



**Melissa Etheridge**  
8 pm Friday, Aug. 22  
Cuthbert Amphitheatre  
\$35, \$65 reserved

## Those Summer Nights

Melissa Etheridge's earnest *Awakening*

For many minutes, as I walked to work with the sounds of Melissa Etheridge's 2007 *Awakening* ringing in my ears, I tried out comparisons. Melissa is the lesbian Bryan Adams! Melissa is the lesbian Aerosmith! Melissa is the lesbian Pat Benatar! Journey! Heart! Crosby, Stills and ... oops, that's too obvious.

Screw it. Can't figure out the right rock comparison, but I can say that listening to *Awakening* reminds me that Melissa and I come from the same area, where weather-worn, bug-splattered cars blare wailing guitars and power ballads as they motor humidity-drenched folks in American flag shirts and bandannas to Sandstone Amphitheatre in Bonner Springs, Kansas, where fireflies light up the fields beyond the stage and the fluorescent sprawl of strip malls competes with fields of corn and wheat.

In her newest music, I still hear the sound of people leaning into each other at the end of a two-hour concert, knowing they have a hour-long drive ahead of them but wanting to hold on to that last bit of concert magic before packing out. OK, true, at Etheridge concerts there might not be quite as many American flags, and at least half of the couples will be My People (I hail ya! Making out to Melissa was *such* a rite of passage before Ani came along!), but seriously. The classic rock sound lives on in *Awakening*.

Part of that sound requires a certain lack of irony. I mean, 1993's *Yes, I Am* stands as pretty

much the best non-ironic rock album ever despite the slight wordplay of the title. But it's been a while since I listened to Etheridge. So at first, I thought the chorus for the song "California" was a bit of self-mocking for all of us who left the Midwest and ended up on this coast: "I will find my love / I will seek my peace / I am almost free / California, rescue me." You know? California (or Oregon) ain't gonna rescue us! Except she's serious because in Etheridge's case, it kind of did.

There's one poppy, sweet-hooked song on *Awakening*, a cute little tune called "Message to Myself," that includes backing vocalists singing, "Sha la la la" but that also does a fine — if clichéd — job telling other queer folks, "Truth is what you get when truth is what you speak."

What with coming out, her partnerships, the kids and her bout with breast cancer, Etheridge long ago became tabloid fodder, but she never lost her social conscience. Who could stay dry-eyed during "Scarecrow," her song for Matthew Shepard? And of course, she wrote (and won an Oscar for) "I Need to Wake Up" for *An Inconvenient Truth*. Bryan Adams wouldn't ever go there. That's the joy of Melissa, who mixes sappy love ballads, angsty breakup rockers and bluntly wielded lyrics (check out "God Is in the People"), only to emerge with magically meaningful moments. Take your lighters to the Cuthbert; for Melissa Etheridge, cell phone lights just won't cut it. **EW**

**JOHN HENRY'S**  
BEER • MUSIC • ART  
77 W. BROADWAY (541) 342-3358  
WWW.JOHNHENRYSClub.COM  
WWW.MYSpace.COM/JOHNHENRY'S

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT  
**80'S NIGHT**  
THE LEGENDARY DANCE PARTY  
NO COVER FOR LADIES BEFORE 11 PM

EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT  
**JOHN HENRY'S BROADWAY REVUE**  
REAL LIVE BURLESQUE  
HALF PRICE ADMISSION FOR SERVICE INDUSTRY

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
**REGGAE VS HIP HOP**  
DJ KAL-EL VS DJ TEKNEEK  
NO COVER FOR LADIES BEFORE 11 PM

FRIDAY 8/22 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:  
**NORTHWEST ROYALE, 6 OUNCE GLOVES WE HAVE GUNS, FORRESTALS FALL**

SATURDAY 8/23 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:  
**COR ONE'S B-DAY BASH FEATURING CBM, 3 BLIND MICS CRITICAL MASTERS, DEBRIS OF SLOP OPERA MAKESHIFT POETIC, LOMO, STRAY CATALYSTS, DIEGO DELOREAN**

TUESDAY 8/26 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:  
**LOUIS LOGIC, THE LET GO, ANIMAL FARM**

FRIDAY 8/29 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:  
**JUCIFER, THE ATHIARCHISTS**

SATURDAY 8/30 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:  
**THE BROTHER'S OF BEAT PRESENT... PRINCE VS. MICHAEL JACKSON DANCE PARTY**

**BATES** "FEED YOUR CRAVINGS!"  
STEAK HOUSE & SALOON INC.  
433 EAST BROADWAY

**FREE DINNER**  
JUST BUY 1 DINNER ENTREE & 2 BEVERAGES AT REGULAR PRICE AND RECEIVE 2ND ENTREE VALUED AT UP TO \$15 ABSOLUTELY FREE.

One Coupon Per Table • Not Valid With Any Other Offer  
Dine In Only • Expires 08-28-08

**OPEN FOR DINNER 7 DAYS A WEEK • 683-3108**

**THE LANDMARK**  
An Ocean view from every table  
111 Hwy 101 in YACHTS • 541-547-5459  
www.landmark-yachats.com

**Live at the Coast**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 9PM  
**Hookah Stew**  
John Michael Young can play them all -- and does: funk, blues and rock

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 9PM  
**Bill Magee Blues Band**  
Blues with a New York City Style, from a true veteran

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 9PM  
**Two Leg Lucy**  
Classic Rock Covers and originals from red hot Eugene guitar band

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 9PM  
**Bryan Lee**  
New Orleans blues staple, with 30 years on Bourbon Street

**Fresh Fish/Italian - Authentic Oregon since 1911**  
• Open Jam every Sunday 4:00pm •

WELLS FARGO Summer 2008 Concert Series live at the CUTHBERT THECUTHBERT.COM

**MELISSA ETHERIDGE**  
The Revival Tour 2008  
MELISSAETHERIDGE.COM

8 P.M. SHOW TIME GATES 7 P.M. **FRIDAY AUGUST 22** CONCERT THIS FRIDAY!!

EUGENE CELEBRATION I DREAM of Eugene SEPTEMBER 12, 13 & 14

Produced by: KESEY + THE FOOD BOOTHS Beer + Wine JERRY'S NANCY'S Oregon Space THE REGISTER-GUARD WEEKLY CLEARWIRE

TICKETS AVAILABLE THRU SAFEWAY TICKETSWEST OUTLETS OR BY CALLING 1-800-992-8499, ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.TICKETSWEST.COM OR THRU THE HULT CENTER BOX OFFICE. GATES OPEN ONE HOUR PRIOR TO SHOW TIME FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.THECUTHBERT.COM