

## Rain Perry – Bio

Rain Perry's parents met in Pasadena, California – married - and split up when Rain was very young. Her mother, Melody, became a born again Christian, but sadly passed away at the age of twenty-seven. Melody's composition "Kind Of A Woman," credited to George and Perry, appeared on "**Woman**" [1972], Nancy Sinatra's sophomore album for the RCA Victor record label. Backed by "It's The Love [That Keeps It All Together]" the song was also released as the A Side of a single. Following her mother's passing, Rain, aged seven at the time, was raised by her father, John, a nascent screenwriter turned hippie. Initially they lived in the Northern California town of Inverness, and subsequently in the South of the state in Ojai – where Rain graduated from Nordhoff High School. Perry grew up in a series of rented homes as her errant father drifted from one part-time job [and one girlfriend] to the next. Born into an upper middle-class Midwestern family when Rain's father eventually inherited part of the Perry fortune he simply frittered it away. Diagnosed as suffering from colon cancer, John Perry passed away in 1999 at the age of fifty-three. With both parents possessing an artistic streak, it's logical that those genes were passed on to Rain. Although she barely got to know her mother, and while her relationship with her father was fraught, John actively encouraged Rain to follow her creative muse.

During her late teens, Perry relocated from California to Colorado. During her early twenties, Perry was diagnosed as suffering from Rheumatoid Arthritis and soon it became too painful for her to play guitar or piano. As a result she gave up writing and playing music for a time, and focused instead on raising her two daughters. In 1999 Perry released the album "**Balance**" on her own label, Precipitous Records. In response to 9/11 Perry recorded and released a CD single of her song "Wide Awake." In 2003, Tom Russell included Perry's "Yosemite" on the four song bonus EP that was released concurrent with his album "**Modern Art**." The song had appeared on "**Balance**." "Yosemite" won the Folk category of the 2001 John Lennon Songwriting Contest and the 2005 ROCKRGRL Discoveries Award, and earned Rain a finalist slot in Y2K Telluride Troubadour competition.

Released in late April 2008, "**Cinderblock Bookshelves**" is an autobiographical song cycle, that was recorded at Congress House studio in South Austin and produced by studio owner Mark Hallman [Carole King, Eliza Gilkyson, Ani DiFranco]. Guest contributors to the sessions, include Victoria Williams and local 'Austin' gals Sara Hickman and Eliza Gilkyson. The latter being the subject of the track "Eliza On The Car Tour." Also featured on the recording is former Leonard Cohen backing vocalists, Perla Batalla and Julie Christensen [Divine Horsemen], who, like Perry, reside in Ojai. A book based on **Cinderblock Bookshelves** is in the works. Asked to categorise Perry's music, I'd include folk, country and pop influences and more.

Perry has also performed the songs that appear on "**Cinderblock Bookshelves**" as a one-woman play sub-titled "**A Guide For Children Of Fame-Obsessed Bohemian Nomads**." Directed by Kim Maxwell, from whom Perry took acting-writing classes a few years ago, it premiered, in its latest incarnation, over a couple of consecutive weekends during February 2008 at Theatre 150 in Ojai. During June the same year, Perry took the production to Center Stage Theatre in Santa Barbara.

Discography : "**Balance**" [2000] ; "**Cinderblock Bookshelves**" [2008] :

### Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 07/08

[565 words]