



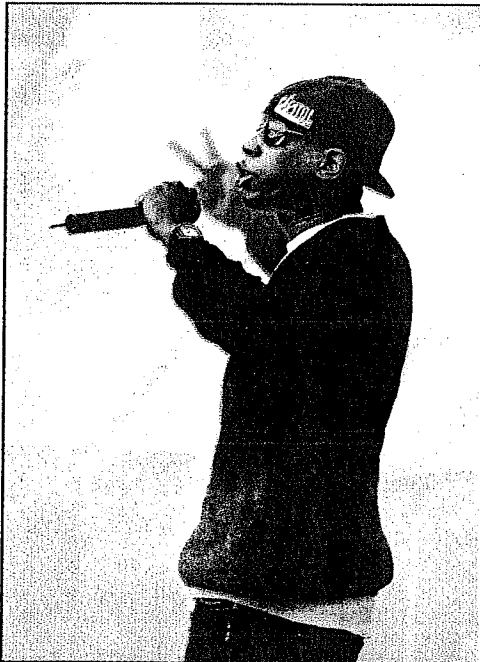
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

# LIFE AND ARTS

SECTION C

CONTACT LIFE AND ARTS AT 206-448-8157

## BUMBERSHOOT



SCOTT EKLUND / PH

Hip-hop artist Talib Kweli performs on the Mainstage Sunday at 35th anniversary of Seattle's Bumbershoot arts festival.

Aerial dance,  
hard rock and  
writers wow  
the crowds

Bumbershoot is a smorgasbord of music and arts, allowing a sampling of a wide range of entertainment. Our critics dropped in on a variety of shows during its first three days. Here's what they saw and heard.

### "Smart"

Saturday night, McCaw Hall

Billed as the Transatlantic Orchestra (a play on a previous album title, "Transatlantica,") Seattle's Death Cab for Cutie rocked its way into the hearts of the literary types who came to hear what novelist Dave Eggers meant by titling his Bumbershoot gig "Smart."

He meant you were smart to be there.

Eggers is part of a Generation X wave that invented a droll, dumb-smart style now huge in literature, music and art. His memoir, "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," rocketed him to the big time, and he and his friends hope to use their fame to make radical changes in the country.

Because they think Americans are in desperate need of critical thinking skills, the Eggers team has organized critical thinking squads (writing centers known as 826) to work with schools around the country. Passing the hat for the Seattle version of

SEE BUMBERSHOOT, C6

### FROM C1

826, Eggers raised \$18,000 from his Bumbershoot audience.

What did the audience get in return? Eggers telling a true story about writing letters to Fortune 500 company presidents in the voice of an Irish setter and signing the letters with his older brother's name, because if anyone should get into trouble, it should be a Republican like his brother, he said.

"This American Life" star Sarah Vowell told the dazzlingly twisted tale of the writing of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," backed by Death Cab; singer/guitarist Mike Doughty delivered an intelligent and gutsy version of old-time rock 'n' roll; and MC accordion player Daniel Handler was sensational. (He's better known to kids as Lemony Snicket, and after seeing him, I think the kids are onto something.)

Hearing Snicket, Doughty and Death Cab thunder through a Death Cab tune brought the capacity crowd to its feet, howling like Irish setters. This for me was Bumbershoot at its best. It had everything - nerve, heart, brains and rock 'n' roll.

- Regina Hackett

Monday, September 5, 2005