

## Spielberg revives dinosaurs in Jurassic Park adventure



"Jurassic Park"



By Anne Steyer  
Staff Reporter

Move over Barney, "Jurassic Park" (The Lincoln, Edgewood) has arrived and these dinosaurs would rather eat kids than cuddle up to them.

Based on the best-selling novel by Michael Crichton, the movie is brought to life by director Steven Spielberg. Spielberg had some help from longtime collaborator George Lucas and his special effects wizards at Industrial Light and Magic.

Between them, they've cooked up some amazingly realistic dinosaurs, among them a hungry Tyrannosaurus Rex, a sickly triceratops and some nasty, calculating velociraptors.

## High energy blues trio to hit Zoo Bar

By Jill O'Brien  
Staff Reporter

Jimmy Thackery, the 40-year-old guitar wizard of headbanger blues, aired his dirty laundry during a recent interview.

He was in the process of washing his clothes, he said, when he called from a Florida motel.



On June 23, promoting his release, "Empty Arms Motel," Thackery, along with bassist Wayne Burdette and drummer Mark Stutso, will hit the Zoo Bar to play for the summer crowd.

"Wayne calls it hot-rod blues — revved up blues," Thackery said. "A lot of people when they hear the word blues, think of a low, sleepy groove. We're more high energy."

The "high energy" trio, Jimmy Thackery and the Drivers, is a condensed version of The Assassins, a six-man orchestra, he said.

"I like the way a trio moves around," he said. "When you come up with a plan you only have to tell someone twice because there's only two guys."

For 14 years, guitarist Thackery played frontman for the Nighthawks, based in Washington D.C. Tired of traveling 300 days a year, Thackery said he left the group to form the Assassins. But his fans weren't happy. "I got hate mail because I was

The dinosaurs breathe, snort, howl, move, run, and yes, eat humans — at least the carnivorous ones do. Of course, that's only after they get loose from their pens and run amok in Jurassic Park, a man-made ecological amusement-style park off the coast of Costa Rica.

Leading the cast is Sam Neill as paleontologist/dinosaur expert Alan Grant and Laura Dern as paleobotanist Ellie Sattler, Grant's colleague and girlfriend.

Both Grant and Sattler are summoned by developer John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) to evaluate his new entertainment project. The scientists know little of Hammond's venture until they arrive at the island and enter Jurassic Park, greeted by the bleating of towering brachiosaurs.

Hammond's miracle is courtesy of genetic engineering — his researchers cloned the creatures from dinosaur DNA found in the blood retrieved from mosquitos preserved in amber, or what was once tree sap.

Once inside the park, Grant and Sattler embark on an electric car tour of the entire park, accompanied by fellow evaluator mathematician Ian Malcolm (a perfectly cast Jeff

Goldblum) and Hammond's grandkids Tim (Joseph Mazello) and Lex (Adriana Richards).

While touring the park, the computer is sabotaged by a greedy employee, the security breaks down and all hell breaks loose. At this point the film really gets thrilling. The T-Rex breaks through his constraints and goes on a rampage. The evil velociraptors get together and hunt, and the humans try to stay out of the dinosaurs way and stay alive. In a nutshell, the new interaction between Jurassic Age creatures and mankind is not altogether successful.

Every moment the dinosaurs are on screen they consume all attention. That's not to say the acting isn't solid — it is — but "Jurassic Park" lacks any real story and the science is mostly techno-babble. The film also strips down Crichton's novel to its barest skeleton, taking away the story's punch and losing some of the most thrilling elements in the process.

The ending is typical feel-good Spielberg, and therefore a little disappointing, not to mention ambiguous. But even without a strong plotline, the terrific special effects make "Jurassic Park" an amazing amusement ride.

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— Thackery

taking a more supportive role and people couldn't swallow it," he said. "I was not the 100 mph guitar hero people had come to enjoy."

"It just wiggled me right out. Ripped me right apart and I had to go, 'Well, that's the way it goes.'"

When the Assassins smacked into an impenetrable wall of finance, Thackery said he took the advice of the rhythm section and slimmed down to a three-man band.

"Unfortunately, the rhythm section couldn't play blues," he said. "They couldn't play simple enough, so one by one I replaced those guys."

He started from scratch, he said, even writing new songs to fit the three-piece band.

Although Thackery has a knack for songwriting, he really shines on stage, where he belts out rough-edged bluesy vocals and demonstrates his guitar mastery. Yet, audience-friendly Thackery said he perceives himself as introverted on stage.

"I find myself all too often standing in one spot, close my eyes and drift off and then have to say, 'Come

on, get with it,'" he said. "My feeling is if people are paying money to see something, you give them 110 percent, and I'm constantly striving for the 10 over the 100."

When he does get with it, Thackery plays a guitar at breakneck speed behind his back. Sometimes, during a performance, he uses an empty beer bottle for a slide. And if fans are lucky, they'll see him play with his teeth.

Thackery said he has never cut his lip while he was playing.

"No," he said, "but I catch hell from my mother who spent \$9,000 on braces for me."

Thackery said he adopted his stage style from a combination of musicians.

"You take a little bit of this guy and this guy and roll it all together to get your own," he said. "You borrow a style and pretend you made it up yourself."

Thackery said in spite of his love for playing, guitars give him fits.

"I hate all of them," he said. If that's true, Thackery gets revenge on his '64 Strat and his Les Paul when he plays live.

Thackery said he no longer has an official fan club. With all the changes taking place in his band, he instead decided to compile a mailing list for fans requesting info on Thackery and the Drivers.

"We did have a mailing list," he said, "with 700 to 800 names on it. We were pretty proud of it, but then someone stole it in Columbus, Ohio."

"So if all you out there are receiving junk mail, it's because of me. I'm sorry."



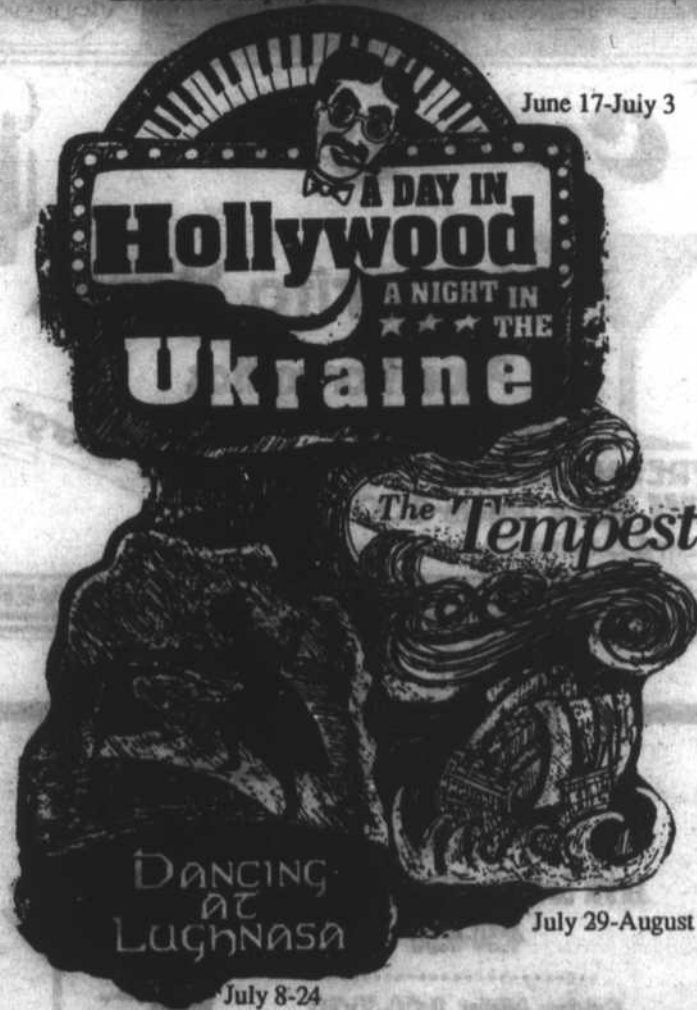
Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Sam Neil (Dr. Alan Grant) and Ariana Richards (Lex) face a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

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