

Bland cuisine disappoints

REVIEW

By LACI GROSSER
Columnist

Growing up in a Korean and Welsh household, I have had plenty of experiences with Korean food. Every time I visited my grandparents, I was greeted with warm seaweed soup, squid jerky and other cuisine.

Upon hearing that Amarillo finally had a Korean Barbecue restaurant, my family was filled with excitement. The Amarillo community could finally have a taste of the comforting food of my childhood.

However, after giving the restaurant multiple chances we have been left with an experience akin to a lukewarm disappointment rather than an exciting fiery volcano.

The basic dishes left me not only disappointed, but also a bit nauseous hours later. Volcano serves tteokbokki, a spicy dish that consists of simmered rice cakes in a spicy fermented red pepper paste, known as gochujang.

The tteokbokki came out in a tiny portion, which was a blessing in disguise because I couldn't bring myself to finish it. The sauce the rice cakes were simmered in was extremely bland instead of the normal robust spicy and slightly sweet gochujang flavor. Sprinkled on top of the mockery of this cuisine was a bit of cheese, which did actually assist in covering up the lack of robust fla-

vor, but usually cheese would be a great combination with the spice that the dish should have brought.

The Korean miso soup that I was served was downright confusing and dreadful. My taste buds felt practically assaulted from the flavor that was barely present. There was near to no seasoning, it was almost like tasting dishwater with some chunks of tofu rather than a traditional Korean miso soup that is salty and has a bit of spice.

Those who enjoy tender and tasty protein may be disappointed with Volcano's selection of meats. Traditionally Korean meat has lots of flavor due to the marinades used. They usually consist of a lovely combination of spicy, salty, and sweet. The proteins at Volcano however, come out barely seasoned or marinated, if any is present at all. The lack of seasoning leaves most with a figurative bad taste in their mouth, it would be literal if there was any flavor to the meat at all.

Overall, what Volcano needs to do in order to be more successful is not water down the amazing flavors of Korean cuisine that could bring new life into Amarillo.

I would hate to see another new restaurant shut down within a couple of years due to the refusal to change, especially one that is sharing a new culture.



ANNA MONROE | *The Ranger*

Sandy Langan gets her nails done by Melissa Downing at Paint Nail Bar.

Paint Nail Bar boosts nail health, beauty

REVIEW

By ANNA MONROE
Student Reporter

Before my first appointment at Paint Nail Bar, I was the kind of person who simply ripped their acrylics off once I was done with them, leaving behind flaking nail beds, bleeding cuticles and the trauma of never wanting to get my nails done again.

When I went to my first appointment, I walked into a bright, pink salon with a clothes rack to my left and a jewelry display to my right.

It honestly made me question if I even walked into a nail salon, but the pedicure chairs made it obvious that I was in the right place. The energy in the salon was so vibrant and peaceful and you could just tell that the techs worked well together as a team.

I honestly didn't have a clue about nail health before my nail technician guided me through the best ways to care for my nails. In my first experience going in, I expected to get acrylics. My tech explained to me that they only do gel-based manicures and they don't use drills or harsh LED lights. This is to keep the integrity of the nails, so they don't turn out to be flaking, burning messes.

From my many, many appointments at Paint Nail Bar, I have never been disappointed especially when it comes to nail art. My favorite set so far is the one I got for Halloween. It had a misty white look to it on stiletto-shaped nails, adorned with an all-too-real spider and web. I have gotten countless compliments for my Halloween

nails. I have seen the most detailed art on the smallest of nail beds that I question if it just glued on. It really comes to show these women are more than just nail technicians, but artists.

I actually enjoyed the atmosphere at Paint so much that I made the transition from a client to an employee. It's still the only salon I'll let touch my nails though.

I have seen so many people leave with healthier, prettier nails than when they came in. The salon has gotten so busy that they decided to be by appointment only. However, it's super easy to just call in or go online and make an appointment.

Although I'm not 21 just yet, I've always thought the fact that the salon offers free drinks to clients who are a nice touch.

Swifties' wildest dreams come true

REVIEW

By GENEVIEVE PRESLEY
Columnist

For many years, Taylor Swift has been taking the world by storm with her chart-topping albums and songs that have inspired Swifties all over the world.

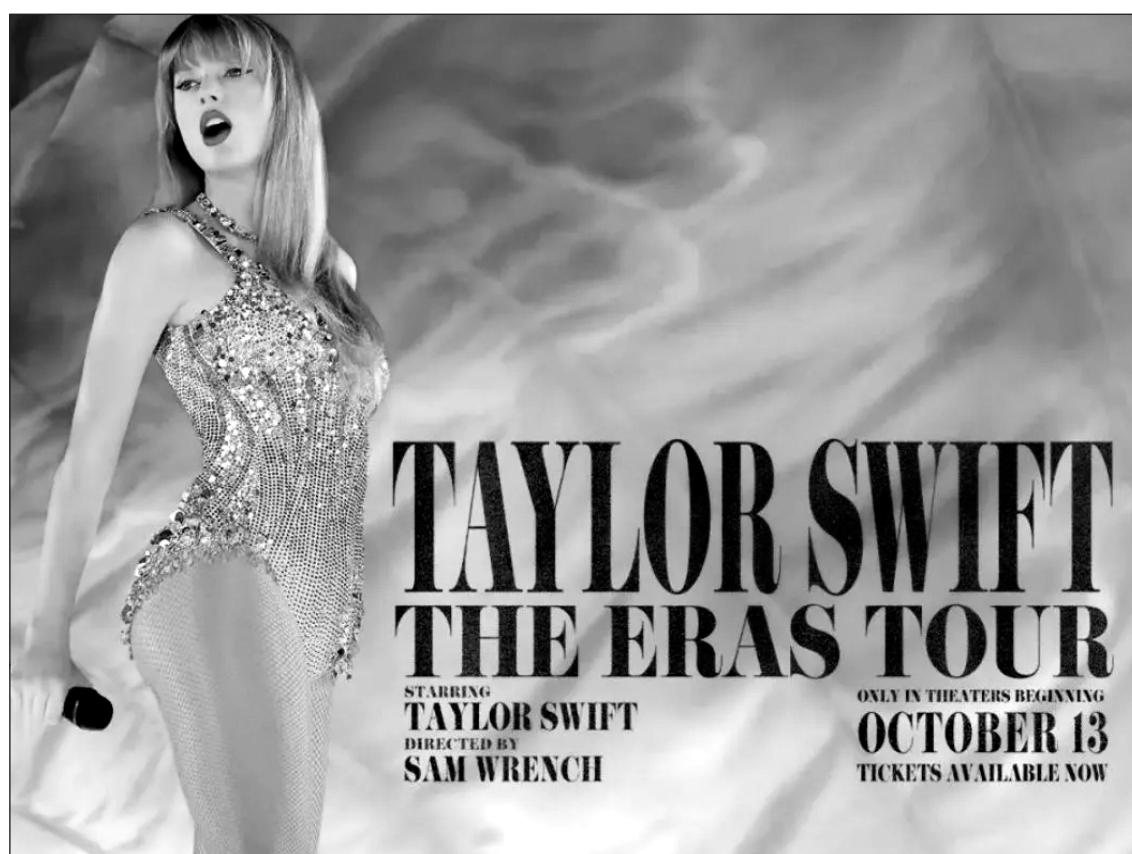
Lately, she's been in the process of rerecording her most popular albums, known as "Taylor's Versions," to regain control of the rights to her older music. "Fearless," "Red," "Speak Now" and "1989" have been released.

Taylor Swift has also released concert films including; "Taylor Swift Reputation Stadium Tour," "Miss Americana" and the newly released "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour."

When I first saw the trailer for the movie, I knew I wanted to see it. I also knew that I preferred to see it in theaters instead of streaming it. I wanted to get as close to a real concert experience as possible.

From the beginning, "The Eras Tour" really caught my attention and it felt like I was actually at the concert watching Taylor instead of watching from a movie screen.

I really enjoyed the beginning of the film, especially



Courtesy Photo

As of Oct. 30, Swift's once-in-a-lifetime concert experience has grossed \$203.1 million at the box office.

the clock on the screen with two timers next to it which eventually counted down, revealing beautiful shades of pink and blue filling the screen, signaling the start of the first era, "Lover."

"Lover" has always been one of my favorite Taylor Swift albums and as the opening lyrics to "Miss Americana and The Heartbreak Prince" played I was more

excited than ever. My eyes were glued to the screen as I danced along to every song.

The transitions from one era to the next was amazing and there were some really great moments in the movie that really kept me engaged.

There was one scene that I especially loved in the "Evermore" era in which the stage turned into a swimming pool with an opening for Taylor to

dive into so she could swim in the stage. That was the main scene in the movie that left me completely speechless and even now I still wonder how she was able to pull that off to make it as amazing as it turned out to be.

I also loved the slithering snake in the intro for "Reputation," the cabin scene for "Folklore" and of course, I can't forget to mention the

moss-covered piano that she used to play "Champagne Problems" on from "Evermore" and the flowery one for "You're on your Own Kid" from "Midnights."

If I had to choose my top favorite eras from what I saw in the movie, they would definitely be "Lover," "Fearless," "Speak Now," "1989," "Red," "Reputation," "Evermore," "Folklore" and "Midnights."

Although every performance and era was amazing and definitely among the parts that I enjoyed the most in the movie, my top favorite thing about the movie was definitely the outfits.

I already knew from watching the "Reputation Stadium Tour" that Taylor goes all out with her concert outfits, but this time she went above and beyond this time.

Taylor rocked every outfit so beautifully which fascinated me immensely because I know that I could never pull them off the way that she did. I loved the "Lover," "Reputation," "Red" outfits the most.

Overall, "The Eras Tour" was definitely the best concert film I have ever seen and I think that every Swiftie should go see it.