

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

b-arts@unb.ca • September 28, 2005

A plethora of music both familiar and innovative awaited concertgoers at the SUB cafeteria last week



Michèle Legendre, Iskander Ben Amor, Nick McLean, William Koruna / The Brunswick

This "haunting" image was taken at the Renaissance College Halloween night in 2003. You don't have to, but you could continue with some more cutline - usually only if its important, additional information that's not found in the article (why isn't it in the article?).

Still rocking after 15 years

Sloan got audiences all riled up Saturday night

by Jason Tucker

How does one describe an overall concert experience? In the case of last Saturday night's show featuring Sloan and The Stills from Montreal, the most accurate way to describe the show is "incredible."

From about 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 in the morning, the SUB cafeteria was a mass of screaming bodies, electrified by some top-flight rock and roll. The Stills, as a band unknown by many of the fans at the show, took the stage to open for Sloan on Saturday night. However, by the end of the first song or two, the audience had been won over by the music and the friendly camaraderie that the band immediately formed with the fans on the ground.

Aside from one minor incident involving the throwing of a drink of some kind (and why

anyone would waste a drink like that is beyond the comprehension of this author's Irish blood, but that's beside the point), which was handled effectively by security. At that point, the crowd was well-behaved.

Sloan is a band described as "arguably the greatest band to come out of Canada" and, alternatively, "The Canadian Beatles." While I disagree with these statements, after seeing the show, I can certainly come to an understanding of why someone would think such things about them.

Sloan took over a different stage with a different audience at the front of the crowd than the one that was rocking with the Stills. Unfortunately, during the intermission, a fairly large group of individuals managed to push their

way to the front of the audience and make everything rather tense for about forty-five minutes as temperatures literally soared, tempers flared, and space rather than water became the most precious commodity of the night. Fortunately, violence was avoided for the most part.

This slight change in the chemistry of the group did nothing to neither quell Sloan's enthusiasm, nor dull their performance. When they finally took the stage somewhere between 11:00 p.m. and midnight, the crowd was ready to enjoy every note. Sloan's performance was everything expected from a band that has been rocking the Canadian music scene for fifteen years: excellent sound, professional-level performance - everything expected and even demanded from a band of their calibre. Their professionalism did nothing to prevent them from having fun and developing a relationship with the audience, some-

thing that I find happens all too frequently with bands with the level of fame that these guys have. Between this and the music, this concert can definitely go down in the books as a success.

After the show, I had the opportunity to meet and chat with some of the members of Sloan. While I was unable to get into any long and drawn-out conversations with

them, I was impressed by their humility and the fact they were willing to go out and meet the people who made them famous. So, after getting a couple of autographs, saying some congratulations, and exchanging a laugh or two with guitarist Jay Ferguson, I made my way back through the night, a tired but happy concertgoer.

Fall in love with Saving Face

by Jeremy Dickson

Saving Face, a groundbreaking Chinese-American production from first-time director Alice Wu, will be screened on October 3 at 8:00 p.m. in Tilley 102. The romantic comedy was selected for the 2004 Toronto International Film Festival and the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and, since its theatre release, has received plenty of industry buzz, which will likely continue after its DVD release in October.

Set in New York City, the film stars Michelle Krusiec (Pumpkin, Cursed) as Wil, a promising Manhattan doctor, and the incomparable Joan Chen (The Last Emperor, Twin Peaks) as Wil's forty-eight-year-old widowed mother, Ma. The film begins as mother and daughter try their best to get along when Ma takes Wil to Chinese singles dances. Ma hopes to find her daughter a good man, but here's the catch: Wil privately prefers women.

Wil's life is later turned upside down when Ma shows up at her door with shocking news: she's pregnant and without a husband in the picture. Her pregnancy has disgraced her traditional Chinese community in Queens and Ma is

banished by her strict father. Wil is forced to take her mother in, but problems arise when Wil tries to hide her new romance with Vivian, a professional dancer, from her mother.

Ma secretly knows her daughter is gay but her traditional values force her to live in denial. She also can't be critical of Wil because of her own predicament. Both mother and daughter love each other but the fear of cultural taboos and reputation shadow their true feelings. Ma and Wil must choose to live and love honestly or suffer for their mistakes and secrets.

Saving Face is perhaps the first American film to explore Chinese-American lesbian relationships in a mature fashion. Alice Wu, herself a gay Chinese-American, balances issues of love, honor, vulnerability, and traditional versus modern culture in a serious, but often very funny, manner.

"My favorite stories arise from good-but-flawed characters trying desperately to do what each believes is best for a given situation. I wrote Saving Face as a love-letter to my mother," said Wu.

Saving Face gives further proof to the theory that "it is never too late to fall in love for the first time."



Internet

Strong medicine for the punk industry

Ted Leo, leader of successful punk band Ted Leo and The Pharmacists, has discovered the formula for joining the mainstream, without selling out.

by Ben Conoley

Punk rock has unquestionably established itself as a mammoth success story in popular music. Green Day has played Giants' Stadium, Travis Barker has a reality show, and Hilary Duff has her arms around Benji Madden.

Then there's the other kind of punk rock. Ted Leo, front man of Ted Leo and The Pharmacists, holds on tight to the scene he grew up in, even if it means he doesn't quite fit perfectly into the current one. He and his band have secured a loyal and growing fan base by maintaining the integrity he holds so close to his heart, and next month, Ted Leo and The Pharmacists will be making a headlining appearance at the Halifax Pop Explosion.

Leo's place within punk rock

isn't familiar even to himself, despite his having released six albums.

"I feel like I'm somewhat of an anachronism," he says. "I kind of unabashedly look for my cues musically, ideologically, and business-wise back to the era in which I grew up and formed my ideas about what my role should be. It was a very different era in punk rock. I'm not saying that things shouldn't move and change, but how I fit into that, I really don't know."

He admits that his band has benefited from the mainstream acceptance of punk even though they haven't fully immersed themselves into modern practices. "It's bringing a lot more kids to the table. I've certainly benefited from

that. In the 90s, the only example of a band that broke through in a major way was Fugazi. They managed to cross every possible barrier and have every punk kid in every area of the world be into them."

Leo says that today's groups don't have to go to the lengths Fugazi did to reach a similar level of success. "Right now it's a bit different. Bands can have the same size audience and are enjoying that because of mainstream exposure that brings in people who didn't grow up doing basement shows."

On September 24, Ted Leo and The Pharmacists shared a stage with The Bouncing Souls, Le Tigre, The Coup, and Anti-Flag to play Operation Ceasefire in Washington D.C. Participation in the anti-war rally further established Leo as an outspoken commentator on current events and politics. With the mainstream success of Green Day's American Idiot and Anti-Flag's recent signing to RCA, it's getting safer and maybe even financially wise for musicians to

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MC?'S ULTRA-ACCURATE HOROSCOPES

Virgo 8/23-9/22

You will be asked to go on a voyage into an alternate dimension filled with warlocks and five-legged tigers.

Libra 9/23-10/22

You will find a CD lying on the ground and take it home. The CD will hold many secrets of the universe, even the Cadbury one.

Scorpio 10/23-11/21

You will accidentally walk into a parked car, and it will have to be written off from the severe damages.

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21

Your next-door neighbor is spying on you. You'd better keep a close eye on them to maintain the upper hand.

Capricorn 12/22-1/19

You will find a hidden door at the back of your closet. The portal leads to Sarnia, Ontario. Sorry about your luck.

Aquarius 1/20-2/18

You will meet your dream date. Too bad it was that dream about the goat and the monkey with the weird accent.

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Your left eyeball and your mouth are bored with their respective existences. They will switch places to spice things up.

Aries 3/21-4/19

Jump to your right quickly to dodge the bullet meant to smite you. Then use this *Bruno* to defeat your would-be killer.

Taurus 4/20-5/20

You will be horribly killed in a freak accident with a mechanical bull, but then revived fully by a passing shaman.

Gemini 5/21-6/21

God will show up on your doorstep and ask to borrow a cup of milk. Whatever you do, don't run out of milk this week.

Cancer 6/22-7/22

One morning next week you will remember how to float through the air using your mind to control your movement.

Leo 7/23-8/22

A secret message will be written on pieces of rice in your next meal. Now, if only you can figure out the proper order.

• Mark Cameron