

Othello gets hip in *O*

REBECCA BARRINGER
Staff Reporter

O is a modern adaptation of the Shakespearean tragedy *Othello*. It shows the downfall of the successful Odin James as he struggles with issues of racism, jealousy and betrayal.

James, played by Mekhi Phifer (*I Know What You Did Last Summer*) is a basketball star at an exclusive South Carolina prep school and the boyfriend of Desi Brable, played by Julia Stiles (*10 Things I Hate About You, Save the Last Dance*).

Odin's misfortune is the result of the destructive scheming of Hugo, who is played by Josh Hartnett (*Pearl Harbor*).

Phifer's acting in the different scenes shows his character's range of behavior.

This includes the scene when Odin acts aggressively toward his girlfriend and later when he expresses unreasonable behavior at a basketball dunking contest.

The actors do a wonderful job with their particular characters. The movie as a whole, however, is less successful.

O's story-line is based on a play written almost four hundred years ago and contains actions in it that would not be appropriate in contemporary American high schools.

O shows the killing of several high school students by fellow classmates.

The scene does present the killings as a tragic, serious event but was still controversial enough to cause the movie to be shelved for over two years after the Columbine shootings of 1999.

O's story-line also lacks consistency in the details. The movie, for example, shows its students having a "hip-hop," urban style but takes place at a traditional South Carolina prep school.

On one side, *O* is sometimes graphic or disturbing.

It leaves its audience without a happy "feel-good" quality often popular in today's movies.

On the other side, though, *O* does provide a look at important contemporary issues, including race relations and teenage violence.

Also, Meredith juniors Kelli Riales and Lisa Brown, both Charleston natives, were used as extras in *O*. They appear briefly at the school dance scene and the sports assembly scene.

The movie is rated R for violence, a scene of strong sexuality, language and drug use.

Rating

★ ★ ★

SENIORS:

If you missed the last class meeting, please mark your calendar for Oct. 2, 2001 at 9 p.m. in Belk Dining Hall.

Topic for discussion:

CORNHUSKIN'

CLASSIFIEDS

Afterschool babysitter needed for children ages 9 and 12. M-F, 3:30-6 p.m. \$9 per hr. Call Dori O'Toole at 981-0191 (work) or 851-7973 (home).

Tutors needed Monday thru Friday from 2:15-5:00 p.m., working with students in homework and supplemental curriculum materials. The Southwest Wake YMCA's Achiever Program serves youth from low income families who need additional academic support during the school year. The program is a partnership with Apex Elementary School and is located at the Southwest Wake YMCA Program Center, just 10 minutes from Meredith. Pay varies based on experience. For more information on how you can help a child grow academically, please call Nick Errato or Tony Campione at the Southwest Wake YMCA, 657-9622

Triple Threat Diva was different

LYNDA MARIE TAURASI
Music Columnist

In a pop world of strategically marketed Britney Spears and Mandy Moores, Grammy nominated singer turned actress, Aaliyah stood out from the rest.

The entertainment world and the music industry will mourn the loss of her life.

Aaliyah, who died last Saturday in an airplane crash en route to Florida from the Bahamas, was not like other singers in her field.

She did not use marketed sexuality to get to her position. She flew to the top with nothing but pure talent. If she was perceived as a sexy woman/child, it is because she was and not because some man in a suit told her to be.

Her songs were not laced with layers of computerized backing vocals to make up for what she lacked.

She had a voice, and that girl could sing.

She was the first singer of her generation to become a legitimate actress. She did not sell-out to anyone to score the lead in some poppy, teen flick. Nor did she create a movie with a plot focused solely on herself.

Aaliyah was a rising actress with an already established, multi-platinum singing career. She was just beginning to feel the peak of her success.

It is a huge loss to an entertainment world filled with teenage Jon Benets strutting their stuff to music created by middle-aged males and model/actresses using their playboy centerfolds to score points on the casting couch, that a bonafide talent died so young. Hopefully, like her predecessors, the work she left behind will keep her and her talent in our minds.

Sushi bayou is only blocks away

MOLLY HUFFSTETLER
Staff Reporter

Don't go with the traditional by dining at Applebee's, Burger King or Arby's—all restaurants within walking distance of Meredith. Venture a little farther down Hillsborough Street, and you'll find Sushi Blues, located at 301 Glenwood Avenue.

The restaurant carries an eclectic theme of the traditional sushi fanfare mixed with the typical Louisiana jazz bar, providing a setting that takes patrons straight to Bourbon Street.

The seating area is small, but the wait is generally moderate. The prices are reasonable. However, I suggest splitting the order with a friend.

For sushi novices, try the California Roll. You'll get the overall experience of eating sushi without getting bogged in a mesh of raw fish.

The menu at Sushi Blues is descriptive, and the wait staff is helpful in giving "safe" suggestions.

Sushi Blues has long hours, perfect for college students with late-night appetites. Sunday thru Thursday you can dine

from 5:30 p.m. until 12 a.m. and Friday thru Saturday from 5:30 p.m. until 2 a.m..

You can also pick up lunch Monday thru Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

There is one more thing you must know before going to Sushi Blues: Unless you want to eat with your fingers, make sure you have perfected—or at least practiced—eating with chopsticks. This is the only way to get the sushi from the plate to your mouth.