

long awaited & out now!

Fire, politics, art, and hot girls are in the mix in Farinella's first full-length film release. *Left Lane* completely satisfies and is just what you need for your radical, feminist, rock star collection! Sam Farinella and Alix Olson both viewed over 116 hours of footage for this latest work.

With a fuchsia-infused-with-feminism tour van, Farinella, Pamela Means, and Olson travel around the country in this documentary that captures their front row spit, hip gyrations, and political movements of the past two years. The documentary starts off with a tire mishap that our favorite crew endured while on route to a show. A repair guy came to the rescue and delivered my first crack up, when Olson opens up and candidly says with a soft voice, 'I feel so de-machoed.'

Even in times of crisis, the conceptual art doesn't stop! And on that same road, Farinella gets down on the ground and rescues one of God's little creatures. Sisterly sweetness as Samantha Farinella saves the day!

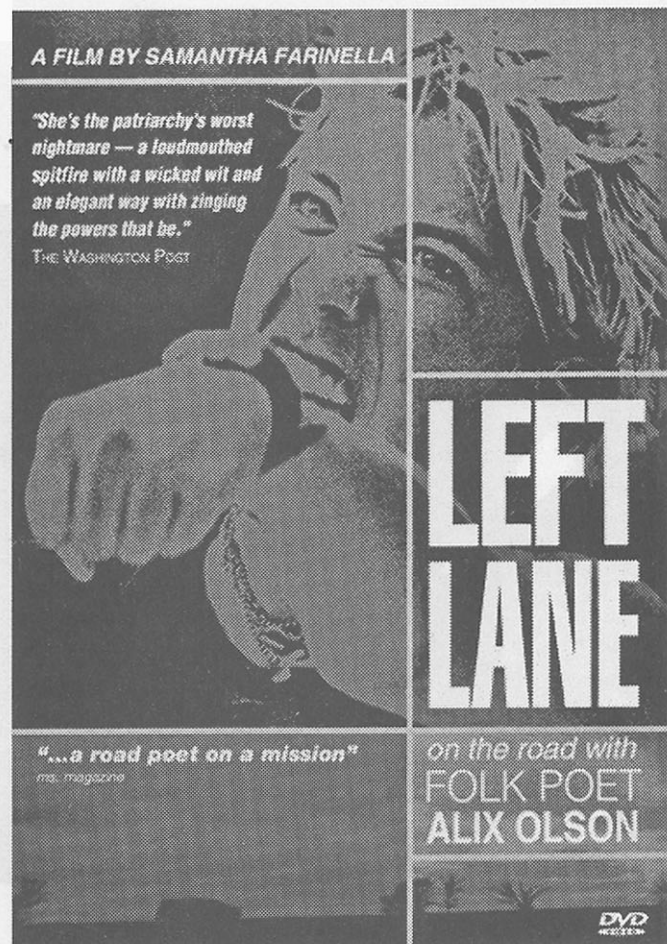
I know with certainty that Farinella has a long film making career ahead of her for several reasons: First, her close up shots are strongly featured, which help accentuate her honest and intimate style.

One particular frame that grabbed me the most was the combination of a close up on Olson's eyes while she drives in the pouring rain and guitar music playing in the background. These close-up shots reveal an intimacy that Farinella shares with Means and Olson that the audience can directly grasp.

Secondly, Farinella also gives us a chance to hear Grandma Katz (Olson's grandmother) who has the power to inspire in anyone tears

of pride. The warmth and love is genuine, and once again Farinella was there to capture this intimate moment with ease. Shots like these inspire us to feel hope in a world or in a family that may not be so supportive of us—and that's what makes the connection between the personal and political never ending and everlasting. You can't help but feel like you are being pulled into a world that is so relatable, yet, so unlike your own. This particular political philosophy of Farinella's is revealed, whether consciously or not, and able to be relished by viewers like ourselves who form a new kind of family.

But this DVD documentary is not all about tears and political ideals. We also get to see sexy Means wrapped in a tight towel before



Samantha Farinella's "Left Lane"

By Maria Ayala

she hops into the shower, Olson browsing for some adult entertainment on her hotel TV, and of course a mini red and green flannel strip-tease free of charge!

Tattooed and pierced, Lyndell Montgomery of the band Ember Swift also travels with this indie crew. Featured in both of Olsons' CDs, "Built Like That" and "Independence Meal", Montgomery has as much passion and grace as Means and Olson put together. Another reason to make you laugh, Farinella reveals the fun side of this punk-powered political crew when Olson hosts the talk show: "Race, class, gender, who the fuck cares?" Let Olson explain the next little predicament these women warriors find themselves in!

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If you like them sweet and young, then Chris Pureka will be to your liking. She plays guitar for Olson's "Catching My Pulse" and shares with us why it is such a challenge to work with Olson.

And smack in the middle of the documentary, you will get to see for the first time Olson's "Independence Meal" poem. I have listened to this particular piece many times before, but when I saw the piece for the first time, I realized I was listening to it in a completely different way.

A film maker who visually presents her craft skillfully, is an automatic expectation; but a film maker who makes you listen to a piece as if it were the first time, defies all expectations and delivers gold—and indie girls on film!

If you have never taken a poetry workshop, you can take one with Olson as she teaches a group of young students in Pennsylvania, Olson's home state. I do not employ Olson's peculiar methods, but to each her own! You'll need to watch *Left Lane* to know what I mean. The footage of Olson in the airport getting ready to fly should have been one of the scene selections! Her salad in the seat next to her, the angle is candid and unforgettable. And before the film ends, another example of Farinella's superior method of capturing her subject, you will not want to miss the footage on Olsons' poem, "8x10". Means on guitar accompanies Olson as the film gets grainy and Farinella finds focus on Olson's sweating peach face.

No film would be complete without the proper scene selections. My favorite two are: "Cute for a Girl", titled after one of Olson's poems, and "Panic Room". Let me just say this: "Panic Room" completely explains why my method for reading at Siren and The Grove in San Diego, California fits me. I rest my case! The music of Peter Mulvey is also featured in *Left Lane*. For more information on any artists mentioned in this review please visit: Pamelameans.com, alixolson.com, petermulvey.com, chrispureka.com and emberswift.com.^λ