

Daily Nebraskan WEEKEND PREVIEW

For the weekend
of Nov. 11 - 13

Give it a shot

► **Flatwater Circus** — This four-man band from Norfolk is fresh from high school. Three of its members graduated last spring. The Circus' style covers just about everything, including heavy rock, country, jazz and Motown. The Circus is in town Saturday night at Knickerbockers, 901 O St.

Movie reveals beauty in vampire's world

Quik Facts

Movie: "Interview With the Vampire"

Rating: R

Stars: Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Antonio Banderas, Stephen Rea, Christian Slater, Kirsten Dunst

Director: Neil Jordan

Grade: A

Five words: Vampires bleed with immortal lust

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Blood rushes in the veins of an evil darker than night itself. Immortality triumphs in a world of creatures that roam the blackness, searching for a soul and breeding the Dark Gift.

Vampires.

Based on the best-selling novel by Anne Rice, "Interview With the Vampire" exposes a universe unknown to mortal men that is filled with vibrant color, sound, emotion and the power to play God in a world where there is no God.

Lestat (Tom Cruise) is a vampire living in 18th-century New Orleans. One day on the street he sees Louis, a man who is in mourning over the loss of his wife and child. Lestat pursues his victim.

Louis, after becoming a vampire, has trouble accepting his immortality and refuses to let go of his human self. He drinks the blood of rats and birds instead of humans — until he finds Claudia.

Upon her conversion, Claudia (Kirsten Dunst), with the face of an impish cherub, completes the dysfunctional family of monsters. Her childish beauty conceals a ravenous passion for blood.

The movie burns with eroticism, but it is not found in sex. Rather, it is found in domination and the power of a vampire's consumption.

Take, for example, the scene where Lestat gives Louis the Dark Gift of immortality.

As Lestat descends on his prey, his eyes light with fire as his ivory fangs pierce Louis' skin. The blood pours freely and Lestat draws it into him, hungrily nursing from Louis' convulsing body.

Their two thundering hearts beat as one



Courtesy of Geffen Pictures

Lestat (Tom Cruise), left, explains to his vampire protégé Louis (Brad Pitt) just what it means to be undead in "Interview With the Vampire."

as Lestat overcomes Louis and drinks his fill. Lestat pulls away, raises his wrist to his mouth and bites his own veins. Velvet red blood pours forth and slowly drips into Louis' begging lips.

The blood invigorates Louis as his mortal body surrenders to his vampire one. His skin pales to an ashen white, and his eyes glow a translucent emerald.

The human actors give convincing portrayals of their vampire selves.

Cruise portrays the cunning Lestat with a cynic tongue and a hunger for vitality. Although seen as a controversial choice for the part, Cruise injects his own life into the grotesque beauty of Lestat's death.

The actor's trademark conceit adds per-

fectly to Lestat's divine immortality and belief that he is all-powerful and indestructible. Both the actor and the character summon a formidable strength.

Pitt captures the naiveté of a young vampire with the cold skin of a monster but the warm heart of a human.

Dunst, with innocent fire-breathing eyes, convincingly mixes opposing traits to create Claudia.

Antonio Banderas, in a supporting role, makes an excellent vampire with his soul-searching eyes and passionate, tremulous voice.

The slight deviations from the book are necessary for smooth transitions and actually enhance the story line. The ending is a

foreseeable difficulty, but one the movie overcomes with ease, surpassing the book's version.

And, by transforming the lead role from Louis to Lestat, the movie almost secures a sequel.

"Interview" defies vampire stereotypes. It is not a gruesome tale of beasts dressed in black capes fleeing from garlic, crucifixes and holy water. "Interview" is a serious contemplation of mortality in the very real world of these mysteriously beautiful beings.

Anne Rice fans will be pleased.

"Interview" bleeds with a supernatural power. As God kills indiscriminately, so do vampires. And vampires will never die.

Action flows well in 'Les Misérables'

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

The spirit of a revolution and the plight of one man destined to make a difference erupted in the musical magnetism of "Les Misérables."

The Tony-award winning Broadway musical is on stage through Sunday at Omaha's Orpheum Theater.

Backed by a powerful orchestra score and elaborate staging, "Les Misérables" evokes a violent spirit within its story and the passions of its characters.

"Les Misérables" is based on the tale of Jean Valjean, convict No. 24601. Valjean stole a loaf of bread and suffered 19 years of degradation in prison under the hands of the stoic Javert.

After his life is transformed by the kindness of a local bishop, Valjean pursues a path of helping those cast out by society, but he always is on the run from Javert.

Valjean personifies the universal theme of the underdog. His constant battle against

an evil government and his desire to bring goodness to a starved society make him a passionate symbol of the constant struggle between good and evil.

Valjean's voice was hauntingly fierce and echoed with a pleading force that reached out for mercy. The presence of Fantine, a poor destitute that Valjean saved from ruin, was stronger than that of any other character.

She symbolized the sliver of optimism that rested within those hounded by oppres-

sion, as her fragile voice blanketed the audience with serenity.

The most striking scene arose when Javert confronted Valjean in Paris' sewers under the ominous glow from the grates above.

Since "Les Misérables" is packed with several such essential scenes, they move along quickly, almost too quickly for audience members to catch the meaning.

Some of the musical's most powerful scenes were robbed of what could have been a phenomenal climax. They lost much of their power and at times ended up looking choppy and forced.

As a whole, the company blended scenes together with such precision that the action flowed as if in a movie. The rotating stage allowed for this continuity and added a strong aspect of realism.

"Les Misérables" will play at 7:30 tonight. Additional performances will begin at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.



Courtesy of Space Agency

Pictured is a scene at the barricade in the Broadway musical "Les Misérables."

Quik Facts

Show: "Les Misérables"

At: Orpheum Theater, Omaha

Times: 7:30 tonight, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Tickets: range from \$15 to \$39.50, available from Ticketmaster