

## Locally owned Taste of Ethiopia blends spice and culture

BY QUINCY MALESOVAS  
STAFF WRITER

Variety is the spice of life. And a little bit of spice does not hurt either.

Locally owned restaurant Taste of Ethiopia fuses the two, offering versatility and depth of flavor unlike any other restaurant in Greensboro.

The restaurant, located at 106 N. Westgate Drive, has only been open for about a year but has already attracted ample attention, being the only Ethiopian restaurant in the Triad area.

"A lot of people in the surrounding area have been coming out because it's closer than Charlotte and Raleigh," said Sahar Asefa, whose family owns the restaurant.

Asefa explained that the restaurant was created to spread awareness of Ethiopian culture into the community, filling a prior void.

One customary tradition that may surprise customers is that silverware is discouraged. Instead, spongy, unleavened bread called injera is used to carry food to the mouth.

Senior Annie Bell found the atmosphere of Taste of Ethiopia brought her back to studying abroad in Ghana.

"It reminds me a lot of the places we would go to eat because it's family-run," said Bell. "Plus, you eat with your hands."

If nostalgia is not what draws you in, it may be the reasonable prices. For a college student on a fixed budget, wasting limited funds on a meal that will not fill you up seems asinine.

Luckily, that is not an issue at Taste of Ethiopia.

Each entrée provides more than

enough food for the average diner. The food is so tasty, however, that you might be tempted to polish everything off before the takeout boxes hit the table.

The Vegetarian Combo 2, casually dubbed "Veggie 7" by Asefa, goes for \$12.50. The platter comes with an array of tender greens and legumes, each delicately spiced with turmeric or red pepper.

If meat is more your thing, you might want to try the Combination Platter. It comes with lamb, rosemary beef, garlicky-ginger chicken in addition to five vegetarian samples, all for just \$15.

Of course, both platters are served with large portions of soft injera.

If you find yourself hungry after devouring the platter, a sambusa may satiate you. Similar to an Indian samosa, this crunchy, savory pastry is filled with meat or lentils.

For a sweet crunch, look no further than a slice of baklaba. The humble combination of filo, nuts and honey tease the taste buds, leaving them begging for more.

Finally, a steamy mug of Ethiopian spiced tea or perhaps a glass of Ethiopian honey wine would round out the meal quite well. As the weather cools, either beverage would be equally effective in warming you from the inside out.

While the restaurant's menu is extensive, the ambiance is sparse and dull. This is the one downside to the otherwise impressive eatery.

"The interior feels a little bit like an office that is having an Ethiopian-themed birthday party," said Danielle Chiasson in a review for Greensboro's local zine, Amplifier.

As the restaurant has been open a short time, the possibility remains



Taste of Ethiopia offers combination platters served with meat and vegetables served on top of a bread called injera.

that the décor will improve as it ages.

For now, the food quality and quick, friendly service are what keep customers coming back.

"The only things that I did not like was the fluorescent lighting and the white walls," said sophomore Alec Gordon. "The food is great."

Although the fare alone is reason enough to visit the restaurant, the prospect of supporting a local trade helps. It is rewarding to see a small business grow and thrive, remembering you had something to do with it.

"As a locally owned business with firm roots in our community, we look forward to many more years serving you and your family," states the restaurant's website.



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## 'Big Hero 6' suffers from stale plot but features fantastic characters

BY EMMA RUMPL  
STAFF WRITER

Both Marvel Studios' action-packed, character-rich films and Walt Disney Animation Studios' vibrant, heartwarming animated films have proven to be successful on the big screen. On Nov. 7, "Big Hero 6" — a fusion of each studio's cinematographic style — was released in theaters across the country. Directed by Don Hall and Chris Williams, the adventurous science fiction film is loosely based on the obscure Marvel Comics series "Big Hero 6."

Set in the breathtaking, futuristic San Fransokyo, the film stars 14-year-old robotics prodigy Hiro Hamada, voiced by Ryan Potter, and his brother Tadashi's plump, marshmallow-y health care robot Baymax, voiced by Scott Adsit. Not long into the film, tragedy strikes Hiro and he sets out to capture the masked man responsible. In order to locate and apprehend him, Hiro forms a high-tech superhero team with Baymax and four friends.

"(The story is) a rusty plot straight out of 'Scooby-Doo,'" stated Washington Post reporter Michael O'Sullivan in his review of "Big Hero 6."

It is clichéd and easy to follow, with predictable plot twists and prolonged action — most of the fighting does not take place until halfway into the film. Yet when I exited the theater, I thought about how well done the plot was.

What could have made me believe a rusty storyline was any good? The main cast is the vinegar that lifts the rust.

I was captivated by how well the characters expressed their personalities and emotions and found myself unable to space out or peel my eyes away from the screen the entire time. When someone was sad or angry, I could feel it through his or her tone and facial expression. I even cried during one particular sad scene.

Significantly, the characters help make the lackluster plot appealing. One such way

is through the voice actors.

"The voice work throughout makes the characters interesting and distinctive, even when their material is less so," said Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune film critic, in his review of the movie.

"Big Hero 6" is void of jarring voices, much to viewers' delight. The number of character-driven scenes also brightens the plot.

Though I figured out the plot twists before they were revealed, I still felt scintillating shivers run through me from head to toe. I knew the reversals would change how one or more characters perceived something or someone, which then led to an expressed emotion or action that would have otherwise remained hidden. Having this knowledge excited me, as I enjoy viewing character development, especially when it is well done.

Though the classic good versus evil archetype exists in "Big Hero 6," the characters are blessed with traits that make them realistic and relatable. Despite being a genius, Hiro is going through puberty and thus experiences a wide range of emotions, including apathy, happiness, grief and anger. Each of Hiro's friends has individual traits, and Baymax is full of emotion and character — a fresh change from stereotypical emotionless robots. The masked man is not out for domination of any kind; despite his extravagant modus operandi, he simply wants revenge.

"Big Hero 6" appeals to a wide-ranging audience. It is a must-see for sci-fi lovers, robotics admirers, superhero enthusiasts, action aficionados and Marvel junkies. For Disney fans, its animation and music are definitely worth viewing.

The film follows two Marvel Studios traditions: the Stan Lee cameo and post-credits scene. Make sure not to miss either.

Overall, "Big Hero 6" is an enjoyable film, with fun, distinctive and memorable characters that create an engaging story out of a cookie-cutter plot.