

Cranberries rule the waves of sound

Music to soothe the savage breast

JAMES MURETICH
Calgary Herald

It was scream land as pop-rock's new dreamland deities, The Cranberries, performed at the Saddledome Tuesday night before 7,000 enthusiastic fans.

Thanks to hits like Linger, Zombie and Free To Decide, the Irish quartet — led by singer Dolores O'Riordan — drew the crowd into their often surreal web of sound, bringing together the melodramatic highs of Sinéad O'Connor, the hypnotic rock undercurrents of U2 and the dream patterns of the Cocteau Twins.

Theo, doo, doo, doo sang O'Riordan as she moved about the stage like a phantom having found flesh, or as she stood before a white piano on a platform above the drummer.

Of course, O'Riordan did say more than that. Her songs caressing gently the romantic senses or reminiscing about a dearly departed grandfather. But doo, doo, doo, doo was all she needed to say, since it was the atmospheric nature of "The Cranberries" music that ruled the waves of sound moving out over the audience.

While the band, led by long-haired guitarist Noel Hogan, could rock out in that byzantine-Irish fashion, when it wanted to, it was music largely intended to soothe the savage breast. And it made for an interesting site as the audience screamed its admiration even while the band went gently into that good night.

The Cranberries embellished its performance with artistic lightning bolts patterns on its sparse but attractive stage set-up.

However, with only three albums in the past three years and a handful of hits under its collective belt, the now-

Review
The Cranberries, with Cracker opening, at the Saddledome Tuesday night. Attendance: about 7,000.

or of its presence worth thin over the course of an entire show.

And try as O'Riordan may to engage the crowd in its music, often holding the microphone to the audience so that they could shout back recognizable choruses, The Cranberries too often fell as if they were swimming in a pool too big for its abilities at this point in time.

The band certainly worked its material as best it could, but at this stage its stage should be smaller than the one it was on Tuesday night at the Saddledome.

Its music can conjure up wonderful moods, but it lacked in concert the dramatic punch needed to make its music as passionate in performance as it is pleasant on disc.

Ironically, the opening act suffered no lack of great songs, what Cranberries' David Lowery having been part of the American rock scene for more than a decade.

Whether it was Eurotrash Girl, Get Off This or The Golden Age or its latest album, the band's blend of rootsy rock and psychedelical country had a lyrical and melodic presence that was powerful from start to finish.

However, with an audience that was largely waiting for the headliner to come, Cracker's songs fell into an energy void — which somehow seemed appropriate when it sang its recent hit I Hate My Generation.



Sharon Gattuso, Calgary Herald
CRANBERRIES AT 'DOME': Singer Dolores O'Riordan Tuesday night.

ALBERTA BOUND

Grizzled star set to arrive

ALISON MAYES
Calgary Herald

Bar the Bear, the grizzly that starred in Legends of the Fall and the 1989 movie The Bear, is headed to Canada once again to menace Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin in Bookworm... "He's a 1,400-lb. grizzly. He's a unique bear for his size and his training." Lloyd Phillips, the film's executive producer, says about the Utah-based animal. "He's been performing in films for 15 years or so. He's got a very good resume."

Bar is not the only big name on the roster of Bookworm, which is likely to be the highest profile feature made in Alberta this year. The 20th Century Fox wilderness adventure, which starts production Aug. 19, stars Hopkins as a wealthy intellectual and Baldwin as a fashion photographer.

The "bookworm" believes the shutter-bug is sleeping with his fashion-model wife, played by Australian supermodel Elle Macpherson. The two men go down in a plane crash and must struggle against the elements and each other to survive.

Hopkins, the distinguished Welsh actor who spent three months here in 1983 while starring in Legends of the Fall, is pleased to return, says Phillips. "He loves this part of the world. He didn't spend that much time in the Rockies last time. He was more on the Morley Flats. He's happy to be back."

Hopkins was spotted dining at an Indian restaurant in Calgary on Saturday. He and Baldwin will be working in the Canmore/Bow/Cananankis area for the full 12-week shoot, until mid-November. Macpherson is only needed for three or four weeks and will arrive in late October, Phillips said.

Hopkins doesn't want to reveal specific locations, but said there is "no civilization at all" in the story, which is written by the acclaimed U.S. playwright intellectual and Baldwin as a fashion photographer. The only settings are an airport, a remote lodge (being constructed for the film at a lakeside location) and the wilderness.

Just four or five days of interiors will be shot in Calgary at a soundstage in November.

The only supporting actor named so far is L.G. Jones, who plays the lodge owner. Jones is a 68-year-old Texan whose credits include The Wild Bunch and the Elvis Presley movie Love Me Tender.

Bookworm is produced by Art Linson (The Untouchables, Heat) and directed by New Zealand's Yu Tamberi (Once Were Warriors, Mullholland Falls).

Ocean ballet drowns in human emotion

ALISON MAYES
Calgary Herald

Atlantis, a dreamy underwater documentary that's billed as an "ocean ballet," opens with a deep, hypnotic voice that instructs us to forget everything we know.

Leave behind your awareness of the human world, says the narrator, who unintentionally funny manner recalls that of '50s sci-fi announcers, and descend to the "original world."

It's the last we hear from the human world. This 79-minute film from France uses only music to accompany its exploration of the world's oceans and their remarkable inhabitants, from the sealions and penguins of the Galapagos islands to the great white sharks of Australia; the manatee of Florida; to the giant octopus of British Columbia.

It's an admirable, poetic approach: dispense with fact-filled commentary and preachy environmentalism, and try instead to convey the grandeur and mystery of nature through mood and image. After all, the sea is the primal birthplace of all life. The movie endures to take us to the source.

"Unfortunately director Luc Besson

(The Big Blue, La Femme Nikita) violates his own premise. Instead of leaving well enough alone, he divides the video into sections with titles that tell us what qualities we're supposed to appreciate: mind, rhythm, soul, spirit, tenderness, love, and so on.

After purporting to leave humanity behind, Besson asks us to view animal behavior in terms of human emotion. Under the heading "tenderness," he shows walrus-like manatees peacefully drifting and chomping on plants to the sound of tranquil New Age music.

Under "love," he gives us various creatures, like tortoisas and sea



ATLANTIS: Sharks motivated by hate?

Review

ATLANTIS, a documentary by Luc Besson. At the Uptown Screen showing Saturday, general. Rating: ★★ out of five.

snakes, rubbing against each other or mating to the sound of sexy dance club music.

Most absurd of all, he imposes the heading "hate" on a section in which sharks rip their teeth into smaller creatures in a feeding frenzy. To suggest that sharks are motivated by hate is to indulge in the worst kind of de-motivating anthropomorphism.

Atlantis does feature some lovely balletic editing of movement to music specially composed for the film: the graceful undulations of a sea snake, the effortless underwater somersaulting of penguins, the wiggling of a prehistoric-looking marine iguana.

But we could do without the pretentious juxtapositions, such as the use of Maria Callas singing Bellini's Sornambula to prod us into the dubious idea that a flapping manta ray represents "soul." Even more ridiculous, the soundtrack includes the sound of Callas's audience applauding and yelling "Bravo!" to make it look as if a school of fish is cheering the manta ray.

The undersea world is magnificent in its own right. It doesn't need to be organized by an imagination that would be better suited to animated cartoons.

CELEBRITIES

Jackson case delayed

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES

The Glowed One will have to wait a little longer for the outcome of his breach-of-contract trial. The judge fell and broke his arm.

U.S. District Judge Laughlin Waters, 61, planned to go to court Monday despite the injury, but doctors advised against it.

He may return next week, Court clerk Beatrice Herrera said. The

trial began last week.

A production company sued Michael Jackson and members of his family over the failed 1994 Jackson Family Honors show, claiming it lost millions.

Lawyers on both sides wished Waters a speedy recovery.

"This man is as quick and spry as you will ever find for someone his age," said R. Brian Oxman, the Jackson family's lawyer.

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