

## There is a Sleeping Beauty in the house

By Valentin Biscarrat  
Reporter

Most people have heard of the Disney movie *Sleeping Beauty*, which fascinated and delighted children and adults around the world. But has anyone ever heard of the theatrical version?

Well, the Laguna Playhouse has. They have been rehearsing it for a little more than a month and will perform from May 9 to May 18. But how different is it from the movie?

"The theatrical version differs from the movie in that Prince Elano is the protagonist of the play. It is his journey—it is his fear that must be faced and conquered. The original story by Charles Perrault is very dark and scary; Disney made the story accessible to all ages by removing elements that would be terrifying to young children," said director Kelly Harmon.

Age ranges in the cast are from 10 to 50 years old. Some of those are talented actors who will make their debut at the Laguna Playhouse; some are returning to "grace our stage," said Harmon.

For those of you that don't know or don't remember, *Sleeping Beauty* commences with the birth of the new baby princess Beauty. A grand blessing party is held. All the fairies in the kingdom are invited

to bestow their loving gifts unto her. In an act of revenge for not being invited to the christening, Frytania (a dreadful fairy and the antagonist) curses the princess with the gift of death on her 16th birthday. Prince Elano vows to save his beloved princess. His bravery and devotion are challenged when he must confront his own fears—the forces of evil conjured up by the wicked Frytania.

This theatrical production is unique because it is darker than Disney's, but it is still a tale of love, bravery and a good conquering evil.

"The joy of doing live theatre is that it is always happening now; there are no rewind, pause or fast forward buttons to push. There is no perfection of editing; it is flawed and therefore beautiful and unique in its humanity. Both art forms have their merits and their faults," said Harmon.

At this moment, you must be asking yourself,



A poster of the Sleeping Beauty castle. (Kelly Harmon)

why you should come see this play, because you are a teenager and *Sleeping Beauty* is for children. Well, you're wrong.

"Using the inspiration of the Art Nouveau movement *The Sleeping Beauty* will be a visual and emotional experience for all ages. With an abundance of fairies and the majesty of court life coming together to create a fantastical world that children and adults will revel in," said Harmon.

It will be open to the public on Friday May 9 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday 10 and 19 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday 11 and 18 at 1 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

## Hasta La Vista Baby

By Kendall Kleinberg  
Entertainment Editor

Over 40,000 moviegoers flock to Newport Beach every year during the month of April. The Newport Beach Film Festival was founded in 1999 and showcases over 350 films from around the world. Movies have been submitted from Asia, Europe, South America, North America and also Africa.

Screenings ran from April 24 to May 1 and tickets were between ten and twelve dollars.

The movie selections included features, shorts, documentaries and animation. A jury panel and audience members judged movies, and winners received prizes at the end of the festival.

On Friday April 26, *Goodbye Baby* premiered in Newport Beach at Edwards Island Cinema.

Eighteen-year-old Melissa Brooks (Christine Evangelista) moves in with her gay brother in New York City after

finding out that she can't afford college. Melissa finds a job at a comedy club as a waitress, and the owner (Jerry Adler) mentors her. After watching other skilled comedians and going to narcotics anonymous to practice talking in front of strangers, Melissa gets up the nerve to try out her comedy act.

She becomes involved in a love triangle (characters played by Vincent Piazza and Michael Mosley) and finally confronts her past.

The cast includes Jerry Adler (*The Sopranos*), Kevin Corrigan (*Superbad*), Christine Evangelista (*Law and Order*), Michael Mosley (*Law and Order: SVU*), and Vincent Piazza (*Rescue Me*).

"This was technically my first film," said Evangelista. Evangelista has been cast in television, modeling and singing, but this is her first movie. Daniel Schechter directed and wrote *Goodbye Baby*.

"This is actually my second film. I had written and produced a film last year," said

Schechter. It took Schechter two months to write the screenplay.

"We had eight to ten drafts" he said. The film was based on some of his experiences, but it was a fiction film.

"A lot of people relate to it. In that way it is somewhat based on my experience," he said.

The last scene of the movie ends with Melissa Brooks walking out of her brother's college while the shot gets blurry.

"Towards the end of the last scene I like to think that she [Melissa] goes to school," said Evangelista.

The budget was for this film was in the high six figures.

"We found a dream investor. The movie was made for a decent-sized budget."

The distribution for the movie has not been figured out yet.

"We're working on that. There is no solid release date," said Schechter.

## An exacerbating situation

By Masha Goncharova  
Editor-in-chief/Manager

The political turmoil in Iraq seems to be worsening without the rule of Saddam Hussein, which was bad enough.

Iraqi citizens are overlooked as outside countries squabble to take the last of Iraq's oil resources. The government is overlooking human rights, which is exactly the reason Saddam was taken out of power in the first place. As civilians are harassed, many wonder what to do in this horrible situation.

"We are hearing about secret police, secret bunkers where people are being interrogated," said Allyan Allawi, the Iraqi Prime Minister after Hussein's fall.

"A lot of Iraqis are being tortured or killed in the course of interrogations. We are even witnessing Shari'a courts based on Islamic



A tank in Iraq. (<http://www.about.com>)

law that are trying people and executing them."

According to U.N. special investigator Manfred Nowak, the situation is "totally out of hand [...] You have terrorist groups; you have the military; you have police; you have these militias.

There are so many people who are actually abducted, seriously tortured and finally killed."

To fix the situation, the deputy head of the

Parliament's Energy Committee believes that disagreements over Iraq's new Constitution must be resolved before the oil issue can be touched upon. The vague 2005 constitution hazed the lines of control on

the oil sector. Oil negotiations simply further the conflict in Iraq, providing leaders with less time to think about the well-being of the civilians and more time to fight over oil.

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