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women's a r t s

Siberry sings it sweetly

by Tonë Meeg

Jane Siberry played to a full house at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium Friday night. Those who saw her will probably agree it was a great concert. The sound quality of the Cohn enhanced the richness of the backup band. Siberry herself, although a bit shy to begin with, soon warmed up to the audience with her own quiet power onstage. The concert highlighted her new album *The Walking*, but she did also manage to add favourites from *The Speckless Sky* and *No Borders Here*.

I got to talk to Jane before the concert and managed to get some interesting facts about her music and her life. She said she felt her new album was different from the last two albums in lyric content as well as musical style. Most of her previous songs deal with stories and portraits of people, whereas *The Walking* focusses more on personal things, feelings and moods. This is probably why so many reviewers have labelled the new album *obscure!*. The music is more melodic than the previous albums, with more instruments and backup singers.

Jane gathers her influences from vast resources, such as Robert Service, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell and Neil Young. She also finds a degree of value in trashy novels, comics, and Monty Python's *Flying Circus*. Given these influences and her lyrics, it's hard to overlook her unique sense of humour.

Those who have seen the "Speckless Sky" video will no doubt remember the cow, Buttercup, who made an appearance. Well, we couldn't let Jane leave the interview before she told us,

why the cow! She said cows are simple, whole and peaceful, and have a sort of sadness that moves you — horses are girly and goats are goofy. So this is why she chose the cow — makes sense!

Jane's family have been supportive throughout her musical career. Her mother attends her concerts, listens to her albums and writes out lists of questions about the lyrics so she can fully understand her daughter's meaning. Her father is also very proud of her and likes to boast about his daughter to people in Toronto.

I asked Jane about the processes involved for her in writing a song. It seems it's quite a natural thing for her; take a

shower, eat breakfast, and write a song. She says she's too lazy to go research a topic, nor does she treat writing like an English exercise. When a certain story comes into her mind, it becomes more of an obsession she must convey in words.

This was the beginning of a three-month tour for Siberry that will take her to Europe eventually. Her recognition there is sparse but is improving since Warner Brothers released *The Speckless Sky* there last spring. Jane hopes to get her next album out sooner than the last (there were two years between albums) and says she has already begun writing it. So look forward to a new release next year.

Black women celebrate

by Jayn Ritchie

On Friday, March 4, a celebration was held to honour International Women's Day at the Halifax North Branch Library.

Black Women on the Move is a group of Halifax women concerned with the role of Black women in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. While the organization is interested in serious issues about black women in the community, such as racism and sexual discrimination, the event was expressly a celebration.

The evening was chaired by Delvina Bernard, of the *a capella* group Four The Moment, with humour and a positive attitude. She welcomed short messages from a number of women from the community — among them Joyce Robart, Sylvia Hamilton, Rosemary Brown, and Linda

Carvery of the Congress of Black Women,

Following refreshments, Toni Goree and Delores Gabriel performed a short theatre piece, followed by a discussion of "Future Visions", the Sunday afternoon radio programme on CKDU-FM which focusses on black community events and issues. The evening was concluded with a showing of the short film *You Have Struck a Rock*, which focussed on women activists in South Africa in the last few decades.

In addition, the small but friendly gathering of both men and women was supplied with a display of records (arranged by "Future Visions") and books (courtesy of the Main Branch Library), including a free resource booklet entitled "Black Women Writing: Pathfinders", now available at the Halifax City Regional Library.

News

Yesterday in France a woman walked into a building carrying a box of chocolates the radio announcer who was a man said that she had blonde hair and that she sat for twenty minutes in a waiting room with this box of chocolates which really was a bomb and stayed until the entire hotel was blown away this document from 1941 features Evangeline carrying a small box of chocolates or perhaps a Bible for Ganong Brothers Limited and Fine Confectionary another brave woman entertained by the troops.

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Heather Levy