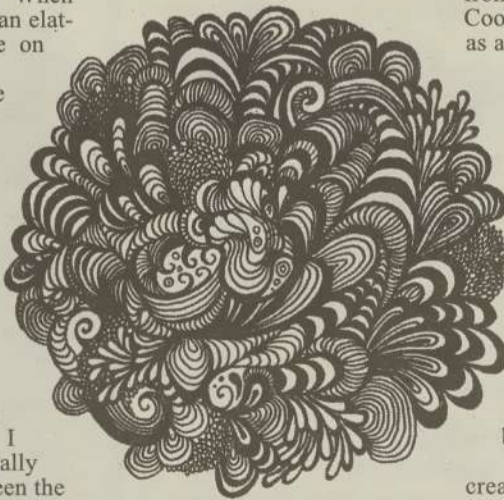
Portland band Quasi performed their new CD "When the Going Gets Dark" to an elated and faithful audience on Friday evening.

Quasi's show at The Wonder Ballroom on NE Russell Street in Portland was an extended encore to a free CD release show at Jackpot Records on E Burnside on March 21.

When I arrived at The Wonder Ballroom on Friday, The Minders were performing. They had a sound more upbeat and straightforward. I liked their energy, especially the communication between the only female in the band and the rest of the geeky looking band members.

While some of the songs they played were similar (they pulled a John Fogerty), they weren't shy on experimental sounds

either. Most notably experimental about the band is the lack of a bassist. But The Minders set was not hurt by how "out there" they are.



Quasi took to the stage in a rather unassuming way. Pianist/guitarist Sam Coomes just meandered on and off stage while drummer Janet Weiss was busy

arranging her drum set just so. At this show, as at the Jackpot show, a bassist joined them — Joanne Bolme of Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks. This was a break from past performances where Coomes and Weiss performed as a duo.

Each song from the new album was played. They even played a song from Built To Spill's new CD "You in Reverse" in which Coomes is featured on the organ.

Since I first started listening to Quasi about three years ago, the music has morphed into pseudo-psychedelic/jazz/rock — very different from their beginning as a raw, unadulterated indie-band.

Coomes and Weiss have created a sound that is definitely unique to the PDX music scene. With bands like Quasi, Modest Mouse and Built to Spill gaining national notoriety, it's very evident that these regionally renowned bands are making their permanent mark.