

From ASH and FLAME

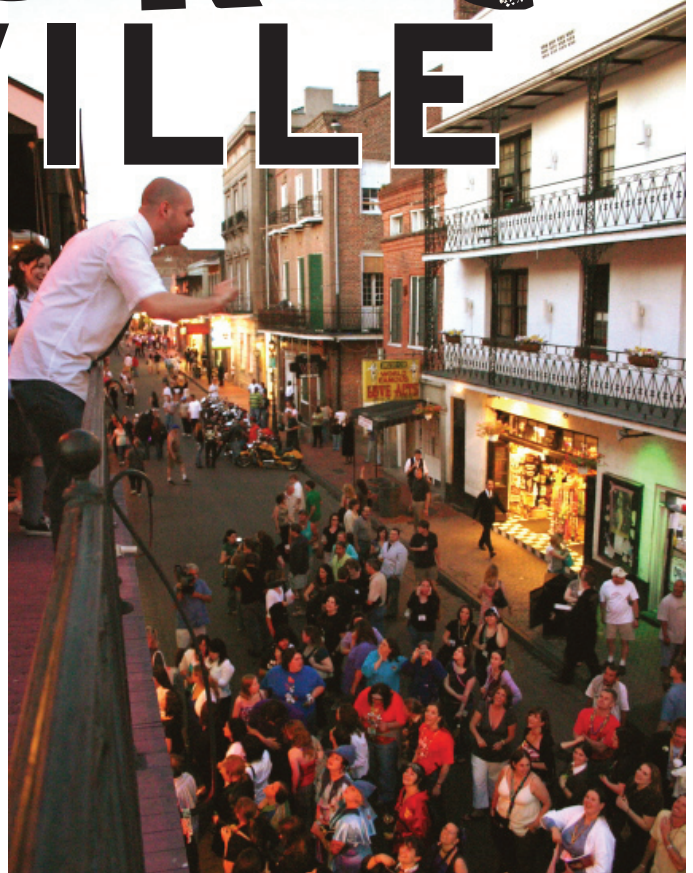
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WIZARDS ROCK STORYVILLE



Alexander Carpenter (the Remus Lupins) tells fans how Snape sucks - in song.
photos by Jessica Blank



Brian Ross (Draco and the Malfoys) greets fans at Bourbon Vieux, Cajun Cabin and Five O'Clock Grille.

by Maryanne Penzvalto

"THE MOST ROCKIN' SHOW in the history of the universe." Alex Carpenter, known to Wizard Rock fans as The Remus Lupins, used these words to describe his expectations for Storyville. If the crowd's cheers and screams were any indication, he was not far off.

Storyville, Phoenix Rising's Wizard Rock event, began on Friday night at 8 p.m. as the impatient Harry Potter fans waited for the doors to open. They did not have to wait long to see the stars of the evening, however; Carpenter and his fellow rockers stood on the balcony of the Bourbon Vieux, the Cajun Cabin and the Five O'Clock Grille, waving,

grinning, and tossing Mardi Gras beads to the crowd below. The excitement was palpable as the fans filed into the dimly lit venue. "I'm wicked psyched for Draco and the Malfoys, The Whomping Willows, and The Remus Lupins," said Mariella Bozzuto, who had traveled to New Orleans from Boston. "It's going to rock wicked hard."

Carpenter opened the concert and he was followed by Matt Maggiacomo of The Whomping Willows, Brittany Vahlberg and Kristina Horner of The Parselmouths and finally Brian Ross of Draco and the Malfoys. At one point, Death Eaters armed with wands swarmed the stage. A fan dressed as the former Hogwarts potions master also joined The Remus Lupins onstage during the song "Snape." Fans became a part of the show by

gathering near the stage to dance and sing along.

As the night wore on, the crowd became increasingly boisterous, and the bands responded in kind, joining each other onstage, playing off one another for laughs, and collaborating on songs. Maggiacomo and Ross made a cameo appearance as Crabbe and Goyle in The Parselmouths' song "Crabbe and Goyle, Stop Asking Us Out." As Draco and the Malfoys took the stage, it was nearing midnight, but the excitement hadn't waned at all. The crowd sang along to every number, waving their arms and dancing until the show closed. Laughter and song still filled the air as people filed out onto Bourbon street, tired but smiling as they headed back to the Sheraton New Orleans with their friends and fellow fans.

GAMES AND THEMES: THE KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

by Genii Grimsley

DANNY BILSON, one of the creators of *Harry Potter* video games, talked about how the games were created from the books in "Transformation: From Text to Technology," one of yesterday's two keynote presentations. A game player as well as a designer, he discussed the limitations of the license agreement between Electronic Arts, Warner Brothers and Chris Little Agency. He also discussed some of the challenges involved in the earlier games, such as character limitations and loading speed. In addition to showing the character changes and development process, the attendees viewed never-before-seen test runs and character concepts. Amid a flurry of funny anecdotes about the process of game development, the attendees were treated to a preview of the new *Order of the Phoenix* video games. Bilson also explained that the film was limited by the amount of time and scripted page, while the game was only limited by license infringement.

The second keynote speaker was Dr. Anne Hiebert Alton who presented "Transformation: From Influence to Inspiration" at the Musée Conti Wax Museum. Attendees were invited to view the wax museum prior to the lecture. Alton began with an analysis of the covers of all seven books. She then discussed the influences of literary themes that occur within the series, such as violence, magical numbers and mythology. She discussed the many different literary genres to show how each book applied to each genre. Finally, she addressed whether the *Harry Potter* series could be classified as an epic. Perhaps with the series' conclusion, that answer shall be known.



Don't forget to visit the vendor room on the fourth floor for all your wizarding needs. The room is open today and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Monday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(photo by Kayla Castille)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

by JoSelle Vanderhooft

Collin Tibbetts

VOLUNTEER COLLIN TIBBETTS describes his Friday in three words: "Hell. Hell. Hell." He laughs as he saws boards for today's Quidditch Classic's hoops and banner stands – parts of the game he also designed. Behind him lie bags filled with more stuff: PVC pipes and inflatable balls he lugged over on the plane trip. This isn't the first time he's wielded a saw in honor of the Wizarding World's favorite sport, either. He also built the Quidditch hoops for the Witching Hour at the request of his sister, Hallie Tibbetts, Phoenix Rising's own Lead Event Organizer. But the splinters are worth it, he says. Not just because the end product will look great, but because his sister promised him a reward.

"Hallie said she'd buy me a lot of drinks on Bourbon Street." He laughs.

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photo by Kayla Castille

LEITMOTIF-EXPLORATION

by Genii Grimsley

DR. CHARLOTTE PIPES, a music professor from Nicholls State University in Louisiana, presented "Exploring the *Leitmotif* in Music of *Harry Potter*." She defined "leitmotif" as a piece of music used in association with a person, place or thing. In this presentation, Pipes compared and analyzed various themes from the first four movies and made predictions for themes in the upcoming *Order of the Phoenix* film. From discussing how various instruments could change a theme to listening to the themes played comparatively, Dr. Pipes' presentation was highly entertaining.