



LOUISE SNIDER

Delicate story in 'Lacemaker'

At the end of "The Lacemaker" the meaning of the title, which initially seems so puzzling, is revealed. At that moment, we are in a sense given a new perspective of the film. It is well worth the wait.

Normally, one does not expect a literary or theatrical work to introduce a new theme at the end. The device works here because, in retrospect, one can recognize that this theme always was present, even if not clearly discernible.

The effect is to render greater aesthetic and emotional appeal. "The Lacemaker" is a movie which grows on one. The persistence of vision we exercise in the movie theater is replaced by persistence of feeling as we leave.

Largely responsible for these lingering feelings is Isabelle Huppert, a gifted young French actress who plays the leading role of Beatrice, called Pomme by her friends. Ms. Huppert has a marvellously captivating face, somewhere between radiant angel and freckled pixie. Her demure appearance, intense silences and long stares engage our attention and challenge our understanding to fathom her character.

BEATRICE is a gentle, quiet girl, eager to please and thoughtful of others. She lives with her mother and works as an assistant in a beauty shop where someday she hopes to be a stylist.

Beatrice and her older and worldlier friend Marylene (Florence Giorgetti) take their vacation together at a resort on the Normandy Coast. Marylene soon picks up a stray American and moves in with him, thus leaving Beatrice to fend for herself.

In scene after scene, we see her alone, self-contained and uncomplaining. She eats ice cream by herself at an outdoor cafe, strolls the beaches amid the crowds, listens to the radio in her room while through the walls she hears the noises of active couples.

One day she meets Francois (Yves Beneyton), a young university student who is also a writer. Their awkward, self-conscious friendship blossoms into love.

When they return to Paris, Beatrice and Francois set up housekeeping together. He attends the Sorbonne and she continues to work at the beauty shop. At first they both seem idyllically happy.

BEATRICE HAS an ingenuousness and natural intelligence that intrigues wherever she goes (like a "Billy Budd" of emotional honesty). Francois, however, worries about her position among his intellectual friends. She reads, she asks intelligent questions, which he cannot always answer, yet he becomes critical of her. How can she be content to work in a beauty shop? he asks. Why doesn't she want to better herself? he persists. It's as if her contentment is an attack on his academic strivings.

To Beatrice, as to many who are loving, the effects of his criticism and dissatisfaction are devastating. Yet, the fractured love affair is tragic for Francois too. He is trapped in a conflict between his true feelings for her and his middle-class expectations. Moreover, his own lack of social experience places him at a level where he tends to label people rather than to perceive them.

"The Lacemaker" is a graceful and absorbing movie from Swiss director Claude Goretta. In French with English subtitles, it is rated R because of some nudity.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

THE CHOIRBOYS (R). Joseph Wambaugh's story of big-city policemen who relieve the pressures of their jobs in period-drunken revelries.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (PG). Steven Spielberg's megabuck epic about contact with extraterrestrial beings. Special effects make this another treat for sci-fi fans.

EQUUS (R). Intense, realistic film of prize-winning play with Richard Burton as the self-doubting psychiatrist treating a boy (Peter Firth) who has blinded six horses.

THE GAUNTLET (R). Clint Eastwood as tough cop battling against the mob and other police in reason-defying film.

THE GOODBYE GIRL (PG). Neil Simon comedy of set-up situation and laughs when an actor (Richard Dreyfuss) moves in with a twice-dumped, actor-hating hooper (Marsha Mason).

JULIA (PG). Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave excel in Lillian Hellman's deeply moving story of the warm, courageous friendship of two women.

THE LACEMAKER (R). Sensitive love story of beauty shop assistant and university student. Fine acting by Isabelle Huppert. In French with English subtitles.

LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR (R). Judith Rossner's steamy best seller brought to the screen with stunning impact. Diane Keaton scores as woman who teaches children by day, picks up men by night.

PETE'S DRAGON (G). Combination of animation and live action in Disney adventure about desperate boy helped by friendly dragon.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER (R). John Travolta (of Kottler's sweat hogs) is the main man in film with plenty of disco action.

SEMI-TOUGH (R). Self-improvement schemes and football take equal lumps in comic but raunchy film with Burt Reynolds and Kris Kristofferson.

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

TELEFON (PG). Charles Bronson plays a Soviet agent in this thriller about good and bad Soviet spies.

THE TURNING POINT (PG). Outstanding acting by Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine; outstanding dancing by Mikhail Baryshnikov and Leslie Browne in film about character, choices and ballet.

WHICH WAY IS UP? (R). Odd reworking of Linda Wertmuller's "The Seduction of Mimi" with Richard Pryor in three roles.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST LOVER (PG). Zany activities of Gene Wilder and company when barber goes to Hollywood to establish himself as Valentino's rival. Dom DeLuise is manic producer, and Carol Kane is Wilder's wife.

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.

Yesterday's laughs for Sunday crowds

The Famous Early Movie Series for 1978 at Henry Ford Museum offers comedies of yesteryear for Sunday audiences.

The Sunday series' films, already into the fourth of 19 features, will be presented at 2 and 4 p.m. in the museum's theater. The regular admission price of \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for persons 12 and under is the only fee charged.

Following are the 16 remaining films.

"Buck Privates"—Wartime comedy with Abbott and Costello escaping police by joining the army. Jan. 29.

"Roman Scandal"—Edgar Gass daydreams his way back to ancient Rome and Busby Berkeley choreography. Lucille Ball makes brief debut as a slave girl. Feb. 5.

"Twentieth Century"—John Barrymore, the crafty theatrical producer, raises Carole Lombard, the ingenue, to stardom and gets the heavenly Lombard attempts to win her back on a cross-country sojourn. Feb. 19.

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"—Tommy Kelly as young Tom Sawyer, Victor Jory as Injun Joe, and Walter Brennan, Margaret Hamilton, Donald Meek and Jackie Moran in Mark Twain's classic. April 2.

"Murder, He Says"—Fred MacMurray and Marjorie Main in tale about mild-mannered salesman, a backwoods family, a gun and, of course, the missing fortune. April 9.

"Tramp Tramp Tramp"—Harry Langdon hitchhikes his way

into Joan Crawford's heart. May 7.

"It's A Gift"—The misfortunes of W.C. Fields as general store proprietor Bissonette, his nagging wife and irksome offspring Baby Leroy. May 14.

"Sons of the Desert"—Laurel and Hardy head to Chicago for a Song of the Desert gathering. May 21.

"Bringing Up Baby"—Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn in fast-paced, excellent comedy about socialite who proves to staid archeologist that life isn't just a bag of dried bones. May 28.

"Steamboat Bill Junior"—1927 Buster Keaton silent about rivet-belt rivalry. Sept. 17.

"The Women"—Unusual tale of actions and interactions of upper-crust and just crusty women. All-female cast includes Joan Crawford and Rosalind Russell. Shown at 2 p.m. only. Sept. 24.

"To Be or Not To Be"—Jack Benny, Carole Lombard and troupe of Polish actors outfit Nazi army. Oct. 15.

"My Man Godfrey"—On-the-bus businessman William Powell shows the upper class what living is all about. With Carole Lombard. Oct. 22.

"Road to Rio"—Bob Hope and Bing Crosby rumba on down to South America with Dorothy Lamour. Oct. 29.

"Modern Times"—Charlie Chaplin as the Tramp pits himself against machine age. Nov. 5.

"Go West"—The Marx Brothers go west to fame and fortune and also to close out the series. Nov. 24-26.

Rare white tigers among circus thrills

The 70th Annual Shrine Circus will present 38 performances in Detroit's State Fair Coliseum Feb. 3-19.

Sponsored by Detroit's Moslem Temple of the North American Shrine, the circus will feature 28 major acts in its two and a half hour performances including several specially devised for introduction in Detroit.

One of the most unusual will be an animal tamer with five white tigers, which are so rare that only 11 are known to exist throughout the world. Other acts will include acrobats, wire walkers, motorcyclists, elephants of every size, trained dogs of every description, a host of performing clowns, bareback and trick riders and many specialty acts capped by a dramatic "outer space" closing.

Advance tickets go on sale Monday at the State Fairgrounds main ticket office and at Hudson's, Sears, Wards and Bank of the Commonwealth offices.

PERFORMANCES WILL BE offered at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. daily with special early-bird performances set for 10:30 a.m. on each of the three Saturdays. Admission charges are priced for the Monday-Friday matinee performances and Monday-Thursday evening performances and for the Friday evening and other weekend performances.

Proceeds from the annual circus go to support Moslem Temple activities, which are primarily directed toward the care of crippled and burned children.

"Each year the 1,000 or more local Shriner who work on the circus strive to make it bigger and better than ever before," said Shrine Circus general chairman Thomas G. Draper. "Although it may not be widely known, this is not a set circus that performs throughout the country, but one specially put together for our Detroit audiences."

"Thus, we are able to book top acts from anywhere in the world so the circus is new and different every year with appeal to all age groups. No matter how many times you may have been to the circus in the past, we know we can offer something you have never seen before."

Among the many acts to be featured this year are:

•Hawthorne's Performing Elephants whose performance includes one elephant standing on the backs of two others.

•Pablo Rodriguez Troupe, aerial artists from Europe, who perform stunts in the air that even the world's top gymnasts can perform only on the ground.

•Arturo Segura, bounding rope artist from Spain, who works without a balancing pole. He is unique in

performing a double somersault in the air.

•The Great Hortobagys, springboard acrobats from Hungary. One dramatic stunt is two-and-a-half somersaults with a twist to land with two feet on the head of a colleague balanced on two others.

•Zoppe's Arabian Riders, bareback riders from Europe, whose feats include two riders simultaneously somersaulting between the backs of two horses running in tandem.

•Miss Tina, from Argentina, performs a spectacular "upside-down walk" high above the audience.

Each show also will present an "All-Shrine Pre-Circus Spectacular," a parade of colorfully garbed Shrine bands and marching units. An integral part of the circus will be continuing performances by the 40-member Clown Troupe from the Moslem Shrine.

Dinner theater benefit a 'Star-Spangled' event

The second annual dinner-theatre production to benefit Detroit Country Day School will be held Feb. 3, 4 and 10, 11.

Neil Simon's comedy "Star-Spangled Girl" will be presented following a gourmet dinner served at candle-lit tables in the school Learning Center at the Main Campus, Thirteen Mile and Lahser roads in Birmingham. The meal will be served promptly at 7:30 p.m., and the evening is open to the public.

The play is being produced by Sanity Productions, Inc., and will star Ronnie Clemmer and Jim Kottler as two liberal young men publishing a counter-culture magazine. They are confronted by a young lady, played by Joan Clemmer, who has been reared in the red, white and blue traditions of America.

The stage is set for a conflict of values and romance. "Star-Spangled Girl" was produced on Broadway in

1966 and was a resounding smash hit. The DCDS production is directed by Don Craig, who is also currently appearing in Neil Simon's play "Come Blow Your Horn" at a dinner theater in Walled Lake.

THE BENEFIT production is a cooperative effort by the Lower Middle and Upper School Mothers' Associations with student participation on committees for posters, tickets and publicity. Students will serve as waiters and waitresses the nights of the play.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling Mrs. Bernie Matecki at the school at 646-7717 ext. 23 weekdays 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Detroit Country Day School is a college preparatory school for boys ages 12 in PreSchool through Form VIII (Grade 12).

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