

FILM

Glimpses of the past, sounds of the future

By Thomas Bena

As legend of American music, Pete Seeger was the architect of the folk revival, penning such classics as "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "If I Had A Hammer." An outspoken advocate of peace, unionism, civil rights, and the environment, he was targeted by the Communist witch hunt of the 1950s

and was picketed, protested, blacklisted, and, despite his enormous popularity, banned from television for more than 17 years. With a combination of never-before-seen archival footage, Seeger's own personal films, and interviews with musicians like Joan Baez, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, Natalie Maines, and Peter,

Paul and Mary, this new documentary paints an intimate portrait of an icon who has profoundly influenced the fabric of American music.

But Pete Seeger is so much more than an icon: he is a living, breathing example of true heroism, of what life can look like if one lives committed to his ideals, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM ELVILLE

Willy Mason joins Mr. Ruel in a concert before the film "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song."

no matter what, keeps on going. To watch Pete on the big screen is to watch a human manifestation of God, shining so full of light and love that you can't help but feel that anything is possible.

The MVFF is excited to have Willie Mason and Colin Ruel performing before the film. This is a unique opportunity to mix young and old, all in the spirit of song, and to witness what Pete's been

singing about for all of these years. ♦

Willie Mason and Colin Ruel will perform at the Capawock in Vineyard Haven on 6:30 pm, Thursday, March 6. "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song," will follow at 7 pm. For more information call, 508-645-9599.

Thomas Bena is the founder of Martha's Vineyard Film Festival.

Colin Ruel performs tonight at the Capawock Theatre.



PHOTO BY DAVID WELCH

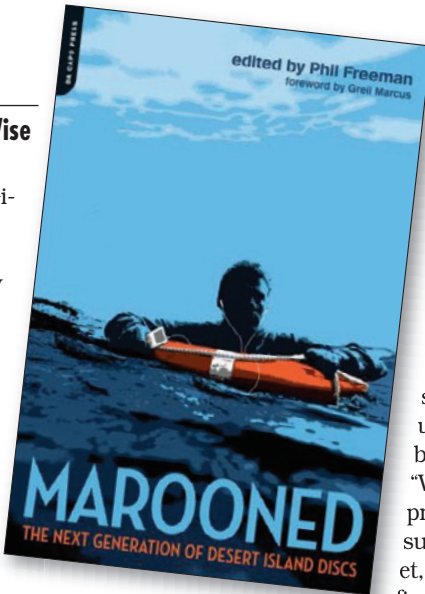
IN PRINT

Stranded island

By Julian Wise

Styler's "Spiral Walls Containing Autumns of Light Giant."

Never heard of Divine Styler? Most haven't, yet by blending journalism, sociological musings, and autobiographical sketches, Seward draws the reader into the intricacies of the album. We learn that Styler is an avant-garde rap protégé of Ice-T, and that he has released only three albums since 1989. He fuses funk, hip-hop, and Islamic references into his work. Through Seward's descriptions of the tracks "Touch," "In A World Of U" and "Grey Matter," "Spiral Walls Containing Autumns of Light Giant" comes into focus as a sprawling, disjointed, and brilliant work. Much of this is due to Seward's crack prose, inlaid with phrases like "word strings falling like liquid silver onto the heads of like-minded seekers of caves and mountaintops" or "the acid-inflected snake-charm guitars do their dance." This



deft wordplay turns inwards, as Mr. Seward candidly chronicles his personal failures and emotional fragility. Describing his sibling relationship, he says, "As a kid I hated my brother with a passion, even though we were both miserable drug-swallowing dirt bags who shared a lot of the same interests." His description of "the Zen of pea stacking" is a brilliant retelling of working the night shift at a local supermarket and the clarity he found through monotony.

In the passages where Mr. Seward describes his life on Martha's Vineyard, he shares his ambivalence about living amidst serenity when he craves stimulation.

"There are times when I'd gladly trade in the soothing lap of the tide or a gorgeous sunset for some Indian food or a used record store to browse in," he says. "While what most people prize about the sand and surf life are the peace, quiet, and gentle rhythms, I find that I crave a fairly steady barrage of elements not easily found in Shangri-La." At the end of the piece, he describes listening to his wife and sons playing in the backyard and writes, "I can hear the crows as they shred my last nerve with their incessant cawing. Jesus, I'm bored. Islands are for the birds. Literally. Don't ask me how we ended up here. It's a long story."

What makes Seward's contribution to the book stand out is his mix of musical insight and self-deprecating

wit. To say he's excellent understates the case; his writing blows most rock journalism off the page. If you haven't pondered the desert island question, you will after reading Mr. Seward and the other writers' choices. My own? Radiohead's "Pablo Honey," a beautiful, discordant symphony of pop brilliance from 1994, before the band's music dissolved into artistic pretense. ♦

Julian Wise is a contributing writer to The Times.

"Marooned: The Next Generation of Desert Island Discs," Edited by Phil Freeman. Da Capo Press, 2007, 330 pages, \$16.95.

It's the eternal mental parlor game: If you were stranded on a desert island and could bring just one — fill in the blank — with you, what would it be? Da Capo Press has published "Marooned," an anthology of rock journalism in which authors choose their desert island album and explain their reasoning. The choices range from the familiar ("The Cars" by Cars, "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" by Elton John) to the obscure (Various Artists, "History of Our World Part 1: Breakbeat and Jungle Ultramix by DJ DB"). Vineyard resident and music critic Scott Seward (Village Voice, Decibel Magazine) contributes a chapter in which he selects Divine

SEASONS
Eatery & Pub
Coming Monday, March 17
 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party featuring IRISH MUSIC 4 pm - 8 pm
CORNEBEEF & CABBAGE DINNER 4 pm - 10 pm
JOHNNY O'HOY & THE BLUEFISH 8 pm - 12 am
GREEN BEER! GUINNESS ON TAP!
FRIDAY, MARCH 7
JERRY BENNETT BAND w/ Jennifer Keaney R&B, Motown, Disco 9:30 pm-12:30 am
SATURDAY, MARCH 8
KARAOKE with VAMP 9:30 pm -12:30 am
TUESDAY, MARCH 11
KARAOKE with VAMP 9:30 pm -12:30 am
Every Friday Free Taco Bar 3-6 pm
WEEKLY SPECIALS:
MON: 50% Off Entrées
TUES: \$5 Burger Night
WED: Pasta Night
THURS: Sushi Night 25% off
FRI: Seafood Night 20% off
CIRCUIT AVE., OAK BLUFFS

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 508-693-2626

Thursday & Sunday Nights Dinner & a Movie
 Receive 1 free movie pass to Edgartown Cinemas (good for any showing within one year) with purchase of 2 entrees. Additional ticket can be purchased for \$4.

Friday, March 7, 4-6 pm Wings & Oysters Special

Saturday, March 8, 12-5 pm Beer Advocate Brewery Invasion

Brewery Tours, 16 Beers on Tap Live Music w/Mike Benjamin 2:30-4:30 pm

www.beeradvocate.com

Sunday, March 9, 2-4 pm The Jazz Fellowship

Monday, March 10 2 For 1 Entrées!

Tuesday, March 11, 6:30-8:30 pm Jazz Duo

Jeremy Berlin and Eric Johnson

Wednesday, March 12, 6:30 pm Traditional Irish Music w/Gregg & Mary

Mark Your Calendar St. Patrick's Day Celebration March 16
 Begins with 2nd annual Irish Breakfast 9 am
 Live music and Irish food specials from morning 'til night
 Pizza served 'til last call

ITW ISLAND THEATRE WORKSHOP
spring musical OPEN AUDITIONS
 Sunday March 9th 1:00 - 3:00
 katharine cornell theatre, vineyard haven

Sponsored By The Chilmark Public Library
Cooking Class with Chef Jan Buhman
 Moroccan Staples and Spices Preserved Lemons and Tagines
Wednesday, March 12 ♦ 5:30-6:30 pm
 Chilmark Public Library ♦ 508-645-3360
 All are welcome ♦ Admission is free

Happy Birthday WHIT!
 - From your friends at The Times!

INDOOR Flea Market
 ANTIQUES · LINENS · ATTIC TREASURES
Sat., March 8 • 9:30 - 2:30
 Chilmark Community Center • Free parking and admission

the Wharf RESTAURANT AND PUB
 Lower Main Street, Edg. 508.627.9966
 SERVING THE ISLAND WITH FOOD & DRINK YEAR-ROUND
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 FRIDAYS: PRIME RIB NIGHT
 *Wharf will be CLOSED Feb. 24-March 14

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