

Overheard



'Good Evening, I'm Lydia Lunch'

She snarls into the microphone--all at once smart, straightforward and surly. After all, she is the queen of spoken word and she can say whatever she wants. Boasting a filmography, discography and bibliography--and propelled by sheer stamina--Lydia Lunch renders the term prolific an underachievement.

"I can't stop. Can't stop. It's a necessity. I mean, what's the alternative? I got to get it out, get all these thoughts out before they turn to cancer," she exhales. "Spread the poison around."

She keeps an amazing schedule, going to Europe several times a year performing her brand of spoken word. As well as writing books, graphic novels, films and music (*she started her own production company called Widowspeak.*) She is also a photographer. A collection of her work will be on

See **LUNCH** ▶

wine BY KRISTIN PEREZ
& cheese

People to See

Viva la

Photos courtesy of Calliope Fest



Ani DiFranco, *Righteous Babe*

"Calliope Fest 2 is a festival that promotes women musicians," explains event coordinator Jeff Freeman. "And now the city of Hollywood has proclaimed March 'Women's Music Month.' Not bad for a sequel.

The sophomore effort will now feature pre-show performances in conjunction with Hollywood Nights, which are the first and third Fridays of the month. One is an art exhibit opening the 28th at Now Art Cafe, featuring the work of Lydia Lunch. All leading up to the weekend of the 29th and 30th, when this two-day festival begins to roar. Another aspect of this year's show is the national names aligned with the

event, graduating from an all local show to full-blown concert.

Headliners **Ani DiFranco**, **Lydia Lunch** and **Melissa Ferrick** reign the main stage with guests Diane Ward Band, Halcyon, bellylove, Common-Bond, Doria Roberts, Pank Shovel, Laura Blackley Band, Remember the Ocean, Gigi DeNisco, Girl Named Chuck, Noah, Allison Lee, Amy Steinberg, Musidora, Katie Foley and Stacey Smith.

To miss Ani DiFranco play is unreasonable. To miss Ani DiFranco play at an open-air festival is unforgivable. This woman was born to play and interact with a crowd. Her legions of fans need no explanation of her extensive repertoire -- available on her own Righteous Babe Records. For those

Woman!

of you who have not had the pleasure, here is your opportunity. Opportunity with a two-day pass. Do not send regrets.

"I wanted to have a venue that would allow our local talent to be seen," says Freeman. "There are so many wonderful bands here, female groups and singers that should be heard. I also thought that Hollywood would benefit from an event like this. Our city is a beautiful place that is accessible from both Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. Why not hold a concert here?"



Melissa Ferrick, *Listen Hard*

It is important to note that Freeman is virtually a one-man show. "I started Calliope Fest to have these acts perform in front of as many people as possible, because they deserve the attention," he says. It is also trivial to note that Calliope is the Greek muse of music and epic poetry.

The event is also hosted by **Dar** of the "Sunday Blues with Dar" radio show and will have entertainment for the kids, arts & crafts, food and other activities.

Mark your calendars and get your tickets early! For more details and full schedule visit: www.calliopefest.com.



Diane Ward, *Baby Look Up*

Returning performer **Diane Ward** seconds the notion by saying that this could be just what Hollywood needs to 'shake things up!' "Hollywood has rarely seen such a diverse selection of artists at one festival," she says. "The area will only benefit from it. I hope it is a huge success and that everyone has a great time."

She continues to sing praises for the guy behind the scenes, Jeff Freeman. "I admire Jeff for his dedication and support for his cause, which is bringing music to the masses. It is the most amazing thing!"

LUNCH continued

display at Now Art Cafe, and serves as a pre-show to Calliope Fest. And Hollywood's Young Circle has the dubious honor of her performance on Saturday, March 29th.

I'm not certain Hollywood is prepared. For hurricanes maybe. But hurricanes do not force you to think, question pre-existing ideology or know the power of being a woman. Lydia Lunch does.

"We have to repair the failing infrastructure of this country," "raise the minimum wage" and "face the enemy within" are just snippets of one of her 'rants' that are part of her performance. Lunch has been served.

She has just completed a 288-page book called 'Sex and Guts' (released last February, Widowspeak) a compilation of interviews with the likes of **Margaret Cho**, **Jello Biafra**, **John Waters** and 'people who are still making a difference'. She also just finished an album (untitled at time of press), a conceptual musical offering where 'each song contradicts the one that proceeds it.' She is currently preparing for her tour through Europe in May and June.

"I move all the time," explaining her penchant for changing locations every few years. "I have this neurological itch to keep moving." And with every move, the new place she lives provides a breeding ground for new work. The cross section of talent with which Lunch has collaborated stands as a testament to that, if the magnitude of work is not enough.

I asked, quite naively, if there was anything she hadn't done that she would like to do. The reply delivered, with obvious contempt was, "Of course, there are always things to do. I have to keep going." •