

RESTAURANT REVIEW: THE FIG CAFE GRILL

A taste of the Mediterranean

By Alicia Bayat
Voice Editor-in-Chief

At first glance The Fig Café Grill appears like any other coffee shop in town. You might just pop in for your daily latte. It may be a way station between going to dinner and a movie. Well that's just at first glance.

You didn't just enter another strip mall coffee shop. You've walked into an experience.

As you walk in the door you don't get the typical, sterile coffee shop feel. But you also don't get the "home" cozy feel of other shops with people sleeping on over stuffed-chairs or hard at work on some forehead creasing issue that must be resolved. Instead you get an airy, somber feel like you're walking into a friend's eclectic loft. You just know to expect a smile from across the room, but privacy and comfort as well.

The warm browns and burgundies set you at ease almost immediately. The huge spiral staircase in the centre of the room seems to set the stage. The music flows through the shop in waves like a slow embrace.

As you first walk in the door you see what appeared to be typical coffee style tables in the entry way with a large bar nestled into the corner of the room, and a few smaller tables against a wall and a small section of over stuffed chairs and couches in a not too brightly lit room. It seemed like the perfect breakfast spot.

The light mixture of fruity incense, and spices brings to mind milky hot teas and warm thick soups. If you thought only to grab a quick cup of coffee you quickly change your mind and want to try out the menu.

As I walked in the door my first thought was to find a small table in a corner to sit and write. The lower level is bright, warm and sunny. The attendant smiles up warmly from

behind the counter as to acknowledge your presence but not to intrude on your solitude.

They have a fully functioning kitchen with a menu that has a myriad of delights from gyros, tabouli (a cracked wheat salad), dolma (stuffed grape leaves) to sweet crispy baklava. You can also find anything from a hot Panini to hot soups, hot and cold teas and coffees. If you're so inclined you may also order french fries or hot or cold subs.

Sitting in the brightness just didn't set the right mood for me. I decided instead to explore the upper levels as I walked up the spiral staircase. I felt the room suddenly become more comfortable in the dim light. The upstairs includes a full bar, leather straight-back couches lining the walls, and small tables strewn about.

What makes this café different from others is the full service bar and hookah (Shisha or water pipe). Another very distinct aspect is that they seem to be the only café in town that serves Arabic tea.

I sat against the wall in a straight-back couch. The attendant brought me the Hookah list, beer list and menu. I opted for a beef kabob platter with falafel, a pot of hot Arabic tea and cherry Hookah.

It was the perfect afternoon. The atmosphere was great, the bathrooms were clean, the prices were right. It's not family friendly. According to the attendant you must be 18 years or older since everything is served in an adult environment.

It's a good place to take a date. With a ten-foot projection television, good food and drinks it's a good place to just hang out with friends. I would definitely go back. I am dying to try their Jerusalem Salad.

The Fig Cafe Grill is located at 253 Westwood Shopping Center in Fayetteville.

MOVIE REVIEW: INSIDIOUS

Heart skipping scary

By Anna Lee
Voice Staff Writer

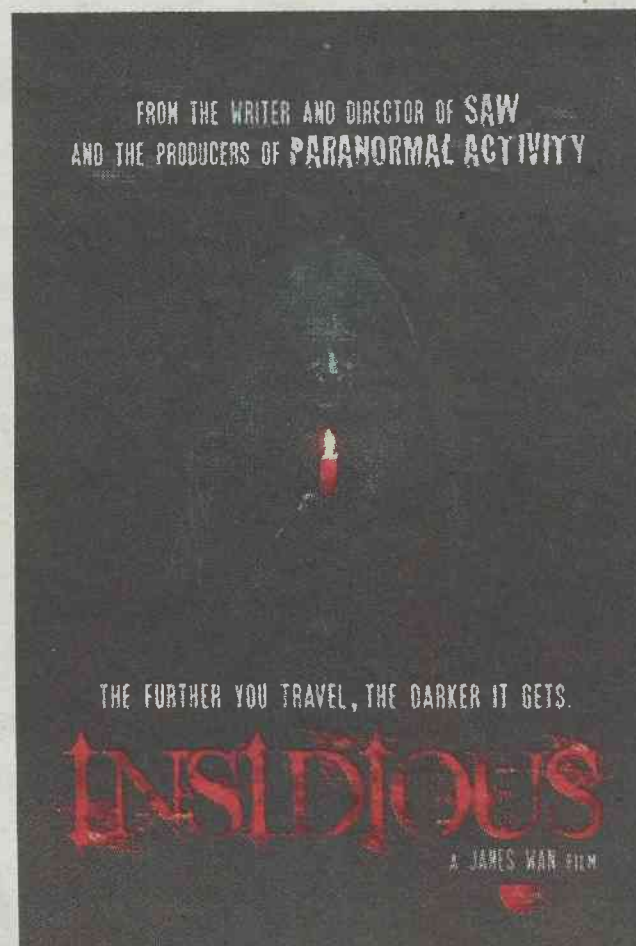
Imagine moving into your dream house with hopes of a fresh start and a happy family. Now imagine seeing ghosts. Thinking the home is haunted you decide to move but the ghosts are still there. A coincidence? Not really, because the houses aren't haunted. But someone in your family is.

This is the life of Renai (Rose Byrne) in the new thriller *Insidious*. After convincing her husband, Josh (Patrick Wilson), to move a second time she begins to question her sanity. Are the ghosts really following her or is she slowly losing her sense of reality? In desperation, she calls in a team of Ghostbusters along with a spiritual advisor. After investigating the house it is evident that Renai is not losing her mind and the ghosts are in fact following her family. The spiritual advisor, Elise (Lin Shaye), tells Renai something shocking: her house is not haunted but her son Dalton is haunted. An outlandish claim because Dalton has been in a 'coma' for the past few months. Elise tells Renai that Dalton is not in a coma but that his spirit has left his body. Renai has been seeing ghosts because the entities miss

being alive and want to inhabit Dalton. The only way to save Dalton is to get his spirit back. The family must hurry to save Dalton's spirit before a ghost, or even worse, a demon takes over his physical body.

I wasn't expecting much from this movie but I was surprised. I'm not a big fan of thrillers because they are either too gory or just don't frighten me. *Insidious* is one of those movies that will make you jump out of your seat. There were times I would cover my eyes because the movie is truly creepy. To be honest, I was a little scared to go to bed the night I saw it. Everything about the movie flowed together: the acting, the plot and the instrumentals. The director was very creative in making a spiritual afterlife and demons look believable. I loved is the foreshadowing. There are subtle details in the movie that let you know something crazy is about to happen.

Of course, *Insidious* is not going to win an Oscar but it is definitely worth seeing. After learning that the makers of *Paranormal Activity* are also behind *Insidious* you can be assured that you'll get your money's worth at the theater.



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Voice is only as strong as yours. We encourage participation by seeking and printing letters to the editor. You may write a letter about any topic in the paper, on campus or in your life. Please refrain from personal attacks, instead stick to issues and ideas. Letters should be 300 words or less, signed with your full name and include your phone number for verification. You can submit your letter through our website at <http://www.fsuvoice.com/home/lettertotheeditor/>

