

arts

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'Tapped' tells impact of bottled water use

KELLY FENG
Editor in Chief

"Tapped" is a 2009 documentary film by directors Stephanie Soechtig and Jason Lindsey. After researching ocean pollution, the filmmakers were inspired to produce the movie, which "kept leading them to bottled water."

The film spotlights the bottled water industry's role in affecting our global warming, health, pollution and dependency on oil, focusing on industry giants such as Nestlé, Coca-Cola and Pepsi Waters and running tests on the company's bottles for its products.

Their results showed "several potentially harmful chemicals, some known carcinogens." The documentary also focused on the number of recycled bottles, noting, "Forty percent of bottled water is filtered tap water, and every day, we throw away 30 million single-served bottles of water as plastic waste." It also examines the plastic water bottle industry and its deteriorating health ramifications.

The movie examines how big companies like Nestlé settle into small towns like Fryeburg, Maine, with substantial water reserves, pumping the town's water to be bottled and sold at an enormous profit.

"Tapped" showcases the corruption of big companies and illustrates how they manipulate the public. Before we go into the big companies like Nestlé, Pepsi, and Coca-Cola robbing small towns of water they already own, let's ask ourselves, what ever happened to tap water? How did we go from drinking the same water from our taps to slickly packaged water bottles? It has been proven that tap water is just as pure as the bottled water we readily purchase.

Because of heavily produced marketing, the dependency on bottled water has crept up on us so insidiously that we haven't even noticed its cumulative effects.

Scientifically, "Tapped" advanced my knowledge of climate change. It illustrates how global warming has produced droughts over the years, for instance, in Raleigh, North Carolina or Atlanta, Georgia, and shows the irony

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AHAN



A hidden gem of cozy cuisine

ROSANA MORENO
Contributor

With the weather getting colder, I'd like to pass on the cold summer dishes and open my horizon to warm, comforting food. One local restaurant in Madison that I love is Ahan. Ahan is a culinary revelation! They are all about blending old-school culinary vibes with a twist. All ingredients are locally grown, bringing a fresh flavor of Asian-inspired food to the local scene. Not to mention, it has the coziest atmosphere!

The two most popular dishes I tried were the drunken noodles and the vegetable egg rolls.

The Egg Rolls

The vegetable filling celebrates freshness and flavor. Crisp cabbage, fresh beets,



ROSANA MORENO / CLARION
Egg rolls.

mushrooms, carrot soft tofu, and thin bean thread noodles maintain their distinct taste.

The natural goodness of the vegetables shines through. I loved the vegetables' crunch with the fried outer layer of the egg roll. A delicious start to a dish.

The Drunken Noodles

Drunken noodles are my new favorite comfort food. Before trying Ahan, I had never heard of the dish before. You can pick between Pork or tofu to go into the dish. I went with pork for a savory flavor. The dish is wide, thin noodles covered with tomato, bok choy and sprinkled with scallion, cilantro, Thai Basil, and crumbled pork or tofu.

My first bite surprised me with crunches of the veggies and the savory and sweet flavor I was getting from the sauce and the pork. My mouth is watering just thinking about it! The sweetness in the dish threw me for a curveball, but I was far from disappointed. Every element of the dish is a true delight. It will definitely leave your taste buds craving more.

With the last bite of Drunken Noodles and egg rolls, the lingering warmth and bold flavors create a memorable finale. Ahan not only satisfies the appetite



ROSANA MORENO / CLARION

Above, the drunken noodles at Ahan are flavorful. At left, owners Jamie and Chuckie Brown-Soukaseume.



but also leaves an invitation to return. You do not want to miss out on an amazing experience of flavor and comfort.

Location & Phone

744 Williamson Street, Madison, WI 53704. Phone (608) 867-4001.

The Founders

Jamie Brown-Soukaseume

is a Madison College Culinary Arts Program alum! She's been a part of the Wisconsin food scene since 2011 as a seasoned professional chef.

Chuckie Brown-Soukaseume is a seasoned pro in the food and beverage scene. He has been making waves in the Madison industry since 2012, bringing flair and expertise to every dish.

A role model for future female artists

ELI SCHMIDT

Staff Writer

and

PAUL BECKER

Arts Editor

Local award-winning musician Beth Kille dropped by on Nov. 29 for a live interview and performance. Madison College journalism program director David Hansen and journalism student Lauren Taillon, conducted the interview as a part of the Writer's Life Workshop series in which local professionals share their processes and bits of their story.

Kille began writing music in 2000. It was only after graduate school, for psychology, when she picked up a guitar. She learned how to play from a copy of "Guitar For Dummies." In the interview, she says her musical background is more focused on the essence of music and rather than the technicalities of music theory.

She traveled to Nashville to seek a record deal, to embed herself in the scene of Americana rock music. But she ended up staying local, producing 18 albums with three separate bands and a solo act.

The first song she performed was "I've Been Accused," written on a drive home in Texas, where she lived for a brief time. When asked about her writing inspiration, she says it "is everywhere." She goes on to say that while many of her songs explore emotions, some are based off of specific items such as license plates and other common images.

A point of struggle for musicians is to identify a specific category where their music should live before completion. The general point of making a song is not to fit into the confined space of what it means to be one specific genre. Kille describes her



KELLY FENG / CLARION

Musician Beth Kille performs at a Writer's Life Series event on Nov. 29.

connection to Americana-rock as not quite country, indie or folk—something of her own creation: "Each genre informs each other," she says.

Several student questions were aimed toward working around writers' block and the moments of creative strife. Kille's song "Lean," written by her trio Gin, Chocolate & Bottle Rockets, is an example of finding people with similar consistencies in writing. Kille says, "co-writing is like dating," and it is this compatibility — and sometimes hostility — that is consequential in the production of music.

After the live performance of "Lean," some students commented "I can feel the passion" and "My younger self would have benefitted from hearing this." Her lyrics provide an affirmation for a very human experience: "Don't be afraid of what you're feeling / You've got to lean, lean into it."

One of Kille's messages is the empowerment of young girls to stand up and rock. The patriarchal model expects girls to be cute and quiet, and not to have a voice of

their own. Women and girls' creativity is suppressed. Her song "Radio," with driving rhythm guitar and vocals like Courtney Love, exposes the failings of the music industry in a pithy music video.

When working with women especially, the focus is on selling sex appeal rather than music. What then, is the product? The musician or the music? Kille lends criticism and she works towards reversing these effects with a liberating music program geared toward young girls.

Kille's favorite place is the "Girls & Ladies Rock Camp Madison," a program she founded in 2010. The camp-based program fosters positive self-esteem through music and "recognizes the potential of every camper to be a strong, talented, creative and empowered individual while providing a safe space where they can ALL rock."

Kille shows how important it is for women and girls to be unapologetic with their authenticity. She demonstrates how to stand up and rock—spreading her message and inspiration through musical experiences. She is a credible figure in the community and a role model for many.

Kille is an active musician in Madison and is playing with her band Gin, Chocolate & Bottle Rockets in the upcoming months. Kille is also a member of the bands Beth Kille Band and Kerosene Kites. She is a co-founder of Flannel Fest, a celebration of Americana music that helps raise awareness of the Keep Wisconsin Warm/Cool Fund. Her book, "Embracing Your Authentic Songwriter: How & Why to Play Your Own Tune" will be released in December.

If you would like to learn more about Kille, visit her website <https://beth-kille.mailchimpsites.com/>.