

THE BRUNS ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC BOOKS CONCERTS THEATRE MOVIES INTERVIEWS EXHIBITS

Pizza, Ponderosa and the Playhouse

Kingston's Sarah Harmer brings evening of intimate folk-country-rock to the Playhouse

by Patrick Reinartz

From the moment she stepped on stage last Saturday, it was clear that Sarah Harmer would be running this show on her own terms. A lone spotlight shone on the singer and her acoustic guitar as she assertively strummed her way through a new song completely without accompaniment.

The song itself was a pensive ballad, which filled The Playhouse with a distinctly gloomy atmosphere only to be shattered again on the next song. Joined by her band, the former Weeping Tile singer played one more new song (this one sounding much warmer) before breaking into material from her latest solo album, *You Were Here*.

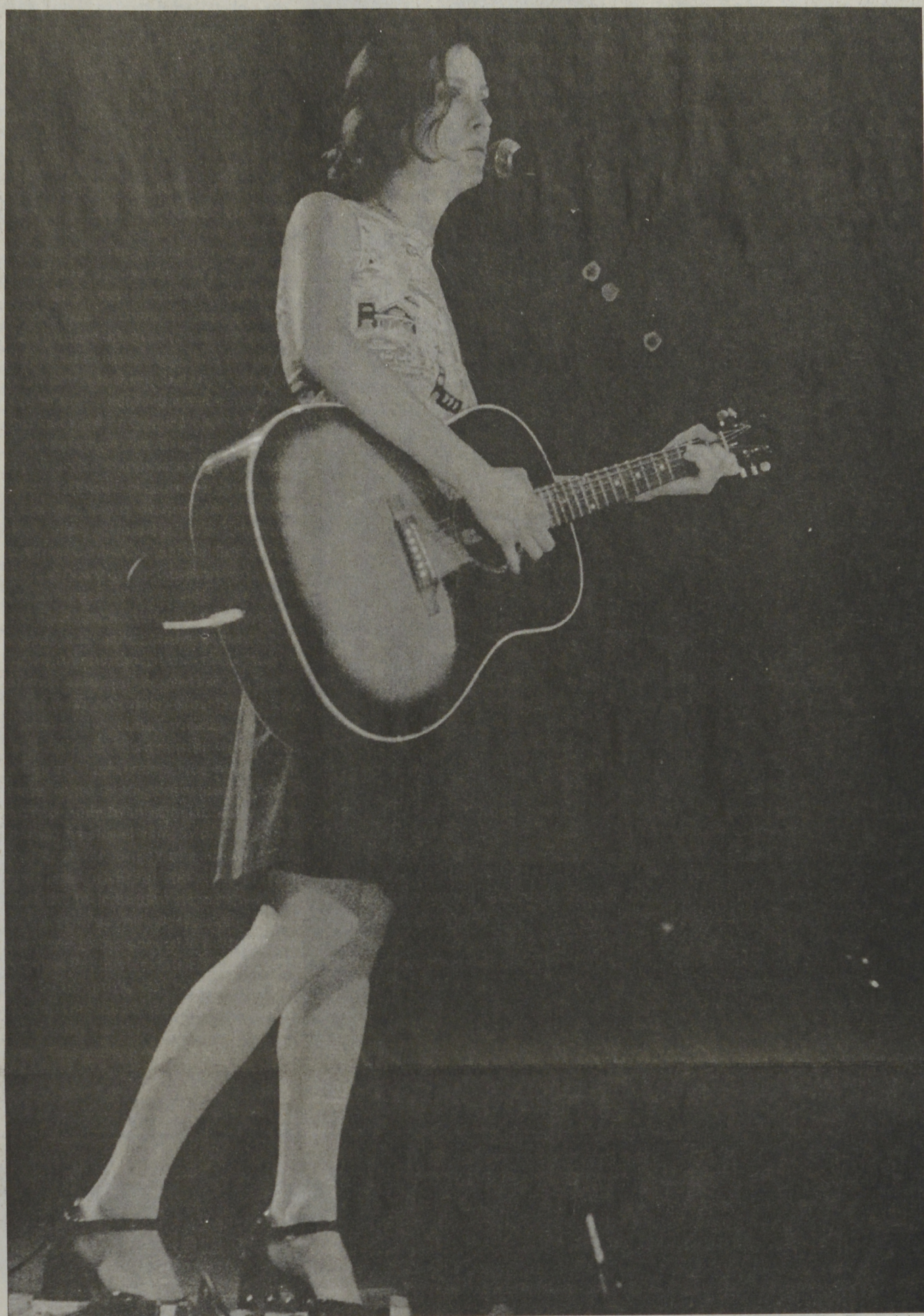
The remainder of the concert shifted back and forth between old and new material, including the magnificent 'First Lady,' 'Dogs & Thunder,' and a couple of covers. After wrapping up a version of Dolly Parton's 'Jolene' Harmer announced, "Here's another pathetic country song," and jumped into a tune by fellow Weeping Tile alumnus Luther Wright.

The audience through all this was mostly very appreciative, but a certain stuffiness hung over the room that was hard to shake. For one thing, Harmer's songs have a delightfully honest and quirky edge to them that seems better suited for an intimate club than a playhouse. The formality of it all made at least this reviewer slightly uncomfortable at times.

Luckily, Harmer seemed to note this as well and injected the occasional story or bit of humour into the show to lighten the mood. She seemed particularly pleased to see that Pizza Delight was still up and running in the Maritimes, not to mention the Ponderosa, which is always serving up reliable grub.

The highlights of the show, however, were saved for the end, as any good performer would do. Wrapping up another batch of solo acoustic songs in the middle of the show, Harmer began into the album track 'Capsized' as her band mates re-entered the stage one by one. The song was especially elevated by the band's bass player who gave an electrifying performance on the stand-up bass – the kind that will make you completely forget you are at a concert venue.

Towards the end of the set, the band began to pull out the big guns, including the singles 'Weakened State' and 'Basement Apartment,' which despite being fantastic singles were slightly less exciting in their live versions. This is



Sarah Harmer began her performance with a solo number before bringing out her band. Prince Edward Island's Nathan Wiley opened the show with a set of blues-y folk songs.

especially true of 'Weakened State,' which lacked the raw edge of its studio counterpart. The closing 'Lodestar,' however, did more than enough to compensate for anything those songs may have lacked. The song is simply too good to screw up.

The band returned for two more encores. The first began with a fan speaking up to suggest that, "We should

be up and dancing!" Harmer agreed and demanded that everyone get on their feet before running through two more songs, including 'Don't Get Your Back Up.'

The second encore was a rather confusing affair. Having played such a wide selection of songs, it appeared the band had run out of material. Harmer began playing a song, but stopped it after a brief introduction to suggest that it

was too depressing to end on. Instead, the band ran through another new (and so far untitled song), which despite Harmer's reservations, turned out to be yet another highlight, and an interesting contrast to how the show began.

Somewhere in these last few songs Harmer had turned the Playhouse from a sort of brooding ground into a pretty rockin' party.

Hot Hot Heat are hot hot stuff

BC's Hot Hot Heat bring their brand of rock-funk to the Maritimes

by Patrick Reinartz

Since forming in 1999, so much has happened to Victoria's Hot Hot Heat that any interviewer would have a hard time deciding where to begin asking questions. After a handful of EPs and one other album, the band signed with Seattle's infamous Sub Pop label, which also brought Eric's Trip, Nirvana and the Smashing Pumpkins to the world.

"It did happen quickly," admits drummer Paul Hawley, "but we wanted it to happen quickly... That was our goal." This is not to say, however, that the band planned from day one to become some sort of rock phenomenon.

"It just sort of crept in. We tried to stay a bit more busy with it, but it was never too serious. We just wanted to have fun." And there is certainly no shortage of fun in the band's music. The group's new album *Make Up The Breakdown* is a bizarre, yet highly entertaining, romp through four decades of music. The mostly pop-based songs draw on everything from 60s motown, to 80s new wave and 90s grunge.

"Sometimes we'll want to write a dance song and we'll do our interpretation of a dance song, or we'll do our interpretation of a rock song. Or

we'll just do songs that come out and there isn't a formula for it," Hawley explains, trying to rationalize the band's quirky genre-defying sound.

"Doing pop music, you're always riding the cheese line. You're always wondering, is this going to be kitchy in a couple of years? Is this going to be seen as a joke or something? But if we release a song, we never have any doubts about it. We actually approach our pop songs more seriously because we know that we're playing with fire." As a result, *Make Up The Breakdown* is brimming with meticulously crafted pop songs, such as 'Get In Or Get Out' and 'Oh, Goddamnit.'

There is, however, also a serious rock side to the band, which comes at an interesting time given the current revival of rock in the public eye through bands such as The Strokes, The Hives, The Vines or The White Stripes.

"I definitely feel a kinship with what's going on right now. Not because we know those bands, but because I think we're coming from a similar mindset. We just do what we want to do, and what we like to do, and all of a sudden that's getting us attention and we're grateful for that. It definitely opened a window, for every band, but we were doing what we were doing before we heard of The Strokes," Hawley muses, adding, "I think the public can only stomach so much, you know, Wave or whatever... Kids want youthful energy and if that comes in the form of N'Sync, they'll take



Hot Hot Heat are so funky, they should be in jail. See above for a re-enactment, or check them out at the Upperdeck on Saturday.

that, but how many albums can N'Sync really deliver before the kids get tired of it?"

Our guess would be not very many, but once it happens, it's nice to know

that a band like Hot Hot Heat will be out there making fun, believable pop music. For a taste of the band's sound, check them out at The Upperdeck on Saturday night, October 5.

the listings

Music

Fri 4th
Soft Canyon - Cellar
Liona Boyd - Playhouse
Pub Soda - Dolan's
jeT - Capital

Sat 5th
Hot Hot Heat - Upperdeck
Martin Tielli, Vetch - Memorial Hall
Pub Soda - Dolan's
Flat Top - Capital

Tues 8th
Ennis Sisters - Playhouse

Wed 9th
Blinded - Cellar

Thurs 10th
Gods of Taste - Taproom
Jim Whitter: Piano Men - Playhouse
Fortune's Hand - Dolan's

Art

• *Preserved* (Andrew Henderson), *Animalia* (SPCA Fundraiser) & *Section - Elevation* (Sarah Petite). Gallery 78. An opening reception for all three exhibitions will be held today, Oct. 4, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The exhibitions will remain on display until Oct. 27.

• *Strictly Whatever*. Memorial Hall. An eclectic photographic installation featuring the unique work of the eleven members of the Silverfish collective. The gallery is open from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on weekdays. *Strictly Whatever* will remain on display until November 1st.

• *Quilting The Past*. NB Fine Craft Centre. Six art quilt designs by Harriet Harding and Jodi Braine. Open Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm. On display until end of September.

Films & Other Events

• *Atanarjuat the Fast Runner*. Presented by the Capital Film Society, see inside for a special preview. Tilley Hall, Oct. 7 at 8:00 pm.

• *Malaysian Cultural Night*. Oct. 5 at 7:00 pm in the SUB Cafeteria.

Locations

Bugaboo Pub, 422 Queen
Capital, 362 Queen
Cellar, SUB, UNB Campus
Chestnut, 440 York
Dolan's, 349 King
Gallery 78, 796 Queen
Memorial Hall, UNB Campus
NB Fine Craft Centre, 87 Regent
Playhouse, 686 Queen
SUB Cafeteria, UNB Campus
Upperdeck, 375 King

** Featured Listing **

Animalia

This exhibition, involving the work of over forty contemporary artists takes the representation of animals as a theme.

From the inception of art as body markings or on prehistoric cave walls, every age and every continent has embraced the animal as a subject matter for art. This show is intended as a testament and a tribute to the impact animals have had on our lives and our art and is also a thank you to the creatures who have been the source of so much inspiration.

A significant portion of the proceeds for the show will be donated to the Fredericton SPCA to help them build a new shelter to accommodate the ever expanding number of homeless and abandoned animals. An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

To have your event appear in the listings, e-mail bruns@unb.ca or fax 453-5073.

Malaysian Cultural Night is back!

by Bruns Staff

Each year, UNB's Malaysian Students' Society hosts an evening of food, music and dancing, and 2002 will be no exception. This year's edition will take place on Saturday, October 5 with tickets already on sale.

Those attending can expect a buffet style dinner of over 15 dishes, including dishes for vegetarians. Anyone interested in trying new foods, or with a love of spicy foods should not miss this!

After dinner, a performance will be staged, featuring Malay, Indian and Chinese acts. Spectators will be privileged with a colorful and intriguing look into the lives of Malaysians and their culture.

The Malaysian Students' Society was founded in 1978 to help new Malaysians integrate into the Fredericton community and share their culture with the UNB community.

The festivities will begin at 7:00 pm in the SUB Cafeteria. Tickets are on sale at Head Hall, Tilley Hall, the SUB, and the Friendship convenience store. More information, visit <http://www.unb.ca/clubs/mss>.