

# Symphony begins tour in Lincoln

By Emily Wray  
Staff Reporter

The musical magic of the San Francisco Symphony will sparkle when the ensemble opens its 1996 tour at the Lied Center for Performing Arts tonight.

Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas will be at the helm for the 8 p.m. performance.

Bruce Marquis, executive director for the Lied Center, said the San Francisco Symphony presented a unique opportunity.

"This is not only their first tour with new music director Michael Tilson Thomas, but the Lied is the opening night," Marquis said.

This world-renowned orchestra has made many recordings and been featured in various movie scores like "Amadeus" and "The Godfather III."

Tonight's program explores a wide range of the symphony genre. Program numbers range from a 20th-century piece, "Synchrony," by Henry Dixon Cowell, to early 19th-century "Symphonic fantastique," Op. 14" by Hector Berlioz.

"Scenes from the Ballet 'Romeo and Juliet,' Op. 64" by Sergei Sergeievich Prokofiev is the other piece that will be explored at the concert.

"It's a very interesting program," Marquis said. "The program is providing quite a delightful range of orchestral music in one evening by one of America's premier symphony orchestras."

Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas has an impressive resume behind him, Marquis said.

"He was regarded as a prodigy of American conductors for many years," Marquis said.

Tilson Thomas was named the Conductor of the Year in 1995 by the Musical America Directory and has garnered several Grammys, Marquis



Photo courtesy of San Francisco Symphony

**Michael Tilson Thomas, musical director of the San Francisco Symphony, will lead the world-famous group in its performance tonight at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.**

said. "He conceived the New World Symphony, a training orchestra for some of America's brightest young musicians based in Miami," Marquis said. Tilson Thomas also would relate well to the audience, Marquis said. "Although he is 50 years old, he's

See SYMPHONY on 14

## Bantam

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wise go unsaid, Bantam said. But the public money involved in graffiti cleanup would make Bantam feel too guilty to commit the same illegal act, although she sympathized with the artist's cause, she said.

There was a link between the imaginative world of childhood and the literature of magical realism, which influenced Bantam early on.

"Childhood memories are very crisp, clear and clean," Bantam said. "They have become a language that form a part of who I am now."

Later in art school, she was told "to work with the paint" and abandon all preconceived ideas, but that influence is still easy to see.

The monstrous representational beings of her paintings live on a Pre-Renaissance depth of field, growling and clinging to the edge of the canvas as if they were about to fall into the room.

In "Mountain Dweller," Bantam's exaggerated sense of space works particularly well. A house on stilts, seen from the top of a mountain, juts out toward the viewer with a dizzying sense of height. The black, rainbow-tiled pool in the foreground, and the bird shadow of the building all combine to convey the looming strangeness between architecture, nature and man.

Bantam's show is on display all this month. Admission is free. Anyone interested in contributing to a community art project should call Bantam at 477-2728.

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## Don't waste your money on fourth 'Hellraiser' film

By Gerry Beltz  
Film Critic

Ouch. The "Hellraiser" film series had done so well, elevating itself above the typical blood-and-gore flicks and giving horror fans a bad guy they could be proud to lose their skin and soul to: Pinhead.

But every dream must end, and some dreams end badly.

Such is the case in "Hellraiser: Bloodline."

Covering four centuries, the fourth installment in the "Hellraiser" movie series follows one family's bloodline to discover how the infamous puzzle box came to be.

It is the 22nd century, and scientist Paul Merchant (Bruce Ramsay) starts babbling about an evil he must destroy to save his soul. Naturally, the people he tells this to think his brain pan is leaking, so he begins to tell the tale of his family's woe ...

Over the generations, his family has been cursed with the knowledge of the box, but also with an idea of how to seal the gateway to Hell forever (until the next movie).

"Hellraiser: Bloodline" is a three-stage movie. First, the toymaker Phillip Lemarchand makes the box, and the demon Angelique (Valentina Vargas) makes an appearance. She's twice as sultry as Pinhead and just as nasty.

Thus the curse on Lemarchand's family begins.

Cut to the present, just after the third "Hellraiser" film — Pinhead shows up, and he and Angelique start flirting. Pinhead's "I-swallowed-a-thesaurus" vocabulary starts to swing, but without Clive Barker's imagination putting the words together, it has no flavor.

### The Facts

**Film:** "Hellraiser: Bloodline"

**Stars:** Bruce Ramsay, Doug Bradley, Valentina Vargas

**Director:** Alan Smithee (Kevin Yagher)

**Rating:** R (violence, language, nudity, more violence)

**Grade:** D-

**Five Words:** Pinhead's back, but movie sucks

Again, the demons get sucked back into the box, but Hell is still awaiting the next turn of the demonic Rubik's Cube.

Now, the future, where the entire movie cuts itself down to the level of a grade-Z imitation of "Alien."

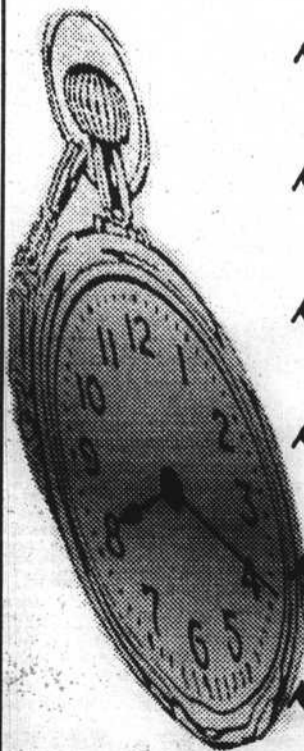
Clive Barker's original "Hellraiser" film was a breath of fresh air into the tired atmosphere of the horror genre. But for this piece of cinematic excrement, he served only as executive producer, and the script and story line show that.

And Pinhead is perhaps the greatest loser in all of this. Once a horror movie icon who put Freddy and Jason back in the minor leagues, Pinhead has mellowed out and started acting as comic relief. Excuse me, but this guy has NAILS DRIVEN INTO HIS OWN HEAD! Don't give him lines people will laugh at!

Interesting point of note: although directed by Kevin Yagher, the movie lists the director's name as "Alan Smithee," the standard name used by the Director's Guild when the original director doesn't want his name associated with the actual film. (For good reason, in this case ...)

Save your money. Rent the original "Hellraiser" instead.

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