

ARTS



## Slayer's supply meets metallic demand

by J. Wilson  
Slayer  
Massey Hall

Slayer came on in a storm of metallic noise.

The theatrics of past tours were gone, the light show kept to a minimum and special effects limited to a few smoke machines. Even the band themselves seemed more real, dressed like average American teenagers not speed metal monsters. All of the night's efforts had gone towards getting as many amplifiers on stage as possible.

Just what was going on here? Was it legal to expose people to massive amounts of raw energy even if this is what they wanted? A prime example of supply and demand at work.

Slayer played a steady set, balancing their new and old material evenly throughout. The slower, heavier tunes were interjected to give the diehard headbangers a rest, not to mention a chance to ease the strain on the balconies which I was sure

were going to collapse onto the people below.

Lead singer, Tom Araya, seemed slightly schizophrenic, two voices within him fighting to get the attention of the crowd. He used this duality to bridge the gap between Slayer's images of unholy doom and their relevance to the real world.

What Araya had to say between songs provided a taste of Slayer's critical examinations of the world around them.

The song "Chemical Warfare" was dedicated to "that insane fucker Saddam Hussein who is crazy enough to use it!!." This bit of seemingly pro-war hype was later followed by this exchange: Araya (regular voice): "O.K., how many of you have friends in the Gulf?" (a few cheers, meager applause). Araya (demon voice): "No, no, no, man. How many of YOU have FRIENDS in the Gulf!?!?!?"

The audience catches his drift. Massive applause and cheers. Araya (in regular voice): "Yeah, I thought so. This song is dedicated to all of

OUR friends in the gulf, our boys who are out there fighting right now (demon voice); This song is called MANDATORYSUICIDE!!! (Massive screaming as a thousand fists go up in the air.)

I couldn't keep track of what songs were played and in what order. I felt too lame-assed sitting there taking notes on a concert where everyone around me was going absolutely berserk.

Eventually I lost my pencil and pad, getting swept up in the powerful aural assault on my soul. This is Slayer live.

Standing before their fans they painted images of pain, suffering, and anger against a background of screaming guitar solos and a machine gun barrage of razor sharp chords.

Before Slayer, stood the tormented, confused and frustrated youths finally able to express the insanity they felt inside. Not exactly socially redeeming but definitely therapeutic. Supply and demand for sure.

## Thumbs up for Toronto native

by Jennifer Laidlaw  
Ferron  
Phantom Center  
Chameleon Records

What a surprise! I am not a salesperson but, I am sold on Ferron.

Ferron, a pop-rock artist initially from Toronto, has recently released a new album titled Phantom Centre. One listen to this album is convincing of Ferron's continued success as a musician.

Ferron has a vision of politics, love, and life. Ferron's well-written songs evoke strong emotions through the power of both the statement made and her voice.

If compared to anyone, her voice resembles Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac at times, as well as Alison Moyett. The power of her wide-ranged voice, combined with her lyrics and backed by her band, illustrates a great deal of talent.

Ferron's blend of vocal skill and technique stands out specifically in two different songs on *Phantom Centre*. The title song "Phantom Center" is a slow, pleasing tone that Ferron gently whispers, even though the message is loud. It questions the political corruption in our society and our individual roles in it.

"Stand up (love in the corners)" on the other hand has a faster pop-rock beat more suitable for fast dancing. The song, however, harmoniously says that peace is attainable through love if everyone would

only stand up for it. Together, Ferron's power of lyrics and voice make her stand-out as an activist for life.

Ferron is modest about her success; not letting it go to her head because part of her talent is introspection. She is very aware of her listener's feelings through her own reflections on life and what she feels is important.

The *New York Times* stated that Ferron's lyrics are full of "rich

archetypal imagery". The images of life and love, in a political framework are what Ferron wants to make listeners aware of. Her music is rich with all of these images and asks many questions about them.

*Phantom Centre* is Ferron's fourth album (her other three albums are *Ferron Backed Up*, *Testimony*, and *Shadows on a Dime*) and promises continual success for her. Ferron's unique lyrics and voice make it a definite thumbs up.

**Photography from Feb.27-Mar.17.** Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm, and it is located at 2275 Bayview Ave.

Jason Schwartz's photo exhibit entitled *Still Looking*, will be featured at the **Purple Lounge, Fine Arts 2** on **Mar.11-13**. The hours of the opening are 7-10pm.

**CONCERTS**  
**Theatre Glendon**, located at 2275 Bayview Ave. presents **Women Beware Women**, by Howard Barker and Thomas Middleton, on **Mar.19-23**, at 8pm. The price is \$4 for students and \$5 for others.

**FILMS**  
York University is running a **Human Rights Film Series** each Thurs. at noon-2pm, in the **Senate Chamber** (S915 Ross). On **Mar.7**, **A Matter of Choice** depicts a woman's reaction to experiencing a date rape. For more information call Gloria Georganas at 736-5380.

compiled by Trevor Campbell

**GALLERIES**  
On **March 4**, the **Art Gallery of York University**, (N145 Ross) presents **The Contemporary Curator**, which is a one day conference regarding the creation, exhibition and discussion of the contemporary visual arts.

Registration fees are \$30 for students, \$50 for AGYU members, and \$60 for all others. This presentation will coincide with **Living in the Hot House**, an exhibition by Tony Brown. Call the gallery at 736-5169 for further details.

**Glendon College's Maison de la Culture**, located at 2275 Bayview Ave. (at Lawrence), presents **Portraits of Quebec Writers** by Daniel Gagnon. The show runs from **Feb.28-Mar.22**. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 12pm-4pm, and Thurs. 6pm-8:30pm.

The **Glendon Gallery** presents **Reality and Motive in Documentary**

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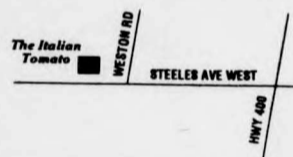


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