Dante's Down the Hatch certainly a unique experience

A maritime atmosphere with exquisite cheese, chocolate and other fine, delectable fondues await you at Dante’s

By Viridian Vakili
Entertainment Editor

Name: Dante’s Down the Hatch
Address: 3380 Peachtree Rd
Atlanta, GA
Phone: (404) 266-1600
Cuisine: Fondue
Price: $$$
Rating: 4 stars out of 5
www.dantessdownthehatch.com

When was the last time you feared a giant ship about to attack your dining dinner? Alright, perhaps this is a dramatization, but dinner at Dante’s Down the Hatch is certainly a unique experience. May-be downtown Atlanta does not strike you as a port city, but here at lunch Dante’s, it certainly is for the evening. Upon entering Dante’s, you will immediately note the gigantic ship in the middle of the restaurant. At thirty-two stories, you are a shipmate, and will quickly be given your berth and hostess- es in traditional, relaxed shipmate garb.

You will enjoy the jazz and perhaps a talented vocalist entertaining both intimate and non-intimate dinners. One of the managers at Dante’s told me that consistency is valued at their restaurant, so they keep the same entertainment on a nightly basis. This means that should your evening be exceptionally memo- rable, you can recreate it not only through the food, but also through the music.

At a place like Dante’s, which is admittedly a rateriepiez-restaurant, and thus probably a rare outing, you might as well order an entire meal, including appetizer, main course, and dessert. Your appetizer choices include such interesting delicacies as Tasmanian Beef Stu, Bavarian Artichoke, Import ed Swiss Cheese Fondue or Chinese Dumplings. These fondues are served alongside apples, honey nut bread croutons, vegetables, and other fine foods. My friend and I decided to order the Imported Swiss Cheese Fon-due, and found it quite delectable. One of the aspects I appreciated most about Dante’s Swiss fondue was that, unlike other Swiss fon-dues at other fondue restaurants, Dante’s Swiss fondue did not have an overwhelming taste of alcohol to it. Indeed, the manager informed me that the chefs prepare a mild cheese fondue, one that is most likely to appeal to most of their audience. Should a diner prefer a stronger or milder version, all he has to do is ask and his request will be honored.

I found this very nice, as many high-end restaurants for some reason offer a standard meal, without allowing their diners to have any real input as to how strong or mild they would like their dish. When you are paying so much for a dining experience, it seems that more restaurants should adhere to the customer code of dining practiced at Dante’s. Following our appetizer, we experienced the Man- darin Fondue. The Mandarin Fondue consists of eight ounces of plain and mari- nated meats, garlic chicken, and light- ly breaded shrimp. These are presented with Dante’s special sauces, French and honey nut breads, and sweet tub butter. So many sauces are offered that you will find yourself with something of a schizophrenic sauce disorder, wanting to dip into one or more for each bite.

Along with the meat, you will also be provided with an array of vegetables from tomatoes to pota- toes to mushrooms to cauliflower and broccoli. Your server will inform you of how long each item should be cooked, and you will be well on your way to a very enjoyable and sociable cooking experience. If you would rather have a strictly beef, strictly chicken, or strictly shrimp fondue dinner, you can order that as well, and vegetarian fondues are offered for those at the other extreme.

For those of you non-interested in fondue altogether, there is a menu item listed as the “Non-Fondue,” which is comprised of chunks of chicken breast sautéed in Dante’s special teriyaki sauce and served on a bed of rice, with steamed broccoli and Pennsylvania white-crown mush-rooms. All in all, it can certainly be said that Dante’s has done a fine job of accommodating the wide range of tastes of its clientele. And now for the crème de la crème, if you will, Dante’s chocolate fondue! Described as “A Feast in Itself,” the desserts are served personally by either Dante

Hewitt goes for 5
Tech’s mens basketball coach signs for more 5 years after finishing third season. Page 20

Not so square anymore?
Check out what services and retailers Technology Square will provide students and Midtown residents alike. Page 9

By Claura Fadnavis
Contributing Writer

Austen is one of the few writers that I have come across, and I must confess that I haven’t read as much as I would wish, who seems to un- derstand the subtleties and nuances of the nature of most people and relishes them, sometimes in a lov- ing, indulgent fashion and some- times in a delightfully sarcastic mockery.

Her uncanny ability to capture the second-guessing mind games that we play so often and to convey in a comparatively mild manner a rather harsh and wry sense of humor, that prays on the follies and craziness of people, is most endearing. Also, most of her leading characters have almost always been able to laugh at themselves, which only adds to their charm. They have almost always been able to laugh at themselves, which only adds to

By Jane Austen

Witty, vivacious and in possession of a cruel, biting sense of humor which almost mir- rors that of her father, Mr. Bennet, and Austen herself, she is a very intelligent young woman who under- stands people rather well and almost never makes an error in judgement. And then there is Mr. Darcy. The man who, in my opinion, would make every woman sigh with wanting. He is an extremely rich, handsome and intelligent young man who, alas, en- capses being perfect by just one flaw, he is rather laugh- ish and uptight.

By the way, in the end, he rides himself of this solitary flaw, and so you will find numerous references made to him in the Bridget Jones’ Diary series in a rather infuriated vein. By the bye, many of the scenes in that series can be traced back to Austen’s novel Persuasion. These are the two main characters, amidst a plethora of exceedingly real and light- hearted lesser characters.

Inevitably, following the course of a certain set of circumstances, the two end up sparring, wrangling over crushed egos, essentially. On read- ing the book it is rather simple to understand the true import of the title of the novel. It would have been simpler still had the author named the book First Impressions as she had intended to, for really, the very core of the book rests on how people oftentimes judge others on very little concrete information and how sometimes these possibly erro- neous inferences can lead to some rather severe consequences.

The book draws a lot from some other characters. Every character in

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See Pride, page 15

See Pride, page 13

Immediately upon entering Dante’s Down the Hatch, one notices the enormous ship in the middle of the restaurant. Various creatures such as crocodiles and crobs swim in the most co-diner’s enjoy their meals. Guests have the choice of sitting in a number of areas, as close to or far away from the live entertainment as one likes.
**Terminator 3 falls short of predecessors T1 and T2**

By Dante A. Ciampaglia  
*The Pitt News*

(U-WIRE) University of Pittsburgh - Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines is a film without a point, a film that didn’t need to be made and a film that, worst of all, leaves you asking, “Why should I care about this or what came before it?” T3 revolves around yet another Terminator, the T-X (Kristanna Loken), who was sent back through time to kill all of John Connor’s (Nick Stahl) lieutenants because, as the T-101 (Arnold Schwarzenegger) explains, Connor couldn’t be located.

That’s an interesting development, considering that, 12 years ago, the T-1000 - obsolete compared to the T-X — seemed very willing and able to take the necessary steps to locate the future head of the human resistance against the machines. The T-X must be really lazy.

One of the targets on the T-X’s list is Kate Brewster (Claire Danes), a veterinarian who, in the future, is Connor’s wife and second-in-command. It turns out that she sent the T-101 back through time to protect herself and, in the process, sets into motion the events that lead the two young freedom fighters-to-be on the path of love. Nothing good, half-assed paradox to get you through the heat and humidity of the summer.

In his place is director Jonathan Mostow, directing a film written by three people who give us lines like, “Talk to the hand.” — coming from Arnold — and situations where the once-intimidating screen presence is made to wear Elton John-esque, star-shaped glasses. Nothing is off-limits for this writing trio’s disgusting use of self-parody.

Then there is the new, female Terminator. Why is the T-X woman? It’s nice to see sexual equality existing in science fiction, but the T-X exists, only to satisfy the wet dreams of nerds and geeks. This character could have easily been a male and accomplished the same aim as is accomplished with Loken — nothing. The idea of a female Terminator is an interesting one; one shame on the writers for squandering it only to fulfill their high school fantasies.

But that’s symptomatic of the overall lack of character development. These characters are as one-dimensional as dimensionalgets. We meet them, stuff happens, they give in and accept their fate. The fights between the two Terminators. They had real fights between the two Terminators. They made the film more real than it would have been by just seeing a liquid metal guy running around and shape shifting.

In T3, however, the geniuses who thought the film was a good idea in the first place have again shredded the playbook from the previous films and opted to go with lackluster CGI effects. And, given the astronomical budget this film had, the special effects should have been good enough to be a saving grace. Instead, they’re salt in the wound.

The anger and resentment that T3 will churn up in fans of the classic T2 has no bounds. Everything about it is bad. There is no redeeming value.

Ultimately, the film seems to exist only to create a “T4,” yet another unnecessary entry into the series.

How dare these “creative forces” take the “Terminator” films and defile them, simply because Hollywood is creatively bankrupt and caught in the throes of sequel and prequel madness?

Where T2 had scope, story, characters, effects and action so good that awe dripped off of every frame, the only thing that dripped off T3 is the three-week-old cheese you get with those overpriced nachos at the concession stand.
Echo Lounge (551 Flat Shoals Rd.)
(404) 522-3950
www.echostatic.com/echolounge
7/10 Rachelle Ferrell
7/11 Tomahawk Kill Me Tomorrow, Les Georges Lemingaud, The Locust
7/12 Eli Guapo, Ms. Spice & Tha Melanin Band, The Disembowelment Plan
7/12 The Fall, Paper Lions
7/16 OtodiraYaan, Dinmore, Murder By Death, Acceptance
7/18 The Otus Supply, Tenag
7/20 Staffers 5, Paperback, Statistically
7/21 PEEELANDER-Z, Flachai Mike & The Mercury
7/21 The License, Squared, Nice, Max Inn
7/25 Jamie White, Jennifer O’Connor
7/27 Waco Brothers, Mysotari
Cotton Club (352 Luckie St.)
(404) 688-1193
www.atlanconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp
7/10 ISACAP Liquid Soul Cafe, Freestyle Nation
7/10 Hot Hot Heat
7/13 Finger Eleven
7/16 Bunkbeez
7/19 Jaculifer Manison
7/19 Fuzzy Tuna Forever
7/22 Allen Art Annex
The Earl (468 Flat Shoals Ave.)
(404) 322-9590
www.theearl.com
7/9 Mantra, Carous’s Word, Ennie
7/10 Sumatra Hymen, Will Johnson
7/11 Lucero, The Love Scene, Bring
7/12 The Features, A For Jc Wolf, The Keels
7/13 church with Dave Rakel
7/15 Cat Power
7/17 Spectrally, Groundediff, You are the Compass
7/17 The Woggles, The Subsonics, 45’s
7/19Dropsonic, Moreland Audio
7/20 The Life and Times of Roy Owens Jr.
8/9 Airscape
Variety Playhouse (1059 Euclid Ave.)
(404) 523-1768
www.variety-playhouse.com
7/1 Rachelle Ferrell
7/12 Mr. and Mrs. Party Hts
7/22 Mr. Mudbone

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The Masquerade (905 North Ave.)
(404) 377-2007
www.masq.com
7/11 Evan Pianowy, Emell Z Nauf
7/12 Bartfleg, Write to Run, The Whole 9
7/13 Circle Jerks, GBH, The Broom
7/16 Anorei, Chester, Sparnk
7/17 Puppetkak, Hang Low Moon
7/18 Bobby Ray, Comedian Kenny Harp
7/19 Meat For 21 Bands
7/21 Bile, Nocume
7/25 Brazillian Concert

Starr Bar (457 Moreland Ave.)
(404) 688-9018
http://starrbar.net
7/11 The Dill Squad, Lust, Statetrue
7/12 The Helgas, Reno Divot
7/14 Fifteen minutes of fame karaoke
7/15 Funk Duco with DJ Rome Cologne
7/16 The Willows, PPR, The Loud Poets

CJ’s Landing (Buckhead Ave.)
(404) 237-7657
www.cjslanding.com
7/12 Cigar Store Indians, Chasers
7/11 Eliot James and the Snakes, Leadfoot,
7/14 Part Time Heroes, Empathy Orange
7/13 Learned Behavior, Superhuman
7/14 Chad Garrett, First Team, Ground-

7/15 Marc Broussard, Buchanan
7/16 The Skaters, Park Bench Trio, Ar-
7/17 David Lindley with Wally Ingram, Kaci King
7/18 Thediamonds, Escape Vehicle
7/19 Tit Mix, Chatham County Line
7/20 Pala Alto, White Light Motorcade,
Living Things

Roxy Theatre (3110 Roswell Rd.)
(404) 233-7099
www.atlanconcerts.com/roxy.asp
7/10 Tift Merritt, Chatham County Line
7/17 David Lindley with Wally Ingram, Kaci King
7/18 Thediamonds, Escape Vehicle
7/19 Tit Mix, Chatham County Line
7/20 Pala Alto, White Light Motorcade,
Living Things

The Fruit for the desserts is hand
picked at market, and the Swiss hon-
ey-bar chocolate is hand-folded for
eight hours. Fresh strawberries, can-
taloopie, pineapple, bananas, hon-
eydew, and marshmallows are among
the chocolate’s bite-sized treats. On
the menu, Dante suggests that you fin-
ish your meal two to three hours
before leaving the chocolate fonduie,
as the chocolate fonduie is a gorging
experience that will cost you at least
2 hours.

However, do not plan to come
on any given night and expect
this dessert. Because of the “com-
plexity of preparation,” only one of
these platters is prepared nightly.
Of course, this means you have to
make a 2- day advance reservation,
and it cannot be made for a Friday-
Saturday, or any holiday. If you are
content with a “normal” dessert,
Dante’s offers the standard choices
of New York style cheesecake (lim-
ited availability), pecan pie, choco-
late fudgecake, and ice cream with
or without liquor on top.

If you find yourself at the point
of salvation, it might be a good idea
to pick up a menu and give it a good
read before making reservations. Cer-
tain items are only available on cer-
n certain nights, and there are quite a
few menu items to contemplate. Over-
all, the food is obviously very high
quality, and the service is excep-
tional.

Make note that Dante’s may not
be a good location for a family gath-
ering, as hot pots of boiling oil and
cheese can be very dangerous to small
children. Also, be prepared to dish
out something in the range of $25.00
for your entrée and $20.00 for your
dessert... for each person, that is. It
will be significantly more if you
choose to order drinks as well as an
appetizer with your meal. All in all,
Dante’s is a wonderful location for
a memorable dining experience, a
dining experience that will be all the
more meaningful if you pick up a
menu and do your research.

Pride from page 13
This book is dear to me, even the
terrible ones. And of those there are
plenty. Perhaps it is cynical of me,
but it seems to me that it says a lot
that Austen portrays only a handful
of her creations in this book as more
“good” than “bad”. However, even
the villains and semi-villains of this
book are a treat to know.

There is the initially white as the
driven snow and ultimately a prov-
ably wily scoundrel, who almost ru-
in a family and never earns enough.
Mr. Wickham. Austen’s portray-
al of how Eliza-

bath allows
herself to be in-
fan-treated with him initially, when he
flatters her, is very

honest and hum-

bling. It is touch-

ing that Elizabeth
is not so self-de-

luding as to not

see the fact that
he was merely

amusing himself and
had no seri-

ous intentions
when he cour-

ts another woman
for her money.

Perhaps the per-

mits Elizabeth to
accept his oppor-

tunism as the only natural and logi-

cal course of behavior for him,
considering that she is almost pen-
tile. Mr. Darcy’s saucy, Lady Cathe-

rine de Bourg, who never learns the
virtues of humility, is someone who
will always remind me of some of
my relations. She is never too busy
to meddle in your affairs and tell
you how you should be running
things in your life.

Perhaps the nieces and nephews
of the Lady Catherine de Bourg of
this world need to learn from Aus-
ten how to laugh at her. Words can’t
do justice to the sardonic wit with
which Austen portrays characters
such as Mr. Collins, a pompous cler-
gymn who considers it only natu-
ral to transfer his affections from an
older sister to a younger on being
informed of the older sister’s being
somewhat taken. Mr. Bennet & Mrs.
Bennet form an odd couple if ever
there was one, and their marriage
would perhaps be painful to witness
had not Austen carefully shielded
us from all the bitterness of this
failed marriage in which the hus-
band amuses himself by observing
& laughing at the silliness of his
wife and most of his daughters. In-
stead, Austen drew a forgiving pic-
ture that makes us gently laugh
with Mr. Ben-
et and the same sense of humor that
sometimes al-
most borderson
masochism. As
I said before, I
have a special
place in my
heart for almost
every character
in this book and
its rather diffi-
cult to mention
each one in this
medium. Su-
fice it to say that
Austen treats all
the characters in
this book with
so much affec-
tion and good humor that no mat-
ter how badly they behave, you want
to be with them and follow the book
to the end. A lot of people I know didn’t
like the book. Perhaps they read it at
a wrong time in their lives, perhaps
they just didn’t give it the
time or thought it deserved. I would
like to think that if given a fair read-
ing, this is a book that probably
most people would enjoy. I hope
that others enjoy this book as much
as I did.

Other books by Austen include
Sense and Sensibility, Emma, and
Mr. Darcy’s Daughters. Emma
and other books have been made into
major motion pictures.

“My uncanny ability to capture the second-
guessing mind games that we play so often
and to convey in a comparatively mild
manner a rather harsh and

wry sense of humor, that plays on
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