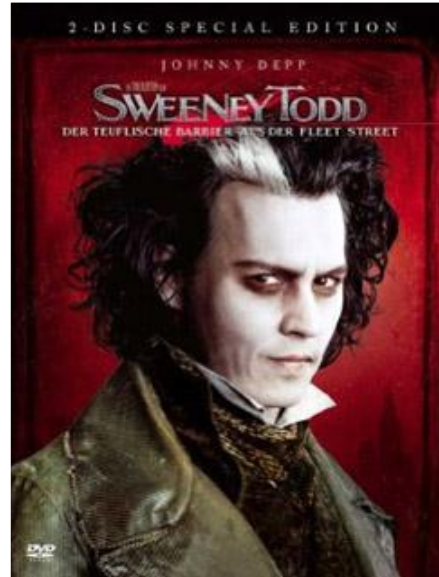


## FILM REVIEW – *SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER FROM FLEET STREET*

By Shannon Ernst

Sweeney Todd is a film created by the famous director Tim Burton. Like as every film lover knows, Tim Burton tends to give his films a somewhat darker environment than other directors. That is something that really comes forward in this film. The story is quite famous as well. The film has some great actors like Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Alan Rickman.



The plot is about Benjamin Barker (Johnny Depp), a young barber living in Fleet Street in London. This young man meets some traumatic events due to a certain judge Turpin (Alan Rickman). His wife is taken from him and he is taken away from her. After fifteen years, Benjamin returns to Fleet Street. He comes to find the judge and take revenge on him, after he couldn't find his wife and lost daughter. He re-entered Fleet Street under a different alias, however; Sweeney Todd. Why he chose that new name is unclear in the film. Mrs. Lovett, a woman who owns a pie shop underneath the barber shop, convinced him to get back to business and re-open the shop. Sweeney is focused on revenge on the judge while Mrs. Lovett has other plans: her pie shop is running out of business due to a lack of meat and after an event in the film she has found the perfect way to provide her shop with meat.

**Acting:** immediately I can say that the acting in this film is extraordinary. That has nothing to do with the fact that most actors in the film are well known, no; the actors transform into actual characters with a story to tell. This means that the film is not just some story on screen, but it actually tells you something: the history of London wasn't just sunny and joyful, some times were hard and people really experienced bad situations. Johnny Depp really transforms into a broken man, who has an epiphany and realises that there's something to be done to satisfy him, to end his misery. Helena Bonham Carter also does a great job playing Mrs. Lovett; she's not only serious, she's also funny. The rest of the cast does a great job as a well and all together the film just fits together.

**Special Effects:** what me struck during the film were the effects of blood. Some may say it looks rather fake, but if you look at the original musical you'll find out that they used blood sacks to create the bloody effect there as well. The substance used in Tim Burton's film gives the whole scene a more musical like effect, which is highly appreciated when it's put in a modern cover like Tim Burton managed to do. The film itself is quite modern, even though Tim Burton tried to create an older world. It is clear that this film is made in modern times, also when you look at music techniques and filming techniques.

Rating

