

Artist tackles issues through music

By Emily Pyeatt

Staff writer

Leslie Nuchow is a rock star with a cause. Nuchow's mission to raise awareness of social issues through music is packaged in her efforts, which she calls "SLAM!"

Using the healing power of music, Nuchow works to "slam" American industries she feels are harming humanity.

She brings her music and her mission to the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets, for a free concert tonight.

"Not only is Nuchow a performer, but a social activist trying to raise awareness of social issues," said Dan Ladely, director of the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater.

There is a method to Nuchow's madness. The New York-based musician was offered a record deal from a new record company called Woman Thing Music.

After the offer, Nuchow discovered Woman Thing Music was owned by tobacco giant Phillip Morris. The only way potential listeners would be able to get copies of Nuchow's music would be through buying two packs of Virginia Slims cigarettes.

Faced with the lure of a record deal, Nuchow chose not to sell out to the tobacco industry and refused to help the industry coerce young women to start smoking because of the influence of music.

Nuchow's lyrics from her song "To the Devil" reveal the passionate trials of her experience:

"You nurse my ambition like a suckling child/I'm a slave to your offering/but I won't sell my soul."

Not only did Nuchow refuse to become a part of the tobacco industry's record label, but she also spoke out to publicize the reality of corporate industries that exploit potential buyers.

Rebecca Hasty, a spokeswoman for the Lincoln chapter of the National Organization for Women, said Nuchow's message through music was clear.

"Her music speaks for itself; it's pretty political," Hasty said.

The Lincoln NOW chapter, which is concerned with women's equality, education, organization and health issues, is sponsoring the Nuchow concert.

"I like that she didn't just say no to an industry that exploits women, but she is really taking action," Hasty said.

Nuchow's actions began with a Virginia SLAM! concert as a counter-movement to the Virginia Slims' record label.

After the success of the first SLAM! concert, Nuchow scheduled a second show in 1998 with other artists such as the Indigo Girls and Shawn Mullins.

After the first series of SLAM! Shows, Nuchow plans to hold a SLAM! concert each year that focuses on a different organization.

This summer, SLAM! 3 will slam the National Rifle Association.

"I am sick and tired of gun violence, especially in schools like Columbine," Nuchow said.

In the future, possible targets and issues include fashion industries, animal rights and harmful environmental industries.

"Unfortunately, there are always going to be industries that are harmful to humanity. I would honestly love SLAM! to be out of business," Nuchow said.

Nuchow's vision for SLAM! transcends the concerts and has expanded to include the SLAM! Record label and mini-SLAM!s. Nuchow has used the mini-SLAM!s to tour the nation, speaking and singing her story to students.

Andy Link, the Wellness Coordinator for the University Health Center, which also is a sponsor for the concert, said Nuchow's message is something the Health Center identifies with.

"The message Nuchow is trying to convey is to keep young women from being lured in by the tobacco industry, which is the same thing we try to do at the Health Center," Link said.

Nuchow's positive activism is also in line with the goals of the Ross Film Theater.

"We are involved with the tobacco-free proliferation of smoking in films, and having the Nuchow concert here is a small part to call attention to the way smoking is unfortunately glamorized in film," Ladely said.

Judy Martin, a spokeswoman for the Tobacco Free Nebraska Program, said she admires Nuchow for her courage to stand up against the tobacco industry.

"We have never brought in a performing artist before, and our goal is essentially to prevent and reduce tobacco use," Martin said. "We are hoping Nuchow can successfully convey her message."

PREVIEW Leslie Nuchow in Concert

WHERE: Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater Auditorium in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
COST: free
THE SKINNY: Activist-rocker takes stage to further cause and create music.



—MOVIE REVIEW—

Final 'Scream' movie makes fear laughable

By Shelley Mika

Staff writer

You've seen them: horror flicks, horror sequels. If you're looking for more than a predictable plot and voluptuous girls getting killed, you're out of luck.

Wes Craven knows the formula. He's made the cheesy flicks with too many sequels. (Did somebody say Freddy Krueger?)

Maybe he's ashamed of his earlier work. Maybe he's mastered the genre. Either way, he's a good candidate for writing a horror film that defies the usual groan-filled flicks.

And that's exactly what he does with "Scream 3."

We know what to expect: a scary

you" scenes and bloody bodies to follow. But Craven (and especially writers Kevin Williamson and Ehren Kruger) have transcended these expectations.

"Scream 3" kills its sibling sequel and is just a hair shy of matching the original "Scream."

We get the same classic elements found in the earlier films. The opening scene: The voice calls, and people get killed. Pretty standard stuff, except that one unexpected character gets it. A protagonist gets trapped with the killer while (s)he is passed out. Commentary is made on the typical elements in horror flicks. It's all been done before, but it just wouldn't be "Scream" without it.

There's far more to be garnered from "Scream 3" than the usual suspects. For starters, metafictional aspects abound. Not only are horror films

at the expense of Hollywood, too. (Looks like the writers were aiming for video sales; they really out-did themselves on this one.)

Once isn't enough to see the film, as a lot can be missed in the suspense scenes.

"Scream 3" is a whole lot funnier, too. Instead of inserting jokes as fillers in between murders, comedy is found in even the most intense scenes.

The cameos are absolutely amazing. But they aren't the kind where you think "Oh look, it's so and so... Isn't that nice?"

No, these are the ones where you think, "No way, they got so and so!" and then proceed to laugh about how he or she gets made fun of.

And, of course, there is the obvious question of whodunit. Call me dim, but

until the very end.

The less spectacular moments in the movie are few. For the most part, the scenes are well choreographed, so viewers aren't griping about inconsistencies. And even when there are moments when you think, "Don't leave her alone, idiot," they're meant to be obvious.

The only part that got a little out of hand was a scene where Craven uses some pretty disgustingly expensive special effects. The man should know that horror films don't have to live up to the standards of action films, nor should they—it's a different genre.

Craven can get away with the usual blood spewing out of the mouth without having to provide other eye candy to attract the MTV mentality. At the same time, the scene in question is redeemed by a little plot twist.

PREVIEW Scream 3

STARRING: Neve Campbell, David Arquette, Courtney Cox Arquette and Patrick Dempsey

DIRECTOR: Wes Craven

RATED: R (not surprisingly for violence and language but no nudity)

GRADE: A

FIVE WORDS: Craven completes trilogy with success.

With an all-star cast (not the least of which are Parker Posey and Patrick Dempsey) and a great script, fans will mourn the death of "Scream."