

## Napoli offers alternative to 'quick bite' cafes

Although it is a bit on the expensive side, Napoli provides a nice atmosphere for a more romantic meal

By Kendra Smith  
Freelance Reporter

It might seem as though there could never be a place for a casual date close to campus, with so many cafes and coffee shops geared toward providing a quick bite. But a little further down 13th Avenue, away from the hustle and bustle of the University, is a small Italian restaurant that's just right for sitting down with a significant other for a nice meal: Napoli.

What makes Napoli a great date spot is the atmosphere. While you don't have to dress up and drive downtown, it's still a nice place. And they actually have a wine list; the house merlot is only \$3 a glass.

Although Napoli may look a little weird from the outside (you can watch the chefs in the kitchen as you walk by), it feels warm and cozy inside. Napoli is a homey restaurant, perfect for taking time out to enjoy a rich, filling meal.

And that's the kind of food to be found at Napoli. Although the plates look small, they fill you up

fast — especially dishes such as gnocchi, a rare find in Eugene. Napoli serves the usual Italian fare, such as manicotti and spaghetti with meatballs, plus different dishes such as shrimp and fusilli with artichoke hearts and chicken and prosciutto ravioli. The restaurant also offers two polenta dishes.

On the down side, the entrees are a little pricey for the college budget. Ranging from \$6.15 to \$10.25, they include only focaccia bread and adding a salad costs an additional \$2.25. In addition, the sauces could be more flavorful, and the focaccia is just okay, but the other baked goods are incredible.

Don't miss dessert if you go to Napoli. Treats like chocolate rum cheesecake, plus regular Italian favorites such as cannoli and tiramisu, are rich and worth the price. They are definitely better-than-average desserts at around \$2.50 to \$3.75.

If you're planning to get dinner and dessert, make sure you have time to stay a while. The serving staff is attentive and courteous, but

the kitchen is a bit slow. With the wait for food, it's too bad bread comes with dinner instead of before the meal.

Napoli also serves calzones and pizzas. The best part about these, of course, is the crust. In keeping with the restaurant's talent for baked goods, the dough in Napoli's calzones and pizzas bakes up soft and chewy. The restaurant offers all kinds of calzones at prices from \$5.45 to \$5.75, but the vegetable is one of the best because the vegetables are so fresh.

If typical Italian fare is not your thing, try a salad. The chicken and artichoke salad is excellent at \$6.25. This tasty, original creation features roasted pepper mayonnaise as dressing and orzo pasta, tiny noodles that

look like rice.

Pizza by the slice (\$1.85 to \$2.65) is available to go as are a few deli selections. Napoli also has cakes, cookies, loaves of bread and breakfast treats, such as cinnamon rolls, for sale at the counter.

### REVIEW

#### Napoli

★★  
(great baked goods, long wait)

■ **WHERE:** 686 E. 13th Ave.

■ **HOURS:** Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

■ **COST:** \$6.15-\$10.25

■ **BEST BET:** any dessert, chicken and artichoke salad



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

Napoli is located at 686 E. 13th Ave. near Hilyard Street.



Robert Barton plays C.S. Lewis and Megan Smith plays Joy Davidman in the University Theatre production of 'Shadowlands.'

## Play 'Chronicles' life of author C.S. Lewis

By Jesse Stephenson  
Entertainment Reporter

Many people have read the *Narnia Chronicles*. Others have asked deep questions such as, "Why are we here?" Starting tonight, Robinson Theatre will present a play about the life of the man who wrote both the *Chronicles* and tried to answer such questions.

*Shadowlands*, a play by William Nicholson about the life of author and Christian theologian C.S. Lewis, will be performed during a three-week run.

The play is directed by Skye Fitzgerald.

"I feel as if *Shadowlands* is a very important play," Fitzgerald said. "It asks the difficult questions that people are forced to ask such as, 'Why is there suffering?' and 'Why

do bad things happen to good people?'"

Fitzgerald said the play will be different from most plays performed in the theater. Among the differences is the use of a revolving stage to provide transitions in the play. The production of *Shadowlands* will be the first time in 20 years this feature has been used inside Robinson Theatre.

Another difference in the play is the varied cast. Starring as Lewis is Robert Barton, the head of the University acting program. Aside from University students, the cast also features members of the community, including a student at Roosevelt Middle School and a judge.

"The cast is very varied," Fitzgerald said. "We really have a wide mix of people from all over the

community. They are all really great."

*Shadowlands* will continue in the Robinson Theater March 1, 6-8 and 14-15. Each performance will begin at 8 p.m. A special performance at 2 p.m. March 9 will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Tickets are \$4.50 for students, \$7 for senior citizens and University faculty and staff and \$9 for the general public. For the benefit production, tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for students.

Fitzgerald said he believes everyone should benefit from viewing *Shadowlands*.

"Even if people don't know the works of Lewis, they shouldn't worry. This is one of the few plays that is life-affirming," he said. "It is really tender."

# Scandals

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