

A&E



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Ani DiFranco

Going with her gut

By Christa Lawler
clawler@duluthnews.com

Ani DiFranco has found success by following her gut. Whether it's to sign or not-to-sign with fill-in-the-blank big record label (spoiler alert: for her it is always not-to-sign), or her first go at memoir writing, she has learned to trust how she feels.

IF YOU GO

What: Ani DiFranco with opener Diane Patterson
When: 8 p.m. June 10
Where: NorShor Theatre
Tickets: Start at \$49.50 at jadepresents.com and the Duluth Playhouse box office

The former led to Righteous Babe Records, the small label she built in her hometown of Buffalo, N.Y. The latter is her 300-page freshly published memoir, "No Walls and the Recurring Dream" — which is already topping Amazon charts in its genre.

"I have a good track record with myself," DiFranco said during a recent phone interview from her home in New Orleans. "Certainly there have been a lot of mistakes and thwarting of my instincts, but the gut knows."

DiFranco, with her signature plucky and percussive guitar playing, returns to Duluth for the first time since the early 2000s, for a concert on Monday at the NorShor Theatre. Her memoir has been on shelves for about a month, alongside the new soundtrack of old material she recorded.

The artist-activist will be joined by Diane Patterson, a self-described "folk goddess" who credits DiFranco as being an influence.

DIFRANCO: Page C4

Ani DiFranco plays Monday at the NorShor Theater. righteousbabe.com

MOVIE REVIEW

Must-see ag doc 'Biggest Little Farm' has heart

It starts with a wildfire, walkie-talkie static and cuts to smoke moving past barn animals. Emmy-award winning documentarian John Chester snags the attention in "The Biggest Little Farm."

The movie follows Chester and his wife, chef and culinary blogger Molly Chester, sharing the conception and start of Apricot Lane Farms, 200-plus acres of land they intend to farm "in harmony with nature."

It's a process that will be reckless, if not impossible, he said. Chester leaves the slight suspense builder to launch into the heartfelt impetus for their farm — a dream



MELINDA LAVINE
Now Showing

and promise to the couple's rescue dog, Todd.

To some reluctance from the couple, consultant Alan York shows them the ways of biodynamic agriculture, in linens and sandals. York sets their focus on biodiversity, more fruit varieties, more crops, more animals, more.

Watching them assess depleted dirt, build a state-of-the-art worm compost facility and start to fill their acres with chickens, sheep and a pig — the opening scene acts as a slow-burning question: do they lose it all?

SHOWING: Page C4



John Chester cares for his farm's sick pig, Emma, in "The Biggest Little Farm," now showing at Zinema. imdb.com

"The Biggest Little Farm"
Starring: John Chester, Molly Chester
Director: John Chester
Writers: John Chester, Mark Monroe
Time: 1:31
Rating: PG for mild thematic elements
Now showing: Zinema 2
More info: biggestlittlefarmmovie.com