

The Next Mary J: Keyshia Cole

By Tishawna Woodson
Staff Writer

Good news ladies and gentlemen, Keyshia Cole is still fierce! Her new album, "Just like You" was released last week and has been on repeat in my iPod ever since. She starts off with the hot single "Let it Go" reminding the ladies that they don't have to deal with that trifling, no good, sorry excuse for a man - and what comes after is just what you expect.

Mid-album, Keyshia slows down the tempo with a few ballads while belting out tunes and meaning each and every note. Her sultry voice has not lost its conversational power, and that passion and emotion that you remember from her last album is still very present. Even Keyshia's vocal performance seems stronger than before - now you can hear a little bravado at the end of each note.

The album consists of 15 tracks including the "Let it go" remix, and "Last Night" featuring Diddy. Other features include Anthony Hamilton in a soulful duet entitled "Losing You", and the introduction of Amina, a rapper from Keyshia's hometown, Oakland. Another Oakland native that appears on the album is rapper Too \$hort, in what I believe to be Keyshia's next hit, "Didn't I tell you".

Since her very first single back in 2005, Keyshia has been compared to R&B singer Mary J. Blige. Their singing styles and stage personas are very similar, I must admit. But, I think it's safe to charge that one to the game, both of these women grew up under very unfortunate circumstances and you can hear that in their music - it's distinct, it's real, and most of all, it's rela-



tive. I anticipate the concert where I will be able to sing along with the smoky rasp in Keyshia's voice - I can definitely relate to a lot of the songs on the album. It is more than comforting to know that Miss Cole, though obviously matured, has not lost her ability to connect to girls - just like you.

An Opera's Look at the CIA Man: Biology of a Fall

By Yuliya Talanova
Staff Writer

Orchestra sounds floated throughout the theater, complimenting scenes of men in formal wear, full of secrecy and deception, plotting against a man hoping to relinquish from the hell his job became. Settled in, people have witnessed the tragic death of CIA scientist Frank Olson at the Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts began.

The third and the final part of the "Defenestration Trilogy" had its world premier at the LIU Brooklyn Campus, introducing audience to the unsolved mystery of the CIA's members and their methods of disruption in 1950s.

The contemporary American style opera focused on the Frank Olson case: a bio-chemist working for the U. S. Army at a biological weapon development site in Maryland. His fall out of a window has been established as a suicide, but many suppose it was a murder.

The political aspect of the second opera that has ever been brought to Kumble Theater, was the attention grabber for Rodney K. Hurley, the Managing Director at LIU: "I liked the idea and thought people on campus would like to see it."

This production is a full-length opera, unlike the previous two of the trilogy.

The first one was "The Birth and Theft of Television" about Edwin H. Armstrong's tragic fall out of a window and consisted of mostly spoken material. "Nightingale: The Last Days of James Forrestal," the second production, was composed of both spoken and opera material and, like the others, it focused on a fall of a man from a window.

Music director Evan Hause, whose interest varies from rock to pop of the 60's-90's as well as classical music, late 20's century jazz, electronic and miscellaneous world music completed the opera with libretto by Gary Heidt, a writer and a rock musician with a satiric approach to his subject. Combining both of their talents, they have

created an unmistakably different view of an opera "It's a journey to how people feel," said Hause.

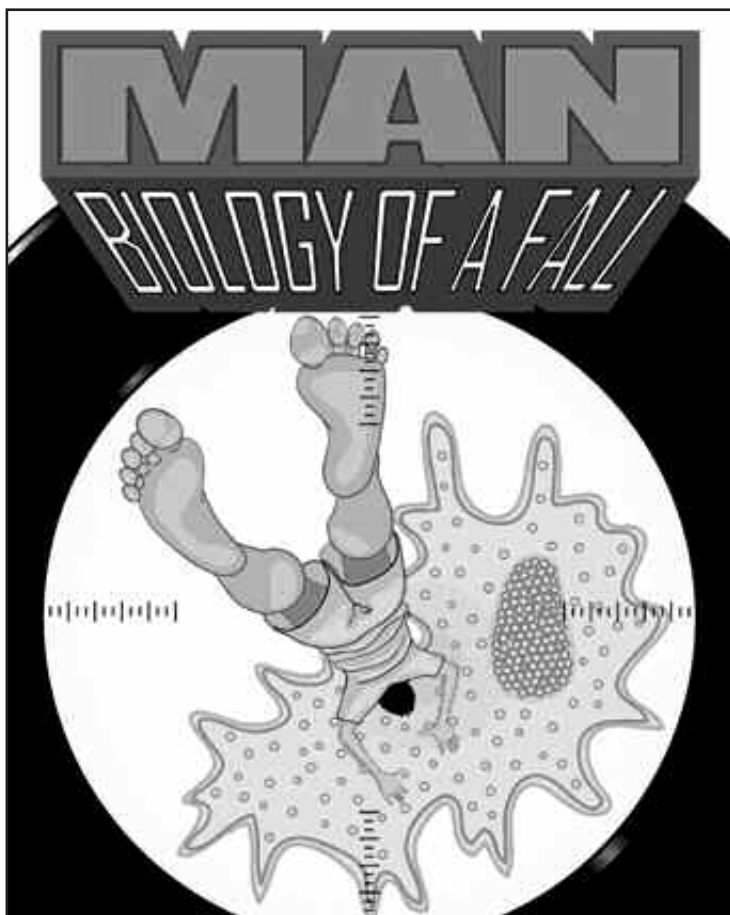
"The Conqueror Worm" by Edgar Allan Poe sung by the grown men crying, laughing, rolling on the floor and hallucinating from LSD also backed up by a video of worms, molecules and bright neon colors bustling in the background, flawlessly combined all the important aspects of this opera.

"I thought the music was captivating," said Matthew Deming, a friend of an actor. "I'm really impressed," shared Pamela Gilmore, an opera director at Rutgers University.

According to the previous reviews of their pieces they were "strangely funny" and it seems they kept the tradition. "It was partially humorous and absurd," said Victoria Esok, who took a part in the audience.

Though different, each of the plays' main characters shared an affiliation with the government, a similar time-span and met a similar demise: death by window. "It is all about the cycle of bad decisions that politicians make," said Hause

Although the play is partially fictional, all of the people involved existed and took part in the events that occurred before Olson's death.



Screening Room

Weekend Box Office

1. The Game Plan - \$16.3 Million
2. The Heartbreak Kid - \$14 Million



3. The Kingdom - \$9.3 Million
4. Resident Evil: Extinction - \$4.3 Million
5. The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising - \$3.7 Million

Theater Releases

- 10/12
Elizabeth: The Golden Age
Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married
We Own the Night
Sleuth

DVD Releases


- 10/09
28 Weeks Later
Evan Almighty
Surf's Up

Recording Studio

Top 5 Singles

1. Soulja Boy Tell'em - "Crank That (Soulja Boy)"
2. Kanye West - "Stronger"
3. Britney Spears - "Gimme More"
4. Timbaland ft. Keri Hilson - "The Way I Are"
5. Fergie - "Big Girls Don't Cry"

Top 5 Albums

1. Rascal Flatts - "Still Feels Good"
 
2. Keyshia Cole - "Just Like You"
3. Foo Fighters - "Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace"
4. Jill Scott - "The Real Thing: Words and Sounds Vol. 3"
5. Kanye West - "Graduation"

Television Ratings

Top 5

- Week of 09/17/07 - 09/23/07
1. CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
CBS - 25.2 Million Viewers
 2. Dancing With the Stars (Mon)
ABC - 21.2 Million Viewers
 3. Grey's Anatomy
ABC - 20.9 Million Viewers
 4. Desperate Housewives
ABC - 19.3 Million Viewers
 5. Dancing With the Stars (Tues)
ABC - 18.5 Million Viewers
- Compiled by Nielsen Media Research