

# ENTERTAINMENT

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## DEFEAT TO THE DAWGS

Against all odds, Tech's baseball team loses the NCAA Super Regionals to our Athens rival. **Page 16**

## WEBZINE DEBUTS

Seeking a creative outlet, ECE students have produced a new web magazine called *ecesis*. **Page 7**

# Hanks stars in good, but *Terminal*-ly slow movie

By Carlo Tambuatco  
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A sci-fi spectacular? No. A film brimming with special effects? No. Any goblins, trolls, orcs, a magic ring, hobbits, an extra-terrestrial or mechanical sharks featured in the flick? No, none of the above.

The only thing depressing or disturbing about this movie is the title, which could evoke feelings of death, loss, and over-the-top drama, but that's it.

Once you get past the gloomy name, the movie itself is, in fact, one of the funniest and more intelligent comedic dramas made this year.

Re-teaming Steven Spielberg with his partner in crime, Tom Hanks, this movie might be the cleverest comedy this summer. Incorporating some original gags, while utilizing some tried and true strategies, the movie successfully demands that its audience laugh, cry, and overall, feel sympathy towards Viktor Navorski, the movie's hero and main character, deftly performed by Tom Hanks.

Navorski is a man without a country. He has lost his right to obtain a visa to enter the United States at New York's JFK International after a rebel coup has seized control of his country's government.

The country in question is called Krakozhia, a vaguely Eastern European country as fictional as Navorski himself; a country that has, in effect, been declared void by the United

States after the ruling government was overthrown, thereby causing all passports issued to its citizens to be declared void as well.

Navorski arrives at JFK just after this governmental coup. Ironically, the coup occurred while he was in mid-flight, which in turn results in the discovery that he will not be allowed to set foot on American soil.

Navorski becomes the responsibility of Frank Dixon, the director of security at JFK. Performed with skill by Stanley Tucci (*The Core*, *Road to Perdition*), audiences will immediately identify Dixon as the movie's hard-nosed, by-the-book authority figure and arch-villain.

Dixon, bound by code rules and his ambition to be promoted to a higher position, sees Navorski as a fly on the wall, someone who has fallen through the cracks of the system, and one who stands in the way of his attempts at a perfect administrative record.

The only option Dixon has is to allow Navorski to dwell indefinitely within the confines of the International Terminal until his passport clears, all the while hoping that Navorski will attempt to escape to New York, be arrested, and become someone else's problem.

However, Navorski, having been told to stay in the terminal and wait, does just that. He waits...and waits...and waits. He never breaks the rules, nor does he even attempt to break them. He stays in the terminal

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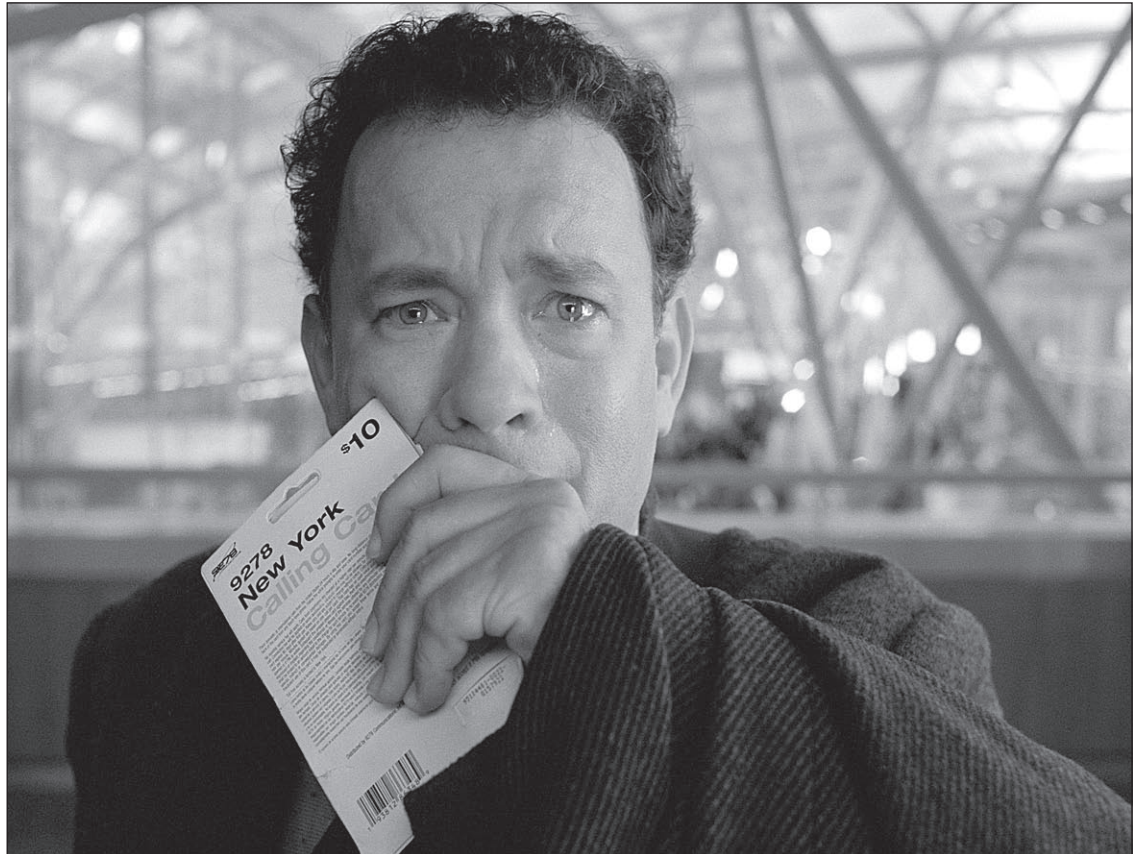


Photo courtesy of Dreamworks Pictures /

In Steven Spielberg's latest flick *The Terminal*, Tom Hanks gives an impressive performance as Viktor Navorski, a citizen of Krakozhia that discovers he is forced to temporarily reside in the JFK airport.

until he is told he can leave, which depends upon how long the coup in his country will last, which, in fact, turns out to be quite a long time.

This is the whole premise of the movie, and while it may seem trite, in the hands of Spielberg, it quickly becomes an intimate character study about Viktor and the strangers he interacts with at JFK.

The plot and the premise behind this movie, while implausible, are used to set up Navorski's interactions with the other employees of the airport.

One of the first people he meets is Gupta (Kumar Pallana), a janitor working in the terminal who has a pathological comedic urge to see people slip on his wet floors.

At first sight, Gupta seems mentally unbalanced, but as the movie progresses, we see he in fact has a heart of gold, and his own personal reasons for working at the airport.

Other people Navorski meets during his stay include two baggage handlers played by Chi McBride (*Boston Public*), and Diego Luna (*Tu Mama Tambien*, *Dirty Dancing*

*Havana Nights*), who help Navorski survive by giving him airline food in exchange for advice.

Then there is the stewardess, Amelia Warren, portrayed by Academy-Award-winning Catherine Zeta-Jones (*Chicago*, *The Mask of Zorro*). She plays Navorski's token love interest during his extended stay at JFK. She seems to be nice enough when we are first introduced to her, but more is learned about her character throughout the movie, which

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# The King and I conquers at The Fox



By Sue Ellen Fitzsimmons / Special to the 'Nique

Sandy Duncan portrays the adventurous English teacher Anna Leonowens in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I* currently touring at The Fox Theatre this weekend.

By Charulaxmi Fadnavis  
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I think it is a safe assumption that most of our generation has some inkling of the bittersweet tale of the *King and I*; the story has been repackaged several times throughout the years.

Based on Margaret Landon's novel, *Anna and the King of Siam*, the story has been told time and time again. Facts from the novel soon became mingled with fiction, and Landon's work has been taken to the big screen three times (*Anna and the King of Siam*, *The King and I*, and *Anna and the King*).

The most recent movie was released in 1999, which starred Jodie Foster and Yun-Fat Chow. Perhaps the most famous adaptation is Rodgers and Hammerstein's stage approach. Whichever version you may have seen, it is rather obvious that Anna's history with the King of Siam has not lost its appeal.

Well, residents of Atlanta now

have the privilege of bearing witness to the poignantly restrained friendship between Anna and the King. The show stars Sandy Duncan as the teacher named Anna who decides to teach English to the many children of King Mongkut (Martin Vidovic). Her adventurous spirit brings her all the way from Wales to Bangkok to serve as the children's governess.

As a disclaimer, I think I should mention that I have watched all the three movies that I referred to earlier. So, if any comparisons are made, please note that they were unintentional.

Brilliant backdrops and vibrantly hued costumes took the audience back in time to ancient Siam, where women were considered mere "female humans," and the map of Siam showed the King as a colossus and a ruler of the neighboring "enemy country," Burma.

The play continually empha-

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# Music-packed bus tour rocks this way

By Alexandros Salazar  
Contributing Writer

If you haven't heard of it yet, you will soon. There is a bus that tours the United States. It will go through 50 US cities between now and November 2nd. It will be loaded with logos, signs, and lots of enthusiastic people. It is the Rock the Vote tour bus, and its goal is to get you to vote. At least, that's part of it. Rock the Vote was founded in 1990 by Patrick Lippert, and other members of the recording industry.

For those like me, who don't recall what was going on back then, it was a time when a new offensive on the part of decency advocates was launched, culminating in the now-ubiquitous "Parental Advisory" stickers. It was also the same year that the high-profile trial of 2 Live Crew (in court for use of obscene lyrics in one of their albums) was in the media spotlight.

Over the years, Rock the Vote claims to have registered millions of voters, and to have been instrumental in reversing the trend of lowering youth-voter turnout. Since 1996, it has partnered with MTV's "20 million LOUD!"

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may cause some female audience members not to want to sympathize for her.

Even though the audience is likely to be cheering for Navorski to win Amelia over, many may be disappointed at how the relationship actually turns out in the end.

The main plot really doesn't move along quite as fast as you may expect in a Steven Spielberg movie. There don't appear to be any spectacular plot twists, or any disastrous consequences of any kind, nor were there intended to be any.

What really drives this movie along is Hank's portrayal and characterizations of Navorski's plight. Hank gets Navorski, and the audience identifies with Navorski through Hanks.

The movie's strong points are in the small details and the elaborate depictions of the people in the airport. It is almost as if you have secret access to the information about their private personal lives and personalities.

Since the plot is so simple and moves along at a snail's pace, the characters, especially Tom Hanks'

Navorski, are what drive this movie.

One of the more interesting side stories chronicled is that of the love story between Diego Luna's character and a beautiful INS agent played by Zoe Saldana (*Drumline*, *Centerstage*).

Navorski helps Luna's character to win over this girl by passing messages back and forth between the two in exchange for a subsistence of airline food.

It's nice to see Hanks share the spotlight with his younger co-stars in a movie that focuses on developing the complexities of the relationships between characters. Overall, this movie seems to merge all the genres that Hanks has dominated since the late 1980's: comedy, drama, romance—and does it right.

There is hardly ever a dull moment in the movie, beginning when we see Navorski get off his plane not knowing a single word of English, and culminating when we finally see him leave JFK. (Yes, he eventually is able to leave). It is a movie that strongly builds its characters without being pretentious, or overly stuffed with special effects. Overall, the time spent in this terminal is time well-spent.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Julie Dowling and Jessica Berglind portray Lady Bracknell and Gwendolen respectively in the current DramaTech production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Opening night is Friday, July 2 at 8 p.m. Student tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door of the theatre.

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initiative, which currently has the tagline "Choose or Lose." (I'm sure you have seen at least one of their catchy commercials currently running on TV). It has also campaigned for legislation that eases registration of voters across state lines, and in general has a history of fighting censorship in any of its forms.

So, how does this affect you? Well, for starters, they will be coming to Atlanta in the fall. It is one of the scheduled stops, although the complete details are not yet available. The way the Rock the Vote bus operates is by simultaneously using high-profile artists to attract attention, and then proceed to attempt to educate young people about the importance of voting.

In the past, R.E.M., the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Coolio, Seal, LL Cool J, and a whole host of others have participated on previous tours, or with the Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that were released by the

association.

This year, the Black Eyed Peas, The Donnas, Hoobastank, The Dixie Chicks, Michelle Branch, Maroon 5, Rooney and many other well known artists will be featured at various stops.

For college campus shows, mostly new up-and-coming artists will be touring, but the website promises a special guest appearance from at least one of the bands mentioned above on each leg of the tour.

As a last note, it bears mentioning that Rock the Vote is not without controversy. While it claims to be a non-partisan group that aims to get young people involved in the voting process, one look at the website is enough to note a decidedly liberal slant to the issues addressed.

You might also find it interesting that Rock the Vote will register anyone to vote, regardless of political affiliation. At any rate, if nothing else, a free concert is coming into town this fall; be on the lookout for it. For up to the minute details, check out [www.rockthevote.com](http://www.rockthevote.com).

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sized the deference paid to the ruler, and highlighted the shortcomings of a system where a mere mortal is elevated to dizzying heights, regardless of whether he is worthy of this adulation.

The tone of the play oscillated between mirth and misery all night. I do want to make note that the song "The Small House of Uncle Thomas" was definitely brilliantly executed.

One scene that left an indelible mark on me was when the King and Anna were dancing together after the ball. Despite the lukewarm rapport between Duncan & Vidnovic for the greater part of the evening, it was a heart-warming experience when the moment came between the two characters.

The audience is able to sense and visibly see that they had reached the point where they could let their guards down and let their true feelings for each other show.

I warn that it is easier to relate

to a sad story than to one that is sad and funny by turns. The viewer is not touched by this love story, but impressed by a plethora of wonderful songs, the marvelous performance of Ms. Duncan, the supporting cast, and the lavish sets and costumes.

**"Ms. Duncan's Anna seems at her most maternal, broadminded and tender in her performance."**

My favorite musical number was "Getting to Know You." Duncan's Anna seems at her most maternal, broadminded and tender in her performance. The choreography of the song is superb and the children dance splendidly. The youngsters are the foundation of the play and their talent is amazing.

Special mention must be made to some of the members of the ensemble cast. Catherine Mieun Choi plays Lady Thiang with an understated grace of a woman who loves her husband and wants him to profit from the company of another woman. Lou Castro also is admirable as Prince Chulalongkorn.

It is beyond me to evaluate Martin Vidnovic's King of Siam. I dearly love Yul Brynner's performance (1956 movie version) and am sure comparisons will inevitably ensue.

The show is enjoyable as light entertainment, which, I am sure is what it was intended to be. If one doesn't expect to be profoundly moved at the end of the evening, but pleasantly diverted, I would heartily recommend this play.

*The King and I* is currently touring at The Fox Theatre in Atlanta. Performances are held tonight at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost between \$20-\$58 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster or at the door. Next up at The Fox is *Yankee Doodle Dandy*.