

# A limo that charges like a cab

## Limo Review

By Chris Lesinski  
A&E Editor

The girls are all dolled up in glistening cocktail dresses. The boys are at least wearing collared shirts – blazers, if we're lucky – and they're waiting on the corner of Loyola and 80th at the back gate for a ride. As the dirty, yellow taxi pulls up next to the now defunct taco stand, and everyone piles in, there isn't much of a contrast. It's when the young lady's satin dress hits that worn, stained, smoky, "leather" seat cushion – that's when you know you're in college. It makes us feel like wannabes.

An even worse scenario involves a snappy-casual crowd

jumping into a snappy-casual BMW that dad bought. Unfortunately, the driver of that car isn't for hire so he doesn't mind having a few drinks at Mo's. Or a few before he drives. Or a few in the car on the way there. Yikes.

Wouldn't it be nice to take a limo? You should. Booze Croozer is a brand new service right here in Los Angeles that offers limos that cater to the late-night-ride crowd. The best part: Instead of paying a limo driver per hour to verify that the reclining seats are comfortable enough to sleep in, Booze Croozer uses a taxi cab model to charge its customers. You pay for what you use.

Yes, it's more expensive than a cab. There's a \$5 fee to start a ride and it's \$5 per mile after that (no traffic surcharge). But when you consider that you can split that among six people in a limo versus three in a cab – not to mention the fact that you're in a freaking limo, not a cab – it's probably worth it. Both ways to the Playa bar scene is roughly \$5.80 per person (six) via Booze Croozer, and \$4.50 per person (three) in the average cab.

The limos are nice, too. We might expect a sub-par product



Courtesy of Lawrence Pier

A stretch limo costs between \$70 and \$300 per hour. Booze Croozer could cost less for the whole night.

from a bargain limo service, but that's not the case. There's no hot tub in the back and the limo has a measly four wheels (without spinners), but it's aptly plush: a stereo system, a TV, a lighted bar with coolers (drinking is permitted) and a power

divider. The outside is classy, too, and will surely make passer-bys think you're a "Gossip Girl," until they see the rather unfortunate magnetic signage on the side of the car.

True, this is no Lambda Chi rush-week ride, but it is perfect

for the everyday college student, or at least for a special occasion. Just make sure your newfound celebrity status doesn't distract you from actually getting to the party. And resist buying that extra cocktail – it might pay for the ride home.

# World-class pianist to play on campus

## Music Preview

By Marie Webb  
Asst. A&E Editor

Although Nikita Mndoyants is just 19 years old, he will be playing in a jam-packed concert hall at LMU. The department of music and The Paderewski Music Society are sponsoring the event which takes place today at 8:00 p.m., with free admission to the concert and a reception following the performance. If you have never been to Murphy Recital Hall, you are in for a big treat. The hall, which seats about 200, is known as one of the acoustically best recital halls in the United States. The sound that resonates off the modern, wooden panels surrounding the stage are clear and untainted, providing a great experience for audience members as well as performers.

According to the Paderewski Music Society, Mndoyants grew up in a family of musicians and began playing the piano as a young child. He attended school in Moscow at the Central Mu-

sic School in 1995, and just two short years later he gave his first recital when he was only eight years old. Mndoyants is the winner of several international piano competitions. He took home first prize at the International Youth Competition in St. Petersburg in 2004, first prize at the Tel-Hai Concerto Competition in Israel in 2005 and first prize at the prestigious 2007 Paderewski International Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, the vice president and artistic director of the Paderewski Music Society, is also a professor of music (piano) at LMU. He first heard Mndoyants play while conducting a master class, (a class in which a performer is critiqued by an accomplished professor) in Poland. During an interview, Dr. Kocyan stated that the The Paderewski Music Society is a non-profit organization dedicated entirely and exclusively to Ignacy Paderewski's lifetime accomplishments in the realm of music and humane activities.

Ignacy Paderewski (1860 -1941) was a Polish pianist, composer, diplomat, politician and the third Prime Minister of Poland. Dr. Kocyan also talked about the composer's lavish lifestyle stating, "Paderewski was the Elvis Presley of his time. He was greeted like royalty and would travel around Europe by train with his personal chef." Paderewski can also be found in "The Guinness Book of World Records" as the classical pianist to make the most money in history while touring. Dr. Kocyan, who also grew up in Poland, has been a long-time fan of Paderewski's music and jumped at the opportunity to have Mndoyants perform his works.

Mndoyants will be playing three pieces by Paderewski, as well as music from Frederic Chopin (1810-1849), Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), Arno Babadjanian (1921-1983), Franz Liszt (1811-1886) and his own composition based on variations of a theme by Paganini. Mndoyants will begin the concert with three pieces by Paderewski and an intermission will take place after the first seven pieces. If you have never seen a famous pianist or classical musician play live, here is your chance. It is truly an honor to see Mndoyants perform here at LMU.



Courtesy of Chris Onzol

19-year-old pianist, Nikita Mndoyant, will perform in Murphy Recital Hall today.



MCT Campus

Daniel Craig as James Bond is about the only thing that stacks up in the new movie.

# LITTLE SOLACE IN "QUANTUM"

## Movie Review

By Hal Koss  
Contributor

Daniel Craig reprises his role as the British secret agent, 007, in the awkwardly titled, "Quantum of Solace." The 22nd movie in the Bond series had a tough act to follow in 2006's brilliant "Casino Royale." Quantum, unfortunately, falls painstakingly short of reaching the expectations usually synonymous with the Bond brand.

The film picks up about twenty minutes after the previous film ends – Bond is fervently tracking down those responsible for his lover's death. Clues guide the avenging hero to the newest Bond girl, Camille (Olga Kurylenko), who is undoubtedly gorgeous, but really brings nothing to the table. She eventually leads him to the villain of the film, Dominic Greene (Mathieu Amalric). For a bad guy, Greene doesn't seem particularly villainous, save his creepy smile, as he only wants to control Bolivia's water supply, not destroy the world. While in pursuit of Greene, Bond stubbornly disobeys his superiors, letting revenge get in the way of rationale. This causes a hard-to-follow, cat-and-mouse type chase between Bond and the bad guys with Bond's allies interfering.

While "Casino Royale" struck gold as it departed slightly from traditional Bond films, what "Quantum of Solace" attempts doesn't quite work. Gone are the charming moments, the cleverness, the gadgets and the constant bedding of hot women. This time around, we are only watching an A.D.D. brute blow stuff up.

The surprising weakness of the film is

that it lacks a story. This is surprising because veteran director Marc Forster ("Finding Neverland," "The Kite Runner") and Oscar winning writer Paul Haggis ("Crash") are two incredible storytellers. A straightforward revenge tale is easy to follow, but when a shaky subplot about a clandestine organization and a two-faced philanthropist who wants to cause droughts is thrown in the mix, things become unclear. Not only that, but the stakes never feel high. We never feel too threatened by the bad guys, nor do we feel too inclined to even root for Bond.

If it's not the story you came for, but the action, than this film certainly has it. However, don't expect typical action sequences. Like the fight scenes in the Bourne films, the camera shakes furiously throughout and the cuts only seem to last a nano-second. While I think this style worked in the Bourne movies, it's too hard to follow in this one. You can't even tell who's winning the fight until the dust finally settles and it's clear that Bond is the only one left standing. Furthermore, the chase scenes came too fast and too often. The movie begins with an elaborate chase sequence, and once the audience finally has a chance to catch its breath, another one ensues. This fatiguing strategy continues throughout the film, until you finally reach the plane chase, and you find yourself peeking at your watch.

While Quantum certainly isn't a bad film, it will leave you disappointed after such a relishing experience in the previous installment. You can find solace in one thing though, and that's the fact that Daniel Craig is an impressive Bond, and you can bet his work in the series isn't over.