



Entertainment

John Hansen
Entertainment Editor
(218) 855-5863
john.hansen@brainerddispatch.com



Thursday, February 7, 2008

www.brainerddispatch.com

GOING OUT | MUSIC

Peaceful, easy feeling



As a youngster, Pieta Brown split her time living with her father — folk legend Greg Brown — in Iowa and with her mother, Melanie, in Alabama. From her dad, she learned to stand up for what she believed in. From her mom, she gained a strong work ethic.

Brown's old-fashioned upbringing has led to a promising folk career

By JOHN HANSEN
Entertainment Editor

Pieta Brown cares about peace enough to stamp the word across her chest for a photograph. However, she's not taking the shout-from-the-rooftops approach to pushing an agenda.

In a phone interview in advance of her Friday Grassroots Concert in Nisswa, she was as soft-spoken as the soothing vocals in her songs.

"I'm really intrigued by peace," she said from her Iowa City, Iowa, home. "I think it's important to keep putting it out there as an ideal. It's definitely possible to get closer (to peace) than we are now. One thing I heard somebody say recently is, 'One way or another the Earth will heal itself.' I don't know what that means for us."

Brown has gained an appreciation for the life-giving Earth by living simply and observing people. Although some of her songs are about "just getting through the day," she might have a higher tolerance for hardship than the average American.

"Until I was 5, my dad lived in the country in Iowa and we didn't have running water — we used a wood stove and there was an outhouse," Brown said. "When you're a kid you don't really know any different, so that really left a big mark on me. I have a lot of vivid memories — taking a bath in a little tin pail with water heated on the stove. It was real, (although) it is easy to romanticize.

"It made me aware and thankful for running water and hot water, and it's very easy for me to adapt to whatever situation."

Growing up, Pieta split her time between her father, folk legend Greg Brown, in Iowa; and her mother, Melanie, in Alabama. From her dad, she learned to find her own path; from her mom, she gained a work ethic that's crucial for a touring musician.

Of her dad, Brown said, "The only thing I can point to without writing one big book is he's always stayed really true to his own voice and muse. He's not easily swayed by the outside world or pop music. Not that he doesn't like it, but he's just his own artist and I always liked that about him, even though I spent a lot of time away from him as a kid."

Melanie, meanwhile, worked "100 hours a week" while pursuing and achieving a career as a doctor.

See **BROWN**, Page 5E

If you go

Who: Pieta Brown.
When: 7:30 p.m. Friday.
Where: Nisswa Community Center, 25628 Main St., Nisswa.
Tickets: \$15 (adults), \$10 (younger than 12).
Phone: 963-2976.
Web site: www.grassrootsconcerts.org.

"I think in the Midwest, there's an openness for music. Living close to the Mississippi River, there's a history there of the music I love."

PIETA BROWN
Iowa singer-songwriter

BEST BETS

Our picks for this weekend and the week ahead

FRIDAY: DANCE

Kicking into high gear

Get a taste of state as the Brainerd High School Warrior Dance Team gives a preview of its state-bound routine at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the BHS gym as part of the **Just For Kix dance show**. Admission is \$1-\$3.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY: MUSIC

Illuminating sounds

Light up your weekend with the music of two bright bands at the Eclectic Cafe in downtown Brainerd. **Sunshine Behavior** will perform poppy rock at 9 p.m. Friday and **40 Watt Bulb** will take the stage for a folksy rock show at 9 p.m. Saturday.



SATURDAY: THEATER

Rekindled 'Love'

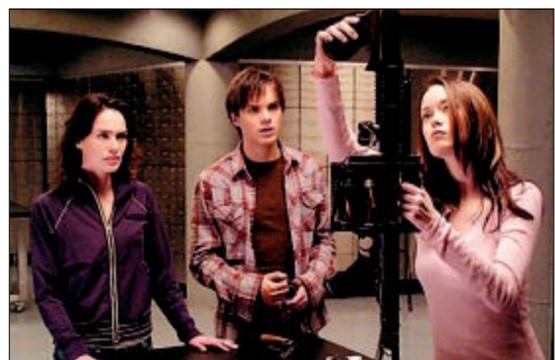
Back by popular demand, Central Lakes College Theatre will stage "Love Letters" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Chalberg Theatre on the Brainerd campus. In this staged play reading, Donna Salli and Patrick Spradlin (above) will take over the roles made locally famous by Coral Stein and Joe Plut in the 1990s. Tickets are \$8-\$10 for this Cultural Arts Series event.

Completely random slice of pop culture

I had high hopes for "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles" (and I'm still giving it a chance), but one thing I had no hope for was an opening credits sequence. Like most shows nowadays, "Sarah Connor" does not have opening credits or a theme song, although you can see numerous fan-made examples on YouTube that utilize the apocalyptic score from the movies and clips of the TV show's cast.

A few shows are exceptions to this sad and inexplicable trend. "Friday Night Lights" opens with a theme and images that evoke wide-open spaces and small-town struggles. "Medium" hits a viewer with dark, bizarre notes suited to a show about a woman who dreams of real crimes — it immediately draws in "X-Files" (now there's a classic opening sequence) fans looking for a spooky fix. And "Law & Order" still has that classic cha-chug theme and credits that close with the cast walking briskly toward important business of some kind.

One of this season's most intriguing new shows, "Pushing Daisies," has no opening credits, although it deserves one as quirky as those from Bryan



Associated Press

"The Sarah Connor Chronicles" features Lena Headey (left), Thomas Dekker and Summer Glau, but no opening credits sequence.

Fuller's previous shows. "Dead Like Me" featured a grim reaper going through various daily chores and "Wonderfalls" had that cute and catchy "boppin' along in our barrels" tune. "Life," "Lost" and "Heroes" are other shows that supposedly need no introduction.

Just for the record: The coolest opener from a good show is "Angel's" rocking cello theme. And the best opener from a bad show is the

scratchy riff from "Charmed." Many YouTubers have placed that song with credits from other shows; their creations are fun to sift through if you have a spare minute.

That's something the creators of current shows apparently don't have. Otherwise, they'd spend that minute to give us the opening credits we want.

— By John Hansen, Entertainment Editor