

Ripper slashes through sensory circus in *From Hell*

□ Spin on classic will leave viewer more disturbed than scared.

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Guest Writer

If you are looking for a sinister thriller post-Halloween, then journey to your local movie theatre for *From Hell*.

Set in the Whitechapel District of England in 1888, this film depicts the story of Jack the Ripper, a man who terrorized England by torturing and killing prostitutes, as never seen before.

Based on the Alan Moore novel of the same title, *From Hell* sheds light on the Ripper story in an entirely new way. It is the blend of fact and fiction, truth and theory and romance and violence that make this a top pick for the season.

Johnny Depp (*Sleepy Hollow*) stars as Detective Abberline, an opium addict who has clairvoyant visions, and Heather Graham (*Austin Powers II: The Spy Who Shagged Me*) plays opposite Depp as a "lady of the night."

The film is directed by the Hughes brothers whose most well-known work is *Menace 2 Society*, and utilizes the dark

story line with matching cinematography.

The murder scenes--although highly stylized to imply rather than actually show the prostitutes being bludgeoned--certainly still give us an eyeful of blood and guts.

There were quite a few elements in the movie that made it a sensory circus.

Swirling colors, ghostly mists, bloodstained fade-outs and sporadically popping lights characterize Abberline's opium trances where he "sees" people getting killed or sees clues that could lead him to the killer.

The soundtrack playing along with these trances fit the crazy images on the screen, but the songs were too modern for the period--think Marilyn Manson.

As usual, Depp gives a stellar performance as does Ian Holm plays Sir William Gull, the movie's supposed Jack the Ripper.

Holm was completely believable and evil while at the same time showed his humanity and sanity. During a few moments, I wanted to sympathize with him.

Graham gave her usual lackluster performance as a completely unconvincing prostitute. She is far too pretty, clean, naive and innocent to be believable.

Some of the elements of plot line are predictable with the seedy town it is based in is always portrayed as crowded and busy at all hours of the night and day.

Somehow, however, the prostitutes always find themselves walking along a deserted road getting assaulted and murdered, which is common to many thriller movies.

Yet, as a whole, the movie leaves the reader in suspense.

I was duped until the very end, thinking first that Jack the Ripper was one person, then thinking he was another.

This film completely drew me in, at times making me feel as if I were actually in Whitechapel watching the horrific story play out.

Although it was a little boring with the technical police and medical jargon, my attention never strayed from what was taking place on the screen.

Even though, the Ripper story is a familiar one among most people, this is an entirely new take on it.

Yet be warned: Do not go to see *From Hell* if you want a history lesson or if you are a historical purist.

Go with an open mind--without the kids because this one is rated R--and be ready to be more disturbed than scared.



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).

Short on cash? Get more for your money. Good used clothing, household items, books, toys and giftware. Dorcas Thrift Shop, 1231 NE Maynard Road, Cary, (919) 469-1351. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

The *Herald* does not check ads before they are placed. When you respond to an ad, do so at your discretion.



CORRECTIONS

The *Herald* staff would like to make a few corrections from last week's edition.

In the Campus Forum section, Jamilah E. Chadwick addressed her concern with tuition changes. The *Herald* staff would like to point out that while editing to fit into our limited space, words or ideas may have been misunderstood by the reader.

Note that in the eighth paragraph, it should read "a financially challenged freshman" rather than "a financially responsible underclassman" to emphasize those that cannot afford to stay or borrow more money.

In paragraph fifteen, it is important to note that she was stressing the importance of you and your family exploring options and not advocating that everyone leave.

It is also important to understand that most schools only transfer 60 hours of credit from other schools and that the deadline for application to other schools is in early February. The author was advocating that juniors and other underclassmen should consider applying as soon as possible if they are considering transfer.

The staff would also like to mention that the Second Opinion article on Cornhuskin was written by Joni Smith, not Lisa Wilson.

Parking Problem Leveled

Due to the recently completed parking lot in front of the Ledford Hall and the new location of the Alumna House, commuter students have more choices of where to park on campus. The past few months have given commuter students and visitors plenty to complain about when they arrive on campus to find nowhere to park but the front lawn. Construction is spread out all over the campus, but results like these are rewarding.



STAFF PHOTO BY SARAH JANE COX