The Movies

LOUISE SNIDER

'Cheap Detective' Cliche soup, piping hot

Even a diehard Bogart fan will crumble before the spooferisms of "The Cheap Detective" (PG), an irreverent mishmash of the classic Warner Bros. films of the 40s.

It's an easy-to-satirize genre, and Neil Simon, director Robert Moore and producer Ray Stark, the team responsible for the 1976 hit "Murder by Death," have put together another winner.

The mocking tone is struck at the beginning, when a preamble with melodramatic music informs the audience of events going on in the the world which have no bearing on the movie

The movie itself is set in the fictional city of San Francisco. This time we do not have an assembly of famous detectives who convene to solve a murder. Instead, we have one caricatured detective and a collection of murders.

PeterFalk, in a gritty, stylish performance, is Lou Peckinpaugh, private eye. (His office is in the Private Detective Center.) Specifically, Peckinpaugh is a take-off on the Sam Spade character immortalized by Bogart. Generally, he's a take-off on that combination of qualities associated with the Bogie character and legend: The tough, masculine, self-reliant individualist.

"The Cheap Detective" is a pastiche of "The Maltese Falcon" and "Casablanca," with a little of "The Big Sleep" and "To Have and Have Not" thrown in for good measure.

Although Falk is the thread which holds together this crazy-quilt plot, there is hardly an actor or actress among the large cast who doesn't contributea comic and satisfying performance.

The exceptions are Sid Caesar and Ann-Margret, who play a doddering millionaire and his lusty, young wife. The fault however, is less with their acting than with the tasteless material with whichthey must work.

Madeline Kahn is a goofy delight in hat, gloves and prim white collar as the Mary Astor character from "Falcon." She uses so many aliases that she confuses herself.

Louise Fletcher and Fernando Lamas are thenoble duo (Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid) from "Casablanca." Dom De Luise scores as an overly perfumed Pepe Damascus (Peter Lorre) and John Houseman is an appropriately portly Jasper Blubber (Sydney Greenstreet).

Among the complications are the Gestapo officers of Cincinnati. Nicol Williamson as Colonel Schlissel with his aides Schnell and Kvicker. When the Colonel urges his driver to go faster, he shouts "Schnell, Schnell!" and his aide keeps popping up. Finally, the exasperated Colonel says, "I'll speak English. Kvicker!" and his other aide pops up.

The Colonel spars with puns and huns while Lou Peckinpaugh tries to sort out the human filing system in his apartment. He has a different female stashed in each room and another one ringing the doorbell.

In one of the movie's major confrontations, when Lou isneedling the motley crew of conspirators about who will "take the fall," he turns his anger on Boy (Paul Williams in a parody of the Elisha Cook "Gunsel"role). Does Lou Slug him? No. He commands Boy to hit himself until he finally knocks himself out. Williams's self-assault is a comic masterpiece.

Sight gags and one-liners tumble over each other in the brisk action of "The Cheap Detective," and as might be expected, the quality varies from very funny to terrible.

This is the kind of movie that looks as if the cast were having a good time and, generally, that means a good time for the audience, too.

Peter Falk spoofs his way through a twisted plot and a maze of motives, as a Bogart-style private eye in Neil Simon's "The Cheap Detective."

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

BAD NEWS BEARS GO TO JAPAN (PG). Scrappy action with the Bears, their scheming agent Tony Curtis and a Japanese wrestler not to mention the ball game.

CAPRICORN ONE (PG). Hoax about a space shot isthe gimmick in this flick with lots of action and lots of loopholes.

THE CHEAP DETECTIVE (PG). Peter Falk and terrific cast click in Neil Simon's comical take off on the Bogart movies of the '40s.

COMING HOME (R). Powerful story of Vietnam era with Jane Fonda as officer's wife who falls in love with disabled vet (Jon Voight).

CONVOY (PG). Kris Kirstofferson leads convoy of angry truckers in movie expanded from hit record.

DAMIEN: Omen II (R). The nasty kid from "The Omen" is now 13 and he's back to kill more people as the world heads for Armageddon.

THE END (R). Black comedy about misadventures of an about-to-die guy. Burt Reynolds and Dom De Luise star.

F.I.S.T.(PG). Sylvester Stallone as union organizer in film that spans decades from early struggle and idealism to national strength and corruption.

GREASE (PG). Broadway musical about the funky '50s is translated to film with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

HARPER VALLEY PTA (PG). You heard the song (in the '60s), now see the movie as Barbara Eden and Nanette Fabray thump the hypocrite.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT (PG). Warren Beatty's successful and distinctive remake of humorous fantasy, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan." Football player goes to heaven and returns to earth as business tycoon. Fine performances.

JAWS 2 (PG). Unimaginative recap of original "Jaws" as another shark with a case of overbite and a taste for teens terrorizes beach resort.

MADAME ROSA (PG). Tender story of old Jewish woman (Simone Signoret) who raises Arab boy. Won Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. English subtitles.

THE MAN WHO LOVED WOMEN (R). Francois Truffaut's amusing and charming story of a womanizer.

MATILDA (G). Kangaroo becomes professional boxer and pockets the cash.

Children's theater

Puppets to entertain at Hilberry

The Paw Paw Puppet Theatre joins Wayne State University's Eighth Summer Theatre Festival for five performances in the Studio Theatre, downstairs in the Hilberry.

Philip J. Micheal, owner and director of the show, will bring his puppets to life at 10:30 a.m. July 25, 27 and 28, and at 1 p.m. July 26 and 27.

An original puppet show created especially for the Summer Theatre Festival, it includes the dramatization of a fairy tale by the puppets, who also display their musical talents. Children in the audience are invited to participate in a special demonstration of how the puppets are built and operated.

Micheal, who began the Paw, Paw Puppet Theatre over a year ago, has performed in several locations within the city of Detroit, as well as in numerous cities throughout the state. A senior theatre major at WSU, Micheal also works with the puppet program in the City of Detroit's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Elizabeth R. T. Hallo, also a senior theatre student at WSU, will act as Micheal's partner in the puppets' performances.

"Step on a Crack," another summer production especially for children, is appearing through July 27 on the Hilberry's open stage upstairs. Performances of this modern Cinderella story are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. with Tuesday matinees at 1 p.m.

Group rates are available for both the Paw Paw Puppet Theatre and "Step on a Crack" by calling 577-3010. Individual ticket orders may be placed by phoning the theatre box office at 577-2972.

The Summer Festival also includes evening performances for adults in both the Hilberry and Studio Theatres. Running concurrently with the children's shows is a double bill, consisting of Tom Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound" and Noel Coward's "Red Peppers" in the Studio, and Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians" in the Hilberry. The Christie mystery is followed by Alan Ayckbourn's "How the Other Half Loves," which closes the festival upstairs.

The Paw Paw Theatre's Philip Micheal and Elizabeth Hallo will present an original puppet show July 25-28 in the Studio Theatre, downstairs in the Hilberry.

Ellie, played by Cynthia Dozier (center), fights her way through real life problems with the help of her two imaginary friends, Frizbee (John Beem) and Lana (Mary Ottmann) in the children's play, "Step on a Crack," at the Hilberry Theatre through July 27.

'Sticks and Bones' to debut at Stagecrafters in Clawson

The Michigan premiere of "Sticks and Bones," by David Rabe, will be presented by Stagecrafters Community Theatre as its summer studio production.

"Sticks and Bones" was winner of the 1972 Tony Award for best drama and winner of the New York Drama Critic's Circle Citation the same year. Its author also wrote "Streamers," which played at the Attic Theatre

This powerful drama of the facade of the typical American family is magnified through the lives of Ozzie, Harriet and Ricky, a they welcome Vietnam vet David, back home.

The play will be presented at the Stagecrafter's Playhouse in Clawson on July 21, 22, 28 and 29. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. All seats reserved. For reservations and ticket information, call the box office at 585-8437.

Fisher announces 2 new attractions

The date left open by the cancellation ofJackie Gleason in "Sly Fox" has not been filled.

However, negotiations are in progress for an attraction to fill part of this available time. Meanwhile, two extra shows have been added to the summer schedule.

"The Magic Show" will play for three weeks beginning Tuesday, Aug. 1, through Aug. 19, and Ed Ames will star in a touring production of "Man of LaMancha" for four weeks beginning Tuesday, Aug. 22 through Sept. 17.

"The Magic Show" is a little musical by Stephen Schwartz ("Godspell") about a magician in a small night club. Besides the thin backstage plot, most of the evening is devoted to the magician's show.

Now in its fourth year on Broadway, it has become a very popular audience show. A national tour will begin at the Fisher starring Joseph Abaldo, currently appearing in the New York Production.

"Man of LaMancha" will return to the Fisher for the fourth time. It played the Fisherwith Jose Ferrer in 1967, Keith Andes in 1968 and Robert Wright in 1969. The revival of the production with Richard Kiley last season has created new interest in the musical.

It ran for 2,328 performances on Broadway

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

Pearl's Garden
the Finest in Chinese & American Cuisine
469 S. Woodward, B'ham.
644-2913
Mon.-Thurs. 11-10 p.m. • Fri. 11-11 p.m.
Sat. 12-11 p.m. • Sun. 12-10 p.m.

• BANQUETS • MEETINGS
ted's Old Town Inn
Woodward and Square Lake in Bloomfield Hills
644-7764

MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL '78
Walton and Adams Rd. OAKLAND UNIVERSITY, ROCHESTER, MI.
TONIGHT: VIRGIL FOX, "Heavy Organ"
Lawn tickets available: $3.50
THURS. JULY 13 8:30 p.m.
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Kazuhiro Koizumi conducting
Ruggiero Ricci violinist
$8-7-6 $3.50 Lawn
FRIDAY JULY 14 8:30 p.m.
Fabulous Fours:
Four Lads • Four Freshmen
The Pied Pipers • The Four Inkspots
and their orchestra
PAVILION SOLD OUT $4 Lawn
SAT. JULY 15 8:30 p.m.
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Kazuhiro Koizumi conducting
Lorin Hollander pianist
$8-7-6 $3.50 Lawn
SUNDAY JULY 16 8:30 p.m.
Russian-French Pops Evening with
Andre Kostelanetz and Detroit Symphony Pops
Carole Farley soprano
Works by Offenbach/Tchaikovsky/Ravel
PAVILION SOLD OUT $3.50 Lawn
COMING EVENTS — Thurs., July 20, SIXTEN EHRLING conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, with EUGENE ISTOMIN, pianist. Fri., July 21, FRED WARING and His Pennsylvanians. Sat., July 22, SIXTEN EHRLING, D.S.O., and YO-YO MA, cellist. Sun., July 23, STARSHIP ENCOUNTERS. SOLD OUT but Mon., July 24 performance "Dawn: How it Still Develops"
Pre-concert dining at Trumbull Terrace
For information call: 377-2010
Ticket services at Hudson's, Sears, Ward's, Grandel's and Meadow Brook Box Office
Phone: 377-2010

Save energy
Although initially more expensive, fluorescent bulbs are cheaper to operate than normal incandescent bulbs and they last up to ten times longer. Fluorescents also give off considerably less heat.

CHUCK MUER'S PJ'S JAZZ
HOTEL PONTCHARTRAIN
Washington Blvd. & Larned
Across from Cobo Hall
HERBIE MANN ★ WOODY HERMAN ★ MAYNARD FERGUSON ★ NO NAME ★ STAN KENTON ★ DUKE ELLINGTON ★ TOMMY DORSEY ★ DIZZY GILLESPIE ★ LIONEL HAMPTON
brookside jazz ensemble with orsia walker
Monday, July 10 / Starts 8:00 pm
General Admission $2.50
austin moro band
Wednesday, July 12 / Starts 8:00 pm
General Admission $2.50

DINE OUT TONIGHT

Welcome To The new King Lim's
Mandarin, Szechuan & Cantonese Cuisine
Luncheons & Dinners
Cocktails Carry Outs
3350 Auburn Road
1/2 Mile W. of Adams Rd. 852-8280
Your Host: Harold Horn

Cloud Base Soaring, Inc.
QUIET
EXCITING
CHALLENGING
UNIQUE
Information on Rides & Instruction.
Slide show & films free to groups
Call (313) 399-8977

THERE'S ROOM AT THE INN
A thoughtful way to welcome visitors or clients is a reservation at the Kingsley Inn. We are near all business, sports, and educational centers in Oakland County.
Kingsley Inn
Woodward and Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills
644-1400 564-5144

moy's RESTAURANT
5585 MIDDLEBELT at 8 Mile, Livonia
Cantonese & American Food
Japanese Steakhouse
Exotic Cocktails
CARRY-OUTS ON CHINESE FOOD
Chinese Luncheon 11-3 Japanese Luncheon 11-2
Chinese Dinner 3-9:30 Japanese Dinner 5-9:30
Fri. & Sat. 'til 10:30 p.m.
Closed Monday