Walk with Sheryl Crow reveals singer's other side

By JAY SPIEGELMAN Staff Reporter

I'll bet that if I had bought a lottery ticket last Monday, I would have won.

It was my very first time seeing Sheryl Crow perform live, and I was utes later, the doors swung open and Crow. Then this woman who was just dog.

I knelt down to pet the dog and when I looked up to see whose dog it bodyguard) for a walk, and I asked if fore going back into the Orpheum that was, there was Sheryl Crow. She was I could show them around the city. She afternoon was "Why haven't I been accompanied by her bodyguard, and agreed, and we were on our way. they both hurried in to the Orpheum because of the cold.

I stopped kicking myself for missing to recognize her. my big chance - I resumed my posishe would come out again.

performing during their sound check for almost two hours. About 10 mineagerly anticipating her performance. the same golden puppy emerged, a regular human being.

She was taking her dog (and her

ket, and I pointed out all the interest- Sheryl Crow.

After the initial shock faded-and ing things there - and no one seemed

After a short walk, we headed back tion by the backstage door, hoping that to the Orpheum and said our goodbyes. She happily signed my CD, I could hear Crow and her band and I was left to revel in my walk with Crow.

It wasn't until that night that I realized why no one in the Old Market had recognized her. On our walk, she I was standing outside the Orpheum leashed again to Sheryl Crow. She was was Miss Crow, a sweet young woman Theater's backstage entrance about 3 wearing blue sweat pants, a gray sweat who could be mistaken for any other p.m., freezing but hoping to just catch shirt and sunglasses. She looked noth- person in Omaha, but on stage, she a glimpse of or get an autograph from ing like the Sheryl Crow that had was Sheryl Crow, a sensual ball of graced televisions and magazines for energy that held a sell-out crowd in over 5 feet tall came along, walking a the past two years - she looked like the palm of her hand - and she knew

> The last thing she said to me behere before?" I have a feeling that this We walked through the Old Mar- is not the last Omaha has seen of

Sheryl Crow, Dishwalla intoxicate Omaha

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opened with "If It Makes You Happy," the first single off her selftitled album.

Crow's powerful, yet soothing voice and gentle mannerisms created an informal climate for the duration of the show. Displaying not only the range of her voice, Crow also impressed the audience by playing the guitar, keyboard, accordion, harmonica and castanets.

Her frothy banter with the crowd and with her own band kept everyone in the best of moods, even while covering some of her own personal issues. She stopped after a soulful rendition of "Maybe An-

gels," to discuss her position on censorship and her news-making conflict with Wal-Mart. Even Dustin Hoffman would have been proud when Crow denounced the mega-store's actions by simply saying "Wal-Mart sucks."

Her set ranged from folk to rock to gospel, but was always Crow. Winding down the show with the moving song "I Shall Believe," she and her band took a bow and left. only to return for a three-song en-

core. Crow's performance beat a Tuesday morning hangover hands down. The light-hearted atmosphere, dabbed with moments of sobriety, proved that all she wanted to do was have some fun.

lusic, schmooze flow thwest treely

SXSW from page 12

But the hype worked in Lullaby's favor — they were the only SXSW band to have its photo run in this Monday's edition of the New York Times

badly either, playing at the Ritz Saturday to a receptive crowd.

One of the undisputed highlights of SXSW was the Jayhawks performance Saturday night at Stubbs.

that put on an amazing show Saturday night was roots-rockers the Honeydogs, who recently signed with Mercury Records.

Other bands that put on good Blue Moon Ghetto didn't do too shows at SXSW include Columbia, Mo.'s Ditch Witch, Kelly Willis, Victoria Williams, the Gourds, Giant Sand, Joe Henry and the Waco Brothers, who performed a surprise set at a

Another superb Minneapolis band with Austin band the Texas Meat Purveyors.

Other exceptional performances were turned in by Slobberbone, Whiskeytown, Blue Mountain, The Violets (watch out for this band - the lead singer has the voice of Melissa Etheridge and the stage presence of an alt-country Gwen Stefani) and Minneapolis singer Marlee MacLeod.

Some other bands of note that perbackyard barbecue Friday afternoon formed at SXSW include Old 97s,

Cake, Soul-Coughing, Brave Combo, week-long circus of schmoozing and Matthew Sweet, Indigenous, the Backsliders, the Skeletones, Yo La Tengo, Royal Crown Revue and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

Austin native Alejandro Escovedo and his rock-orchestral ensemble provided the perfect close to the week, playing a much different set than the one he performed when he opened for

Son Volt in Omaha a few months ago. and glitz, there's still the music. And The SXSW Music Conference is a that's what it's really all about.



Marcela Raffaelli, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Acculturation and Sexual Behavior of Latino Women in the United States

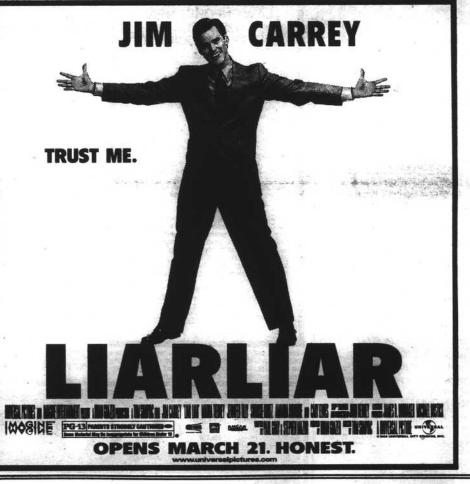
TODAY, 3:30 p.m., City Union



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boozing. It's young bands playing their hearts out in hopes of that golden record contract. It's established performers standing in line with their fans to see their own musical heroes.

> It's blatant material excess and self-promotion to the highest degree.

But once you look past all the hype

