



LOUISE SNIDER

'Realm of Senses' not typical porn

The movie "In The Realm of the Senses" was closed by the Radio City Theatre in Ferndale, where it was scheduled for an exclusive engagement, before it was shown to the public. The closing was at the request of the City of Ferndale. Officials of Suburban Detroit Theatres, the company that owns the Radio City Theatre, refused to comment—Editor

The Japanese film "In the Realm of the Senses" (X) was the absentee hit of the 1976 New York Film Festival, where it was seized by U.S. Customs after a private screening. Recently released by a federal court order, the movie is based upon a bizarre event that made headlines in Japan in 1956. Perhaps it was a portent of the greater violence that turned outward in military conquest.

It is a seductively photographed story with the audience as voyeur to observe the couplings of a Geisha and her lover. If it weren't for the subject matter, each shot could be an advertisement for photographic film, so outstanding is the color and composition.

Consequently, one can view this movie in a detached manner or be aroused by the intense eroticism or both.

The opening scenes quickly establish the mutual attraction and sexual basis for the relationship of Sada and her married lover, Kichijiro. However, the nature of the relationship, dominant male and submissive female, is reversed from the film's beginning to its grisly conclusion.

THEIR SEXUAL obsession becomes more and more frenzied and leads to sado-masochism and the ultimate orgasm of death.

Unlike typical hard-core movies, "In the Realm of the Senses" is not sleazy, bring-a-raincoat pornography. However, there are numerous close-up views of genitalia and explicit scenes of intercourse.

This is a strangely compelling film, but it shares a flaw with the cheapo skin flicks. Scenes of copulation, however varied, become boringly repetitious. Thus, even an artful film such as this can still evoke the "My God, not again!" reaction.

Those Bears are bad news, all right

Don't expect good news from the "Bad News Bears in Breaking Training" (PG).

In this sequel to "The Bad News Bears," the old magic is gone. Also gone are the two stars who helped secure that initial success—Walter Matthau and Tatum O'Neal. They were smart; they quit while they were ahead.



"Breaking Training" still makes tired attempts to get juvenile laughs from having kids cuss and backtalk. And it still tries to milk laughs from some holdover routines, like hot-headed Tanner always looking for a fight and fat Engelbert always looking for a meal.

The Bears are on their way to a championship playoff game in Houston. They need a pitcher and a coach. They get a terrible pitcher and a miracle-working coach (William DeVane). In a day or two, he shapes them up from bumbling boobies to championship contenders.

IT'S A BIG step from the swilling, slobby Matthau as coach to DeVane as a serious, athletic one. It's a step in the wrong direction.

The Bears lose their rascally charm. With a straight coach, they're just like any other kids in the movie.

Aside from the Bears and DeVane, the other big stars are Anheuser-Busch (makers of Budweiser) and the Houston Astros. For some reason, this movie seems devoted to plugging these institutions.

Chant-a-lug.

Glimpses

THE DEEP (PG). Suspenseful aqua-thriller with exciting underwater action and photography. Jacqueline Bisset, Nick Nolte and Robert Shaw dive for treasure.

HERBIE GOES TO MONTE CARLO (G). Disney film of further adventures of the Love Bug. With Dean Jones, Don Knotts and Julie Sommers.

THE LAST REMAKE OF BEAU GESTE (PG). Marty Feldman directed this fourth remake of this farcical French Foreign Legion film that bears no resemblance to any of the others. Feldman stars as Michael York's identical twin.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK (PG). Vintage music abounds in the '40s-era musical with Robert De Niro as a saxophone player in love with hand vocalist Liza Minnelli.

ORCA (PG). Richard Harris, fisherman, and Charlotte Rampling, marine biologist, are adversaries in this oceanic adventure of a hunt for a killer whale.

THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT (R). Tawdry film of vanity and vengeance. Marie-France Pisier wastes her talent in this clincher. More sex and less story and they could have gone for the "Emmanuelle" trade.

THE RESCUERS (G). Beautifully animated Disney film of two mice who rescue girl from clutches of the evil Mme. Medusa.

ROLLERCOASTER (PG). Suspense thriller about extortionist (Timothy Bottoms) who plants bombs at amusement parks and a safety inspector (George Segal) who doesn't think that's amusing.

SORCERER (PG). Roy Scheider stars in this remake of the hair-raising film "Poltergeist" of Fear. The contrast to drive a cargo of explosives across 200 miles of wild terrain.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
X No one under 18 admitted.

Opera plans expansion

Dr. David DiChiera recently announced his intention to expand Michigan Opera Theatre, MOT, both in Detroit and throughout the state.

DiChiera is both founder and general director of MOT as well as founding director and artistic director of Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts. Due to his increased responsibilities in the MOT expansion, DiChiera will function only in an advisory capacity to the Center and relinquish his administrative participation.

DiChiera was recently elected vice-president of OPERA America, Inc. and chairs its auditions committee.

Included in the plans for MOT's expansion are a fifth production to be added to the current four-subscription productions.

Next December there will be 10 non-subscription performances of Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." There will also be an annual summer Festival of Opera which is intended to establish Michigan as a site of major summer opera in the Midwest.

There are also plans for the expansion of the current eight-week Opera in Residence touring-educational program into a 40-week resident company which would employ artists for a full season and a musical theater series co-sponsored by Michigan Opera Theatre and two other opera companies.

This longer Opera in Residence would offer apprentice experience to selected young talent as well as hold the potential for opera education programs in metropolitan area schools, factories, shopping centers and other community centers.

MOT board chairman Lynn A. Townsend said, "MOT's planned expansion is warranted by the stunning

critical and popular success the company has enjoyed both in Detroit and on tour throughout Michigan."

Townsend continued, "MOT is recognized nationally as one of the country's most innovative professional opera companies."

In recognizing DiChiera for his vision and guidance for Music Hall Center, Ruth Glancy, chairman of the Center board, said, "MOT's planned expansion is especially exciting for Music Hall since the opera was a major catalyst for the Center's evolution and is a cornerstone of our endeavors."

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