

Photo Bill St. John

...entertainment, from p.8

Siberry defies trends

Jane Siberry
Dinwoodie Lounge
Nov. 16

review by Suzette C. Chan

The acoustics at the Dinwoodie sound check were scary; noise was bouncing all around the cavernous hall, and half of it was being lost.

"But I'm really surprised at the sound in here," Jane Siberry said halfway through her long set. "You must all be good sound absorbers. So if you go home with little bits of song in you, you'll know why."

The audience knew why. Siberry and her band withstood lounge chat and bad acoustics Friday night to deliver a bouncy, inspired performance.

Siberry, who charms with a half-smile and a wounded bird dance, has an innate sense of drama that she never lets become mere theatrics.

She acted out characters in "Mimi on the Beach" and "Dancing Class" well enough to earn the audience's sympathy, inviting listeners to look inward as they watched her.

Siberry's narration techniques were particularly effective, especially in an imaginative live translation of "Map of the World Part I" and on "Extra Executives," when she and her similarly breezy-voiced keyboardist did a lounge language double rap.

Half the songs she performed were heavily rhythm based, which pleased the bopfest fans, but the bass and drums tended to overpower Siberry's delicate vocals.

She performed almost all the songs from her *No Borders Here* album in the first half of the set, and new songs and adaptations of songs from her first album in the second set. The imbalance marred the pace of the show, but Siberry recovered during the encore with "Map of the World Part II," a new upbeat number.

In contrast to Siberry's simple, one-on-one relationship with her audience, opening act Neo A-4 seemed bored or nervous under their perfect coiffures. They are probably quite talented - they must be to sport such impressive hi-tech equipment - but they were inaudible under distortion because of the excessive volume.



Photo Bill St. John

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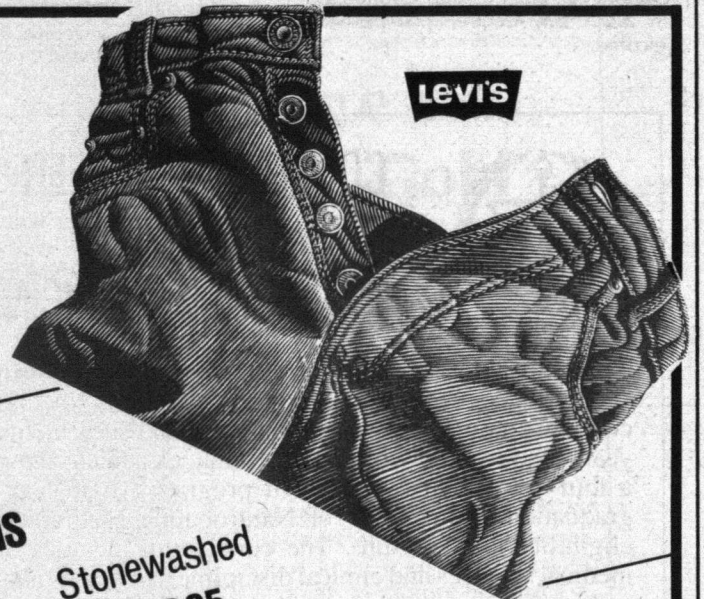
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PART II**

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