

# arts & entertainment

## Benefit a success

by Joe Tramnik

I must admit that before going, I really expected some women-centric man-bashing event that I wouldn't enjoy. Now, it's not that I have a problem with those types of events; it's just that they're not my bag.

Anyway, my point is, boy, was I surprised. The artists that were performing at this event were some of the slickest, most talented people that I've ever seen in the Maritimes. Stellar performances were given in almost all areas of the program. As a matter of fact, I only see one area that was worthy of detraction: Gwen Noah.

The evening started with an interpretive dance by dancer of Gwen Noah Dance. Gwen Noah. I cannot say anything nice about her performance, other than to say that she's got a nice back. Her performance was puerile and artless. It looked like a "pose-down" at a women's body-building competition. Please, no one give this woman a Canada Council Grant. She's not worth it.

Other than her, everything was really great. Natalie McMaster showed once again that she's much better than Ashley MacIssac.

Dal student Joanna Mirsky showed

off her voice and her talent for song-writing with her insightful and moving new tune, "Reconciliation". (She'll be playing at the Grawood in the near future.) As well, Cape Breton singing favourite, Doris Mason, wooed the crowd with her smooth and fun vocal style.

Poet supreme of the Maritimes, Maxine Tynes, really showed what she's made of with selected readings from her various published books of poetry. I didn't realize until I heard her that she actually speaks the way she writes. Very interesting.

Lisa Comeau, also a poet, showed the crowd why she had something of her own following in Halifax — very funny and very insightful.

Last but not least, performance artist Renée Penney celebrated her latest period with a blood red vulva cake. I thought I was going to fall out of my chair with laughter. Move over CODCO.

All in all, this was a great event. The cause was worthwhile and the event served to build the level of anticipation for the coming Women's Film Festival. If any of the films are half as good as this event, the festival will be a success too.



Joanna Mirsky performing at last week's REEL Women's Film Benefit Concert

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

# Jerry's PUB

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### Bands Scheduled

Taratuma	Sept. 19-Sept. 25
Cameras in Paris	Sept 26-Oct. 2
Freddie James	Oct. 3-Oct. 8
Oct. 8	CANADA'S #1 DJ Chris Sheppard Featuring the hit single "The beat goes..." Trackdate
Oct. 9.	7th Annual Maritime DJ Spinoff