

THIS POEM IS FOR SALE

by Terry McCarty

This poem is for sale to those who work in the Business.
There will be no exposed breasts.
No unbleeped uses of the word "fuck".
No tiny nipple covers.
No grinding against other people's bodies in airplane lavatories.
No complex thoughts or subversive ideas of any kind.
This poem is determined to be loved by everyone.

This poem is suitable for Clear Channel Entertainment.
It can be printed on all their billboards in the U.S.
and abroad.

People will flock to Clear Channel concert venues and pay \$250.00 a ticket to hear this poem read aloud by Sting.
This poem will say nothing about George Bush Jr. or the war in Iraq, however it will wave the flag on occasion to please Clear Channel overlords.
Every so often, this poem contains lines like "I love the blandness of Clear Channel Entertainment" and "Ryan Seacrest is God".
This poem believes in fitting in.

This poem wants to be adapted for movies.
Mel Gibson can do almost anything he wants with this poem.
If he wants to add lots of crucifixions and mutilation,
this poem will understand.
This poem wants to be turned into an epic in the tradition of THE PASSION, BRAVEHEART and THE PATRIOT.
However, this poem draws the line at homophobia.
It refuses to be thrown out of a window for an easy laugh.

If Mel Gibson doesn't want this poem as a movie,
perhaps The Rock will.
This poem can be set in a British Columbia location-to get away from those pesky unions in the States.
This poem can be made to accommodate lots of wholesome beatings with practically no blood-all the better to obtain a PG-13 rating.
Everyone will be able to smell what this poem is cooking-and that will be first-weekend grosses
exceeding \$100 million.

This poem will please both the FCC and Congressional investigators.
This poem will sit in front of Michael Powell, Sam Brownback and Joe Lieberman and testify all day long.
"Freedom of speech? It's too dangerous! We've got to protect our kids by censoring everything in sight!" says this poem to bipartisan enthusiasm.
All this applause will make this poem's selling price rise exponentially.
Meanwhile, job creation, the deficit and the quagmire in Iraq escape true scrutiny-don't dare be unpatriotic.
We'd rather discuss this poem.

This poem is for sale to those who work in the Business.
Its value is especially high when people are afraid of
what to say, what to create, what to stand behind
when the Business increasingly answers to nervous stockholders who care more about profit and public image than art.

This poem believes that freedom is a concept
too painful for people to manage on their own.

This poem believes in taking that pain away forever.

Terry McCarty was born on July 31, 1959 in Electra, Texas. He moved to Southern California in 1988. From 1988 to 1997, he worked as a background actor and occasional stand-in for actors including Joe Pesci (THE PUBLIC EYE, LETHAL WEAPON 3 and JIMMY HOLLYWOOD) and Wallace Shawn (HOUSE ARREST). Terry began writing poetry in the summer of 1997. From 1998 to 1999, he was a member of the Midnight Special Bookstore poetry workshop in Santa Monica, run by Olin Tezcatlipoca. He has been a featured poet in several venues including Midnight Special, Coffee Cartel (Redondo Beach), Cobalt Café (Canoga Park), The Ugly Mug (Orange), The Rapp Saloon (Santa Monica) and Beyond Baroque (Venice). Terry has also appeared in Lynda and Lisa LaRose's THE POETRY SPIRAL at Luna Sol Café (Los Angeles), Roni Walter's BAKSTREET COMETRI at the Comedy Store (West Hollywood) and the Austin International Poetry Festival (Austin, TX). Terry McCarty is the author of six chapbooks containing poems which blend humor with occasional social and/or political commentary: ANTHOLOGY ONE, ANTHOLOGY TWO, HOLLYWOOD POETRY, ENGAGEMENT DAY, PAY NO ATTENTION TO THIS MAN and the new HOLLYWOOD POETRY UNLOADED. A seventh chapbook, 20 GREATEST HITS, will be published in the summer of 2004. It will contain poems from the period 1997-2002. He has also released two spoken-word CDs: THE BEST OF TERRY McCARTY Vol. 1 (produced by Jimmy Smith) and VOLUME 2 (produced by Tish Eastman). In addition, his poem "Icarus' Itinerary" can be found in Tebot Bach's 2003 anthology of California poetry SO LUMINOUS THE WILDFLOWERS.

