

## THE MAD DUCKLINGS



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Cast members rehearse for Mad Duckling's Children's Theatre's production "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," on the lawn outside of the University's Robinson Theatre at 1109 Old Campus Lane. The play is a musical version of Judith Viorst's children's book of the same name. Performances run at 11 a.m. July 26-30 and August 2-6.

General admission tickets are \$5 each or \$4 for groups of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased at the theater on performance days. To reserve group tickets in advance, call the box office at 346-4192.

"Children will identify with Alexander's recognizable traumas as he struggles through a terrible day with the hope of a brighter day just around the corner," said Jennifer Thomas, the show's director and a graduate student in theater arts. "The story is a delightful lesson for the young and the young at heart. It teaches lessons about life, patience, tolerance, hope and dismay as well as the importance of enjoying laughter whenever possible."

Short-term parking permits will be available at the theater, allowing patrons to park for free in the lot at East 11th Avenue and Kincaid Street, across from the Robinson Theatre.

## Charlie: Remake doesn't provide emotional core

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that the only thing that separates the crazy from the eccentric is financing.

Wonka's introduction is the beginning of the film's problems. Depp overshadows the other characters so much that they hardly have time to become more than quickly drawn caricatures. While Depp seems at home among the brash visuals, the other characters hardly have time to speak and develop only enough personality to be dislikable before they are dispatched for their faults. This is fine enough, except that it leaves Depp to hold the ball as the film's emotional center, and such a bizarre character is difficult to relate to. The original film succeeded by making Wonka the attraction but Charlie the emotional core. Here it seems as if Burton couldn't stand to spend too much time with plain vanilla old Charlie and decided to make the twisted outsider the fully realized character, as is his habit.

This leaves Charlie feeling somewhat wooden and underdeveloped. While Wonka grows as a character, Charlie remains the same throughout. This leaves everything feeling a little blank, despite the head rush of visuals.

The Oompa Loompa musical numbers are remarkably overblown and end up torpedoing the film's momentum every time they come around. In the original film these sequences worked in the overall context because the entire film was a musical. Here the sudden outburst of song is a distraction from the more interesting aspects of the movie.

The film's faults are forgivable thanks to Depp's amazing performance and Burton's sense of visual craft. But this is a flawed remake and might leave many film-goers with the feeling that it could have been much better.

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