

# Musical Chairs

**T**HE '80S MEGAMUSICALS *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Cats* have had megagrosses and megaruns—but also megaproblems being turned into films. This month *Les Miz*'s movie fortunes revived with word that director **Bruce Beresford** (*Driving Miss Daisy*) will helm the film version, replacing **Alan Parker** (*The Commitments*), who was originally set to direct back in 1988.

The big-screen *Phantom*, with **Sarah Brightman** and **Michael Crawford**, was aborted more than a year ago in the wake of Brightman's divorce from composer **Andrew Lloyd Webber**. Even the film that's furthest along, **Steven Spielberg's** animated version of *Cats*, has been littered with problems.

Spielberg announced his plans a couple of years ago, but the movie stalled because the show, based on *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, a book of poems by T.S. Eliot, lacks a dramatic structure. "My job was to create a story," says screenwriter Richard LaGravenese (*The Fisher King*). The movie was then planned for a 1993 release, until composer Lloyd Webber, again, caused a *Cats* delay. "Andrew wasn't happy with the arrangements that had been done on the songs," says LaGravenese, "and decided he

**INTERMISSION:** Filming proves tough for *Cats*, *Les Miz*, *Phantom*

would do it himself. But he's too busy with his stage version of [the 1950 movie] *Sunset Boulevard* now and won't have time for *Cats* until that's finished." Which means it won't be until 1994, at least, that *Cats* finally lands on its feet. —*Stephen Schaefer*

## RANDOM QUOTE

### Couch Trip

"HBO WANTED to call it *Oh, Those Nuts*. Actually, let's face it, it's *The Wonder Years* on acid."

—*Producer Billy Crystal, on his new psychocomedy cable series, Sessions*

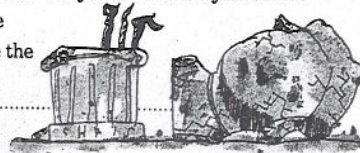


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# HOT SHEET

What the country is talking about this week...

**1 COLUMBUS BASHING** Very chic. And 499 years from now some fool will blame Neil Armstrong because the moon is a shopping mall.



**2 MADONNA BOOKS**

You're never going to believe this—*she's not a virgin!*

**3 RUBBERGATE** Nobody's perfect. I accidentally wrote my congressman a \$1 million check for his next campaign.

**4 DAVID BRENNER'S CUSTODY BATTLE** It's talk show justice. Who needs a judge? Let the audience vote.

**5 RECESSIONWOOD** Salaries of even the biggest stars are holding steady. It's *that* bad. I hear Costner's taking in laundry.

**6 THE ATLANTA BRAVES** The Andy Hardys of baseball. Win or lose, no one's laughing at Chief Knock-a-Homa now.

**7 CLINT BLACK AND LISA HARTMAN** Country hunk to marry former *Knots Landing* star. Anybody know how to barbecue caviar?



**8 SENATOR SONNY BONO**

The end of civilization as we know it.

**9 FRANKIE & JOHNNIE** Michelle Pfeiffer and Al Pacino as your average, everyday, unglamorous couple in a movie nobody'd see if it starred an everyday, unglamorous couple.

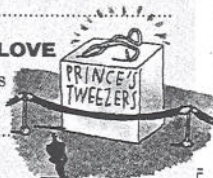
**10 CELEBRITY ABUSE** It's come full circle—now they're invading *our* privacy. Don't we have a right not to know?

**11 MORE JFK SCANDALS** No wonder he had a bad back. It's time to drop the conspiracy theory for the jealous-boyfriend theory.

**12 CATS' NINTH ANNIVERSARY** That means some sicko out there is seeing it twice.

**13 MICHAEL JACKSON'S MISSING GLOVE**

What else is in this "museum"? Rembrandt's socks? Picasso's sailor shirt? Warhol's wig?



**14 SEINFELD'S SHOW**

No cute children, no semisenile grandparents, no funny officemates. In other words, a surprise hit.

**15 THE NOBEL PRIZE** It's people like Nadine Gordimer who keep Danielle Steel and Judith Krantz from winning.