

# Les Misérables

Award-winning  
musical giant  
to enliven  
Lied

Theater

CHRIS THOMAS  
Theater Critic

Only a musical with the epic proportions of "Les Misérables" could sell out eight consecutive performances at Lincoln's Lied Center for the Performing Arts. The raw power and emotion of this play, combined with its award-winning music, has become a favorite among critics and fans everywhere.

Brought to the stage by composer Claude-Michel Schönberg and librettist Alain Boublil, "Les Misérables" is Victor Hugo's classic story in a form that is undeniably eloquent, remarkably influential and truly unforgettable.

Set against the sweeping backdrop of the French Revolution, character arc and back story are developed with immaculate precision.

The musical opens in 1815 Digne, with Jean Valjean (Gregory Stone) breaking parole after a 19-year prison sentence to begin his life anew. The epic encompasses his life and those adjacent to it, including a pursuing inspector, Javert (Todd Johnson), an orphaned child, Cosette (Elizabeth Lundberg and Kate Fisher), revolutionary students led by Enjolras (Matthew Shepard) and France's forgotten lower class.

Teeming with stunning plot twists, gorgeous pageantry and elaborate sets, the three-hour performance is best remembered for its music.

Led by Thénardier (J. P. Dougherty), "Master of the House" is a choral wonder telling of the clever, yet maniacal, nature of the ill-do-well innkeeper, and contrasting their poor but virtuous daughter, Eponine (Rona Figueroa).

Soliloquies by Valjean, Javert and Marius (Rich Affannato) give the epic a personal and empathetic atmosphere the audience can breathe in.

But the true power of "Les Misérables" comes from incredible cast numbers like "One Day More," "Look Down" and "Do You Hear The People Sing?" They fill the theater with emotions incommunicable with mere words, and overwhelm the listener.

"Les Misérables" is playing sold-out Lied performances today through Sunday. Also appearing will be Lisa Capps as Fantine, Tregony Shepherd as Madame Thénardier and Jason L. Mays as Gavroche.



COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

## Club caters to calm nights

■ YiaYia's Beer Wine & Pizza takes it to the other side on Tuesday evenings.

BY MARYANN MUGGY  
Staff Reporter

So it's Tuesday night and students have been studying their brains out. They want to take a break and hang out with friends, but don't want to get too crazy — they have a test in the morning. What is there to do?

At 1427 O St., there is a place called — surprise! — Club 1427. You've probably seen it next to YiaYia's Beer Wine & Pizza, 1423 O St. The establishment has something happening on Tuesday nights that's perfect for a study break or just hang-

ing out.

Every second and fourth Tuesday is movie night. On alternating Tuesdays, the club features wine tastings and an open microphone. On movie nights, the people at Club 1427 show about five short films from their collection of 250. Patrons between the ages of 23 and 29 probably have seen many of them before — they are the educational films teachers showed in school. Documentaries and independent films round out the screenings, which begin at 10 p.m.

Although Club 1427 has a fully stocked bar, no food is allowed there, so patrons should arrive early if they want YiaYia's pizza.

On wine-tasting nights, the club showcases four of its 40 wines. For

\$8, connoisseurs may sample each, and select a glass of their favorite. Complementary bread, cheese and grapes accompany the tasting. Full bottles also are available for \$11.50.

Along with the wine tasting, an open microphone is available for musicians, poets, comedians or others who desire to let their artistic juices flow. A master of ceremonies introduces the brave, who are on their own from there on.

Since alcohol is available on both movie and wine-tasting nights, participants need to be 21 to attend.

So there it is — new alternatives to an otherwise uneventful Tuesday night. Just wander over to Club 1427, stopping first at YiaYia's for dinner, and enjoy yourself. You've earned it for all that studying.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
BY MARYANN MUGGY/DN

CLUB 1427, 1427 O St., features wine tastings and an open microphone on the first and second Tuesday of every month. Alternating Tuesdays feature educational and independent films.