



LOUISE SNIDER

'Serpent's Egg' reveals horror without hope

One generally doesn't go to an Ingmar Bergman film for a cheery evening! The psychiatric probings and themes of sickness and death leave one emotionally spent.

Still, it's usually worth the experience. There is some rewarding salvage, some confrontation with truth that leads the viewer to new insights about people and relationships. However, in "The Serpent's Egg" (R), there is no reward for the viewer. Bergman has broadened his range of concerns from the intensely personal to the social and political, but the change of scale has brought no new insights. Set in Berlin in 1932, this is his most oppressive and gloomy film.

There is a palpable feeling of evil captured by Sven Nykvist's camera work. Fear seems to rise up like a stench from the streets. Money is worthless; a package of cigarettes costs four billion marks. The government is falling apart. Hitler is preparing a putsch in Munich, and strange cries and rumblings are heard in the night.

A dead horse is butchered in the street where it fell, and bloody pieces of meat are sold to passersby. In the cabaret, midgets, female impersonators and whorish dancers undulate to strident, brassy music.

WITH ITS DECADENCE, poverty and brutality, life in Berlin resembles a chamber of horrors. One character says, "I wake up from a nightmare and find out that real life is worse than the dream."

In the midst of this madness are David Carradine and Liv Ullmann. Carradine plays Abel Rosenberg, an American Jew, and Ullmann is his sister-in-law, Manuela. They are circus trapeze artists who were stranded in Berlin when the third member of their act, Abel's brother and Manuela's husband, hurt his wrist and, later committed suicide.

Never have two leading characters been so terribly miscast. Carradine, tall and gangly, bears no resemblance to a graceful aerial artist. Moreover, his monotonously flat delivery does nothing to enhance the character. Abel is a surly, self-pitying alcoholic with whom it is impossible to empathize, in spite of his dreadful tribulations.

Liv Ullmann, wearing garish makeup and a frizzy green wig, sings dirty cabaret songs and looks like Little Orphan Annie trying to pass as a second-rate Marlene Dietrich. She has a Spanish name, sings in German and and talks to officials in Scandinavian-accented English because, she explains, her German is so poor.

when Abel gets a job working in the cell-like archives of an ominous clinic, he and Manuela move into an apartment. At odd hours they hear the sounds of a motor running and a sinister terror seems to be closing in on them, just as politically a sinister terror is enveloping Germany.

THE MAD DOCTOR who uses the clinic as a center for cruel experiments on human beings describes Germany's course to a stunned Abel. "It's like a serpent's egg," he explains, "through the thin membrane you can clearly discern the already perfect reptile."

This nightmare world of Berlin in the '20s has been explored many times before. Bergman's venture gives us no new focus or interpretation. Indeed, it is one of the most despairing.

Taken as a whole, it seems to argue the futility of being rational in an irrational world. Yet, what else is there? If man abdicates his rational role, what is left but the serpent?

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

THE BETSY (R). Intrigue and power within the horny set of auto industry, based on Harold Robbins best-selling novel. Many scenes filmed in metropolitan Detroit.

BLUE COLLAR (R). Tough, realistic drama of three auto workers whose small-time rip-off produces drastic results.

CANDLESHOE (G). Jodie Foster in Walt Disney adventure about young heirs and a search for treasure. Helen Hayes and David Niven co-star.

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

COMA (PG). Scary and unpleasant movie about some strange goings-on at a hospital. Genevieve Bujold is the plucky doctor who uncovers a fiendish arrangement.

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).

A HERO AIN'T NOTHING BUT A SANDWICH (PG). Cicely Tyson and Paul Winfield in constructive story about young black teenager who shoots heroin to escape horse-life pressures.

HIGH ANXIETY (PG). Mel Brooks tips his hat to Hitchcock in this lunatic romp at the Psycho-Neurotic Institute for the Very, Very Nervous. Liberal visual "quotations" from Hitchcock in this howler.

THE MOUSE AND HIS CHILD (G). Award-winning full-length cartoon feature with voices of Peter Ustinov and Cloris Leachman.

THE ONE AND ONLY (PG). Zany romantic comedy with Henry Winkler pursuing Kim Darby and getting gassed up as a wrestler called "The Lover."

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN, PART II (PG). Three-hanky movie about doubts, frustrations and loves of real-life Olympic skier paralyzed after an accident.

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

THAT OBSCURE OBJECT OF DESIRE (R). Witty tale about middle-aged French capitalist who falls in love with young Spanish housemaid whose identity keeps changing.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

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

Contest open to movie buffs

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers once again invite readers to enter the Oscar Contest. Guess the winning entry in each of the Academy Award categories listed and win two movie tickets to an area theater.

BEST ACTOR

- Woody Allen ("Annie Hall")
Richard Burton ("Equus")
Richard Dreyfuss ("The Goodbye Girl")
Marcello Mastroianni ("A Special Day")
John Travolta ("Saturday Night Fever")

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Mikhail Baryshnikov ("The Turning Point")
Peter Firth ("Equus")
Alec Guinness ("Star Wars")
Jason Robards ("Julia")
Maximilian Schell ("Julia")

BEST ACTRESS

- Anne Bancroft ("The Turning Point")
Jane Fonda ("Julia")
Diane Keaton ("Annie Hall")
Shirley MacLaine ("The Turning Point")
Marsha Mason ("The Goodbye Girl")

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Leslie Browne ("The Turning Point")
Quinn Cummings ("The Goodbye Girl")

Only one entry per person. In case of a tie, entry with earliest postmark will prevail. All entries must be postmarked no later than March 31, 1978. The contest is not open to employees of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY
ZIP
PHONE
Mail to:
Movie Contest
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
1225 Bowers
Birmingham, Mich. 48012.

BEST DIRECTING

- Woody Allen ("Annie Hall")
Steven Spielberg ("Close Encounters of the Third Kind")
Vanessa Redgrave ("Julia")
Tuesday Weld ("Looking for Mr. Goodbar")

BEST PICTURE

- "Annie Hall"
"The Goodbye Girl"
"Julia"
"Star Wars"
"The Turning Point"
"Close Encounters of the Third Kind"
"Vilmos Zsigmond"
"Islands in the Stream"
Fred J. Koenekamp
"Julia"
Douglas Slocombe
"Looking for Mr. Goodbar"
William A. Fraker
"The Turning Point"
Robert Surtees

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

- "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"
"Vilmos Zsigmond"
"Islands in the Stream"
Fred J. Koenekamp
"Julia"
Douglas Slocombe
"Looking for Mr. Goodbar"
William A. Fraker
"The Turning Point"
Robert Surtees

Claudia Schmidt appears at Raven

Claudia Schmidt will open Wednesday for a one-week stay, through March 12, at the Raven Gallery in Southfield.

Show times are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 9:30 and 11:45 p.m. Reservations are available by calling 557-5522.

Claudia Schmidt began her fulltime career as a musician/performer only four years ago in Chicago and has already appeared in many parts of America. Recently she performed in Canada for a crowd of 12,000 at the Winnipeg Folk Festival. Ms. Schmidt's voice is her primary

instrument, followed by 12-string guitar, mountain dulcimer, and the piano. An unusual bowed and strummed instrument invented by a man in her native Michigan.

HER MUSIC has been taped and played extensively by WFMT in Chicago, where she has also visited the Studs Terkel show three times. Recently, she worked on the Garrison Keillor show in Minneapolis and "Woman Made Music" on WBA in Madison.

She also appeared on the Buck Matthews television show in Grand Rapids.

Monday, March 6, 1978

(Ro-SB, Wb, T, F-4B) (O) 5C

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS



Restaurant owner realizes his dream

Chuck Mayne of Bloomfield Hills was manager of international sales for a company located in Troy. But he wanted to own a restaurant—now he does.

Chuck Mayne's (pronounced Main) Wet & Dry Goods at the corner of Maple and Crooks in Troy used to be a Greek restaurant, Terry's Squire's Pub.

When Mayne took over and reopened last September, he kept spinach pie and a Greek salad on the menu, but otherwise serves what he describes as "a limited menu of good quality, basic American foods."

Sharing a booth one afternoon with Mayne in the dining room, we went over the menu that features such attractions as "Mayne Events."

Mayne said he serves fresh seafood—at least two items daily, including whitefish every day and a seafood special, plus Shrimp de la Maison, a casseroled dish.

Other examples of the entrees include boiled pickerel and baby spareribs, the latter the top-price item listed, at \$7.75.

The same menu is offered all day and at night. There's prime rib every weekend.

Manager Randy Boldrini said they try to provide dishes that can be served 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., from omelettes to a full meal, day or night.

"People's hours are starting to vary more greatly," he explained. "Two people eat, but may not want the same thing."

Customers may include made salesmen at a business lunch, two professionals dining out, people from the racquetball courts, and the after-theater crowd.

Real baked onion soup, in crocks, with three types of cheese and croutons is a specialty at the restaurant, according to Mayne.

He said, "We make our own soups, and they're different every day. We have fresh Navy Bean with bacon and on Friday, New England or Manhattan Clam Chowder, or Shrimp Bisque. We also have fresh chili."

Four draft beers and five draft wines are available. There's a limited menu of wine by the glass, liter, half liter, bottle or half bottle. House specials are ice cream drinks.

Cocktails are priced at \$1.75, including a martini in a 13-ounce glass. The Backside Bar, formerly a banquet room, is a totally new room in back and has a separate entrance. It uses the same menu as the dining room. The Backside Bar seats 65; the dining room, 105.

Both rooms are open 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday and midnight Friday-Saturday. The decor is Country English, with stained glass accents.

"Everything is real—real food, Mayne said.

The adjoining coffee shop has been renamed The Other Side and now has a license to serve beer. The Other Side is open seven days a week, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 8 a.m. through 3 p.m. Sunday. Mayne took over in July, and the coffee shop reopened the first of August.

THE PARADIGM, gourmet natural foods restaurant in Birmingham, also is attracting after-theater business, offering After-Theatre Jazz with Boss Bonnier on piano, Joe LoDuca on guitars and bass and Rod Rose on vibes and percussion.

The jazz group plays concerts at the Paradigm on Fridays and Saturdays, two performances nightly at 11:30 and at 1 a.m. through this weekend. Expect a cover charge.

Owner Pamela Pupp said the restaurant will open after-theatre jazz sessions to rehearsed area musicians.

"It is my hope that our initiation of a late night, live entertainment format will provide a forum and a showcase for local, talented musicians," Ms. Pupp said.

The after-theater menu at the Paradigm is printed on a sheet that looks like a musical score. It includes tasty, nutritious dips, spreads, raw vegetables, fruits, nuts, cheeses, sandwiches, quiche, omelettes, soup, non-alcoholic drinks, teas, and desserts.

After-theater dining is available 11:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays only. The restaurant is located at 210 S. Woodward, one block south of Maple, and there's no smoking.

Show opening at Mr. Mac's

The Broadway hit "A Thousand Clowns" will open March 31 at Mr. Mac's Stable in the Parklane Towers in Dearborn.

The show is about a bachelor uncle who has been left to rear his 15-year-old nephew. The nonconformist uncle is unemployed and free to roam New York doing things like standing on Park Avenue at dawn yelling, "Rich people, I want to see you all out on the street for volleyball. Let's snap it up."

This is no way to raise a boy, so a social service team comes to investigate him. He has to go to work or lose his nephew. On the other hand, he may marry the girl social worker. Reservations for this Theatre of the Arts Cocktail Playhouse presentation may be made by calling 649-0903.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ON THE TOWN

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Group seating available. For more information 823-4452
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