

**August 9, 2004**

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**Scared Artless Benefit Concert Will Raise  
Money for Indicted Artist**

**Seattle art community comes together for Critical Art  
Ensemble artist Dr. Steven Kurtz who is facing  
questionable charges under the Patriot Act and harassment  
by the FBI**

**What:** Scared Artless - featuring musical acts Heather Duby, Lushy, and Left-Wing Art Party, with speakers Doug Honig of the ACLU and Katie Kurtz. Emceed by Cathy Sorbo.

**Why:** A benefit to support Steve Kurtz and Critical Art Ensemble and to raise awareness of the dangers being posed to our first amendment rights by the USA Patriot Act.

**When:** August 24, starting at 7:30pm.

**Where:** Consolidated Works - 500 Boren Ave N. Seattle, WA 98109 (206) 381-3218 [www.conworks.org](http://www.conworks.org)

**Who:** Organized by concerned members of the Seattle art community.

SEATTLE - Scared Artless, a benefit concert to be held August 24, will raise money for Dr. Steven Kurtz, a professor and artist who was indicted by the FBI for highly questionable charges of bioterrorism under the Patriot Act. The event will feature Heather Duby, Lushy and the Left-Wing Art Party and be emceed by Cathy Sorbo, comedian extraordinaire.

In addition to raising funds for Dr. Kurtz, Scared Artless aims to raise awareness of the dangers being posed to our first amendment rights by the USA Patriot Act and the current administration. Doug Honig, communications director of the ACLU of Washington, and Katie Kurtz, an active and well-known figure in the Seattle arts community, will be speaking.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. to this all ages show. The event will include door prizes, a no host bar and hors d'oeuvres in the inspiring atmosphere of the Pacific Northwest's premier contemporary art center, Consolidated Works, located at 500 Boren Avenue North. Admission is a suggested \$10 to \$100 donation at the door.

### **The Orwellian Journey of Dr. Steven Kurtz**

On the morning of May 11, 2004, Dr. Kurtz's wife, Hope Kurtz, died in her sleep of cardiac arrest. Police arrived, became suspicious of Kurtz's art supplies and called the FBI. Within hours of the FBI's arrival, Kurtz was detained as a bioterrorist.

Kurtz, an associate professor in the art department at SUNY Buffalo and member of Critical Art Ensemble (CAE), makes art addressing the politics of biotechnology. "Free Range Grains," CAE's latest project, included a mobile DNA extraction laboratory for testing food products for possible transgenic contamination.

Although tests have shown Kurtz's equipment was not used for any illegal purpose, he and fellow artists were subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury under the USA Patriot Act. Bioterrorism charges against Kurtz were downgraded and he was charged with four counts of mail and wire fraud which each carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. His colleague Robert Ferrell, head of the Department of Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health, was also indicted. The charges concern technicalities of how Ferrell helped Kurtz to obtain \$256 worth of harmless bacteria for one of Kurtz's art projects.

To learn more about this ongoing and extraordinary chain of events, see the Critical Art Ensemble Defense Fund Web site: <http://www.caedefensefund.org>

### **Scared Artless Performers**

#### *Cathy Sorbo, emcee*

A veteran performer of comedy clubs and theatres, Cathy cut her teeth on every stage available in Seattle and San Francisco, where she has procured a loyal

following of fans. Her brand of stand-up comedy has taken her all over the world, from back rooms of London pubs to the high profile festivals held in Montreal, Aspen and Cape Town. Besides emceeding numerous benefits and corporate events, Cathy has appeared on shows produced by HBO and Showtime, and developed a pilot with MTV. The 1995 U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen said of Cathy "Sorbo rips into her work with such humor and insight that her act appeals to just about everybody."

### *Heather Duby*

Since her 1999 release, *Post to Wire*, Seattle-based singer Heather Duby has been compared to the trip-hop coolness of Beth Orton and the ethereal goth queen Siouxsie Sioux. Her deft mix of electronic beats and icy-cool vocals are unrivaled in these parts, as no one else quite manages to blend the two elements as effortlessly and flawlessly.

Duby's third and latest album, *Come Across the River*, has been released on Sonic Boom Recordings and showcases the singer coming into her own with a dark collection of songs that portray more emotion than her past efforts. Chimerical and intense, *Come Across the River* is a fine album that finds Duby, once again, standing unrivaled.

### *Lushy*

Seattle-based Lushy creates a refreshing international pop style that blends influences from exotica, jazz, Latin and French pop along with original samples and sexy bossa beats to create the coolest musical cocktail of sound.

### *Left-Wing Art Party*

Left-Wing Art Party combines indie folk, jazz and art-pop influences with alluring melodies, thoughtful lyrics and skillful musicianship to produce grown-up music for the art-starved masses.