

Liona Boyd will join Tracy Chapman on tour

Liona Boyd, who had just returned to Canada from performances in Greenland, Thailand and Burma, was looking forward to a little rest and relaxation.

Then the phone rang. Elliot Roberts, the manager of pop singer Tracy Chapman, had a brief message: "We're leaving in three days for a major European tour and we want you to join us."

Boyd said yes. The four-time Juno award winner, known as the First Lady of the Guitar, felt it was too good an opportunity to pass up.

In a Toronto telephone interview a few hours before she flew to Europe, the classical guitarist talked enthusiastically about the tour.

"Elliot had suggested a few months ago that I join Tracy on a tour. I said sure; let me know, thinking it would be a North American tour. Then the call came..."

Boyd is not a last-minute replacement, but an addition. She will open the show. No opening act had been planned.

"I have never met Tracy, but she listened to some of my records and told Elliot she liked them."

Boyd had been planning to spend much of November promoting her new album, Christmas Dreams.

It is a major departure from her first 15 albums, which featured classical guitar solos. The music this time is pop (with a number of traditional Christmas carols) and Boyd is joined by other musicians and, on some songs, by a choir.

And for the first time, her fans get to hear her sing. But just on one song, she cautions.

The title song is billed as a duet with Roger Whittaker, but Boyd basically is a back-up singer to Whittaker.

"It was just sort of spontaneous," said Boyd. "We hadn't planned it this way. We had 15 minutes of studio time left and they asked me what I wanted to do." Boyd, who was tossed out of an English choir at the age of five and told she could never sing, does not think of herself as a singer.

"It was just a personal thrill to sing with Roger."

She may, however, add her voice to some cuts on future albums.

Carroll Baker's first Christmas album, Christmas Carroll, has just been released. The Canadian singer's first venture into Yuletide music includes a duet with her daughter, Candi.

While Candi has been a back-up singer for her mother on concert tours, the duet, Christmas Carroll, Christmas Candi, is her first recording.

Candi makes her TV debut later this season on the CBC's Tommy Hunter Show.

Go for a swim in Sea of Love

AT THE MOVIES

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

"Come with me, to the sea..." plays in the background while a naked man makes love to an empty bed. His performance disappoints his audience, and he is shot in the back of the head. So begins Sea of Love, a solid thriller starring Al Pacino and Ellen Barkin.

Pacino plays Frank Keller, a cop with a mid-life crisis and a drinking problem, who is assigned to find the killer. He hooks up with John Goodman (Roseanne), a cop from Queens who has a similar murder to solve. A third murder sets the pair looking for a woman through the personal column. A poetic ad is the one thing linking the victims.

Along comes Helen (Barkin), a sexy blonde who answers Frank's ad. She is one of a list of suspects, only she doesn't leave any prints and tells Keller he just doesn't do it for her at all. However, he runs into her later and they end up in bed together, despite his suspicions of her lethal lovemaking.

Sea of Love unfolds slowly, tensely. Keller is falling in love,

although he is never sure that Helen isn't the killer. And Helen keeps discovering Frank's little lies, big lies. This is not a romance made in heaven. And every time our hero falls asleep in bed we wonder if she's going to finish him off.

This is a very adult movie, with some really sexy scenes. Barkin sizzles, and Pacino is no slouch, although he is paunchy and looks older than his years. The ending is good and not a let-down, no tricks here.

Pacino turns in his best performance in years, and we see again what made him a star in the first place. He's not afraid to look stupid, be vulnerable. It's a low-key performance, which is just what is required.

Ellen Barkin is incredibly sexy, animalistic, and earthy. She has to be in order to convince us that it is worth Frank's risking his life to go to bed with her.

John Goodman is funny and sweet, as we've come to expect of him. He's always a pleasure to

watch, bear-like and good-humored, sexy in his own way. He's a good anchor for Pacino, a believable partner against crime.

Sea of Love isn't always riveting, although it's generally good. There are some plot holes, problems believing the actions of the characters at times. The whole premise of a cop sleeping with a murder suspect, one who is thought to commit sexually related crimes, is kind of difficult to swallow. No doubt if you're a New York cop you like to live dangerously in the first place.

On the whole Sea of Love is a worthwhile film, although it doesn't quite live up to its publicity. Such good reviews can sometimes be a liability; although it's hardly the worst fate a movie can suffer.

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