

# Aaliyah's one chance fails at being spectacular

★  
BY LINDSEY BAILEY

At first I had very little desire to see the movie "Queen of the Damned." Then after about thirty minutes, that lack of desire grew to a longing to smash my head on the ground until I put my self out of my misery.

While I reeled in virtual agony, most of the other theatre patrons were fidgeting around in their seats and talking, debating just how long they were going to wait before making for the exit!

"Queen of the Damned" is based on Anne Rice's endless Vampire Chronicles. The 1994 movie, "Interview with the Vampire" by Neil Jordan was also of version of an earlier Rice novel.

The movie stars Stuart Townsend as Lestat and Pop singer Aaliyah as Queen Akasha. Tom Cruise played Lestat in "Interview with the Vampire."

Townsend decides the world is too much for him, so he decides to withdraw from it and goes to sleep. Townsend sleeps for 200 years and wakes up because the world seemed different, better.

Soon he is in a Goth band where he is a rock god.

During the film you meet characters such as Marguerite Moreau who plays Jesse. Jesse is a researcher for a London vampire study institute.

During the movie you learn a feeding lesson: "You must never suck the last drop of blood from a victim, or it will draw you in, and you die."

Aaliyah has the hots for Townsend, as they make plans to rule the world together.

It is very sad to think that this is Aaliyah's only major acting role since she was killed in an airplane crash last August and now has no chance to redeem herself.

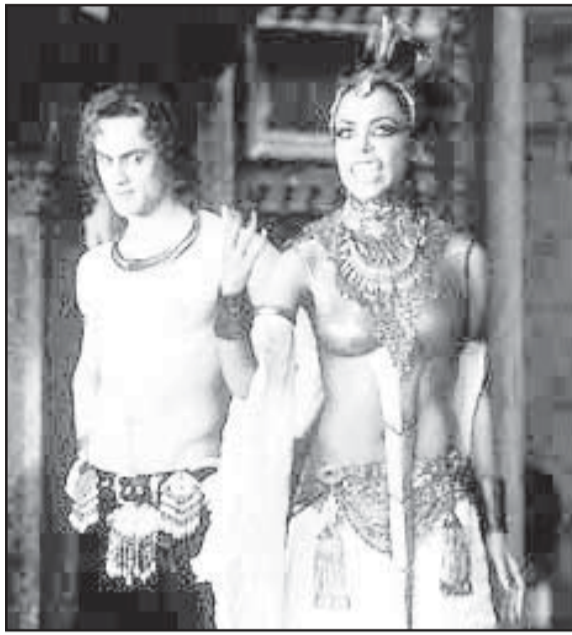


Photo courtesy of google.com

Although her acting was not bad in the movie, the concept as a whole just made you want to follow in the footsteps of Oedipus and gouge your eyes out so you would not have to watch the pathetic attempt at film-making unfold.

If the music would not of come in every once in a while, the crowd in all likelihood would have gone crazy and started throwing things at the movie screen.

The vampire premise is obviously getting old because this did not succeed like producers would have hoped, and Buffy the Vampire Slayer got moved from the WB to the UPN this season, an obvious step downward.

This is a hint to all movie producers: stay far away from vampire movies and go to something new and exciting.

# Punk rockers add diversity to sound

★★★★  
BY JESSICA HALSTON

Mainstream music may hold its high points, but the vast underground of sound offers much more satisfying perk- diversity.

For example, leave it to Chicago-bred punk rockers The Lawrence Arms to get you out of your seat. Never confined to a simple bass line or monotone vocals, The Lawrence Arms release their third solo effort, *Apathy and Exhaustion*, as a nod to music's more emotional side.

Inclined toward an emo hardcore sound, *Apathy* is a veritable source of the underworld's population of must-have albums.

Lyricaly, The Lawrence Arms, headed by Clarence Darrow, were always competent with melancholy convictions and analogies. "I've abandoned old identities/ skin I couldn't fit into/ songs I couldn't write/ my voice will fade into this starless night," admonished Darrow in the album's cut, 'The First Eviction Notice.'

The trio often refer to Chicago's various neighborhoods, from which the band sprung forth before releasing their first album, *A Guided Tour of Chicago*, in 1999.

'The Corpses of Our Motivations' brings the group back to its punk rock roots, landing just before the catchy 'I'll Take What's in the Box, Monty.' The oxymoron that Darrow presents in his vocals enriches the

melodies, as his voice tends to be coarse in some numbers and indubitably smooth in others, such as 'Your Gravest Words.'

It often seems that Darrow shares his voice box with Jets to Brazil frontman Blake Schwarzenbach, who consequently writes similar lyrics.

Laden with power chords, tracks like 'Right as Rain Part 2' define The Lawrence Arms' signature style: a simple arrangement that's much more complicated than it seems. Darrow, Lehigh Acres, and Weehawken Hennessy, collectively the Lawrence Arms ensemble, are fond of layering time signatures, with a faster drum line sitting behind relaxed vocals.

These compilation heroes have a lot more to offer outside their solo recordings, and are constantly touring. Released on the Fat Wreck Chords label, *Apathy and Exhaustion* takes The Lawrence Arms closer to that emotional rendezvous in a big city, the feeling of invincibility, and a sound that carries you through it all.



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