

arts & entertainment

Sparks fly at Craig's Grawood gig

by Jen Horsey and Andrew Smith

Toronto's Sara Craig was featured at the Grawood last weekend. The posters promised an appearance on Friday night at 9 pm, for the price of four dollars. Well, at least the price was correct, but those of us who actually arrived for the 9 pm show had the dubious privileged of watching Sara Craig *et al* conduct their sound check.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Sara Craig
Grawood Lounge
Friday, March 18

An hour or so later, Owen Chapman, a King's Student with a guitar (and really cool hair) showed up as the opening act. Just Owen, alone on stage accompanied only by his guitar, looking very nervous. We didn't even have to guess about the nervous part, he actually told us that he was feeling "really nervous." He was good though, and the three Ani Difranco covers that he played had a couple of tables screaming in ecstasy.

Sara Craig appeared by 11, bearing a warning to watch out for Owen, because he looked a lot like her ex-husband, about whom she writes most of her songs. By now, we were definitely ready to hear some of that David Bowie/Annie Lennox voice that we'd been waiting for. She didn't disappoint us.

Craig put on a very theatrical show, which neatly managed to capture the audience's attention. She played songs from her first, self-titled CD, as well as some newer material



A small crowd found this Toronto artist worth the wait.

which will be found on her next album. The release date is described as: "imminent", whenever that is, so expect it sometime this summer.

Several of her other songs, such as "Sparks Fly", and "Thank-you Very Much" can be found on CFNY (Toronto) music compilations, and a

Funky Bummer release. She also surprised us by ending with a couple of covers, which had the audience howling. Especially good was her Violent Femmes cover of "Add It Up".

As charismatic as Sara Craig is, her guest guitarist, Chris Abbot of The Pursuit of Happiness, could not be overlooked. Aside from flying red braids, her playing was incredible. After several outbursts from Abbot at the end of the evening, Craig

looked over at her and exclaimed, "Chris. It's a good thing I'm a secure person, because you keep upstaging me." I don't think she has much to worry about.

The next time Sara Craig comes to town, be sure to catch her. She will be back, as she said that she likes it here. She also puts on an excellent show, definitely worth the four dollars, even with the wait.

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Wed/Th *Celtic Rock w T.O.'s Mahones*

STICK NO BILLS

Roseanne of many faces

by Leigha White

When word came out over the 'net that Roseanne Arnold is a multiple personality, that clinched my decision: I wanted this book.

BOOK REVIEW
My Lives
Roseanne Arnold
Ballantine Books

There is something of an inner strength denied its normal fire, then allowed to blaze, throughout these pages. Here, we walk through the lives of a celebrity who fought through childhood sexual abuse, learning to split herself off into other people to survive.

This is, in fact, the world of many. Sexual abuse is widespread across North America, and more and more people are discovering that they coped with the hell by dissociating themselves, developing "others" who knew how to deal with the outright hell of it. Multiple personality, thought to be the mental framework of one percent of the population, is not the insanity we are told it is, but a survival tool, a way to stay sane, to keep from suiciding.

Styles change and flow throughout *My Lives*. Like *The Troops For Truddi Chase* before her, Roseanne is able to chronicle the different sides and different selves, both subtly and overtly. She is able to chronicle the firecracker flashes of memory, the madness of the



sitcom backstage, the metamorphosis that the healing process causes in all of us.

Here are strong women, driven by righteous anger and the desire to make life more than survival, to flourish and reach zenith. This one does not travel roads of simplicity. Roseanne moved from abusive situation to abusive situation, out of addiction, finding strength in such things as her work (the sitcom "Roseanne", one of the strongest shows on the air), her spirituality (she is a self-identified Witch who has raised her children Craft), and her gender (whether feminist in label or no, she is rooted in her sex).

Though the book does not always hold together perfectly (there was an attempt to remain chronologically ordered that sadly weakened the book's structure), the sheer power of the work manages to blast through. Even if de-

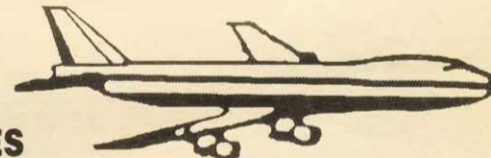
tails are not always so easily understood, the emotional impact of the work tends to make its point nevertheless. Like *When Rabbit Howls* (by The Troops For Truddi Chase) before it, this is a piece that does not rely on having had the experience of abuse or multiplicity to convey the phoenix rising.

Of course, there have been occasional mutters by multiples who do not want Roseanne "representing" them. Roseanne does not attempt to be anything more than who she is, however, and is not trying to be "the model multiple" any more than the Troops were. She/they do, however, tell the story, and is/are in the position to possibly put across to society at large that multiplicity isn't insanity. It is but another way to be.

Here is power. Touch it.

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