



'Rose Garden' powerful drama

"I Never Promised You a Rose Garden" (R) is a tensity dramatic film, outstanding for the quality of its acting and the integrity of its approach.

It is the story of a 16-year-old girl enveloped in a terrifying but fascinating world of mental illness. Kathleen Quinlan gives a superb performance as Deborah Blake, a teenage schizophrenic.

Ms. Quinlan seems to have all the instinctively right moves and gestures. Her range of emotions constitutes a textbook of acting, from surly to ecstatic, timid to bold, suspicious to trusting. This certainly will be counted among the top dramatic performances by an actress this year.

Fortunately, there is consistency of acting quality throughout the film; Quinlan is ably supported by an excellent cast. Bibi Anderson plays the compassionate psychiatrist, Dr. Fried, who finally wins Deborah's trust. Sylvia Sidney, Darlene Dravotio, Signe Hasso, Reni Santoni and Norman Alden are among a host of familiar and unfamiliar faces who appear as patients, hospital personnel and Deborah's parents.

The focal point of the drama is Deborah's struggle to give up her imaginary world which is both more dangerous and more glorious than reality. Any ethical or moral questions regarding institutionalizing the mentally ill (as in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") are not at issue.

This is one aspect of the film which may have been glossed over. Considering the pressure cooker atmosphere in which the ward attendants work, they seem (with one exception) remarkably kind and patient. The same is true of Dr. Fried. The saving episode which keeps the movie in balance is Dr. Fried's admission to Deborah that she can't fire Hobbs, a sadistic ward attendant whom Deborah has seen beating a patient.

When Deborah cries out against the injustice of the system and the rottenness of the "real" world, Dr. Fried replies, "I never promised you a rose garden."

There is a certain admirable, flinty honesty in the dialogues between Deborah and Fried that speaks for the integrity of the film. The temptation to construct a facile high chair to high school analysis of Deborah's life is avoided. Instead, emphasis is directed toward the responsibilities human beings have to themselves. Thus, Dr. Fried tells Deborah that she may choose madness or sanity; the important thing is to choose freely, unfettered by one's own or other people's fears.

Glimpses



Catherine Deneuve is starred as a seductive French beauty in "March or Die."

NEW RELEASES

BLACK AND WHITE IN COLOR (PG). Wryly humorous film about subtitles. Won 1976 Academy Award for best foreign language film.

A BRIDGE TOO FAR (PG). Crisp World War II drama chronicling major but ill-fated Allied campaign in Holland. Bounty of stars make brief but effective appearances.

BREAKING TRAINING (PG). The Bad News Bears may win the game, but it's a poor showing. Without Walter Matthau or Tatum O'Neal, this sequel strikes out.

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

FIRE SALE (PG). Alan Arkin acts in and directs comedy, sometimes funny, sometimes sick, about a nutty family.

GREASED LIGHTNING (PG). Richard Pryor stars as a moonshine runner who succeeds as a stock car racer.

MARCH OR DIE (PG). Gene Hackman in French Foreign Legion. Hackman and Catherine Deneuve make a tiresome pair in this action film without action.

MACARTHUR (PG). A biography rather than a war movie. It traces the career of the controversial general from the fall of Corregidor to his last speech at West Point.

ONE ON ONE (PG). Small-town high school basketball star is recruited by big-time university. Robby Benson is the appealing **THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT** (R). Tawdry film of vanity and vengeance. Marie-France Pisier wastes her talent in this clinker. More sex and less story and they could have gone for the "Emmanuelle" trade.

SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT (PG). Burt Reynolds in action-comedy as the "bandit" who's trying to bootleg 400 cases of Coors beer from Texas.

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (PG). Smirking Roger Moore in formula James Bond movie with toothy heavy named "Jaws" and a lot of new gadgetry.

STAR WARS (PG). Serio-comic sci-fi adventure about a rebellion of solar systems in a distant galaxy. Good time movie with laughs and special effects. Two robots steal the show.

YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE (PG). Comedy-drama about aspiring pop singer who must resolve conflicts with her show-biz father and conventionally minded friend.

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.



Ex-Playboy Bunny "Sam" moves to rhythm of the Broadway group's music. (Staff photos by Charlie Kidd)



Bartender Dave Sergy pours, wearing an orange afro.



Kathy Severance dances with James Pidgeon, who is not a retiring Bunny.



Dick Purtan, the deejay, is surrounded by a bevy of Bunnies at their retirement party at the newly expanded Elephant Disco.

Bunnies shake tails at Elephant Disco

By ETHEL SIMMONS

It was one of those funky parties, but what could you expect when a disco called The Elephant, in Troy, decided to expand and have a grand re-opening?

With a live band and a new menu in its restaurant hall that used to be called The Banyan Tree, the Elephant on Long Lake Road now features two discos.

You can dance to records spun by Tom Quinn, in the original disco, or shake your booty to the real sounds of the group Broadway on the second dance floor.

At Wednesday's party, "retiring Bunnies" from the just-closed Detroit Playboy Club were honored guests.

Word quickly spread about this and zillions of guys showed up to bid on Bunny paraphernalia being auctioned.

DISC JOCKEY Dick Purtan took to the bandstand, with lots of jokes that he said he couldn't tell on the air (but none X-rated) and introduced the Bunnies.

No way did they look retiring—that is, shy or old—and there were about 20 of them. These gals were gorgeous and well-built, most showing off in T-shirts that said: "Old Bunnies never die... They just lose their tails." Some of the auction items were Playboy items you could pick up at any Playboy club including a key chain, which went for \$5, and a Playboy hat, golf tee and golf ball, for \$12.

But when auctioneer Tom Ryan (TV's Sergeant Sacto) got the Bunnies to bring out their tails the bidding went way up. The market price for an authentic fluffy white tail from a Playboy Bunny's costume is around \$27.

Dolly's bunny tail brought \$27, so did Brett's, while Debbie's went all the way up to \$50, although it looked like the same tail.

AUCTION PROCEEDS will go to the National Arthritis Society.

Local recording artist Tom Sharp took the stage next to sing one of his tunes, "I Didn't Know Whether to Kill Myself or Go Bowling," a touching ballad.

All the help at the Elephant was looking very far-nut, the bartenders in

yellow or orange afros. One had face make-up with blue and white eyebrows, mustache and goatee.

The waitresses wore white fringed tube dresses and curly platinum wigs. Tablecloths were stiff silver metallic. On branches of trees left over from The Banyan Tree decor, white tinsel lights were strung overhead.

Not allowing any gimmicks to be undone, an elephant was there to greet guests as they arrived. Later Queenie, an adorable 4,000 pounder who didn't look her age (25), was brought into the disco.

She was brought right through the crowded aisles and onto the dance floor, where she was instructed to lie down, and then marched out.

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