

Musical Chairs

THE '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*



R. MANIANG/ONYX

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JOAN MARCUS



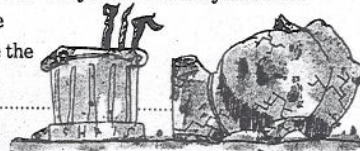
JOAN MARCUS



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.

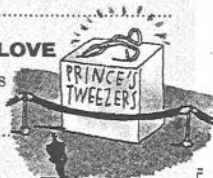
10 CELEBRITY ABUSE It's come full circle—now they're invading *our* privacy. Don't we have a right not to know?

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.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BARRY BLITT