



LOUISE SNIDER

Celluloid recipe: Combine top chefs with a little killing

"Who is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?" (PG) is a witty film confection. One by one the top European chefs are being cut down. Jacqueline Bisset as famous desert chef Natasha O'Brien fears she will be next.

Sharing her concern is her ex-husband (George Segal), a fast food franchiser who's still hungry for her charms. He's also after her endorsement for his chain of omelet shops, but she won't be coddled.

The plot, if you will, thickens. The famous chefs are intensely jealous of each other. They have a two-fold concern, their lives and their reputations. Since only the best are being dispatched, not to be killed constitutes a big lump in one's gravy.

Equally involved and fearing for his palate is Robert Morley as the portly publisher of a gourmet magazine. With innocence and hauteur, he defends his elitism by arguing that he's a compassionate man who gives day-old quiche to the poor at Christmas.

"THE GREAT CHEFS" is a sensory delight. A sequence of shots in the open-air market in Venice will thrill or repulse the viewer, depending upon one's attitude toward close-ups of fish, eel and lobster. Oddly enough, one might also be thrilled or repulsed by Bisset's desert masterpiece, bombe Richelieu: A huge mound of vanilla ice cream covered with raspberries, raspberry icing, chocolate and whipped cream, then laced with brandy.

It's impressive in a vulgar sort of way, but is it a bombe Richelieu? Readers are invited to comment.

Horse thief saved by wedding bell

That grizzled favorite of filmgoers, the western, ain't dead yet. Keeping the genre alive is Jack Nicholson's contribution, "Goin' South" (PG).

Nicholson, who directed the film, plays Henry Moon, a scruffy, bow-legged, clownish horse thief. Newcomer Mary Steenburgen is the woman who saves him from the gallows.

The setting is Longhorn, Texas, 1866. The town has an unusual law prompted by the post-Civil War scarcity of available males. Any man sentenced to be hanged for a crime other than murder will be spared if a property-owning woman will marry him.

Steenburgen wants him because she needs a semi-slave to work the mine her father left her. Moon accepts because he's in no position to refuse.

Connubial bliss is not part of the deal. Nevertheless, when nosy friends come to call, the newlyweds do a number for them. Moon puts his arm around his bride, looks at the ugly trinket the guests brought as a wedding present and assures them, "We was jus' sayin' how much we reckon a figure."

Steenburgen's delivery is sometimes flat, and Nicholson's is unaccountably nasal, but his eyeball-rolling, rearsally characterization keeps hold of the audience through out the film.

Adding to the comic capers are Christopher Lloyd as a totally mean deputy sheriff and John Belushi as his Mexican sidekick. Wrap this package in the lush photography of Nestor Almendros and "Goin' South" is a very scenic trip.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

THE BIG FIX (PG). Another fetching performance by Richard Dreyfuss who plays a former college activist turned private eye.

BLOODBROTHERS (R). Hard look at lives of two blue-collar brothers whose macho values affect their families.

BOYS FROM BRAZIL (R). Quality cast with Gregory Peck as arch villain distinguishes film of Irwin Levin's novel about fiendish plot by Nazi criminals in South America.

CORVETTE SUMMER (PG). Boy chases stolen Corvette and catches car and girl. Mark Hamill and Annie Potts get in gear.

DEATH ON THE NILE (PG). A highly decorative and entertaining film of the Agatha Christie mystery with Peter Ustinov as Hercule Poirot and a large, splendid cast.

GIRL FRIENDS (PG). Melanie Mayron and Anita Skinner star in Claude Weill's directorial debut that focuses on marriage versus career.

GOIN' SOUTH (PG). Fine character study by Jack Nicholson in adventure that proves there's still hope for the Western.

INTERIORS (PG). Woody Allen's serious film explores the tensions within a family where neuroses and artistic sensitivity dominate their lives.

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE (R). Outrageous and raunchy comedy about life at Delta Fraternity House, the bottom-of-the-barrel fraternity on a small college campus in the early '60s.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1855 (PG). Richard Thomas stars in wistful reminiscence of the '50s set at time of James Dean's death.

SOMEBODY KILLED HER HUSBAND (PG). Silly comedy-mystery as Farrah Fawcett-Majors and Jeff Bridges search for the somebody of the title.

UP IN SMOKE (R). Dope jokes from Cheech and Chong who celebrate the weed in their usual gross manner.

A WEDDING (PG). All the action takes place in one day as director Robert Altman dissects "the last of our country's big rituals."

WHO IS KILLING THE GREAT CHEFS OF EUROPE (PG). Comedy-mystery with George Segal as fast food franchiser and Jacqueline Bisset as master dessert chef.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

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

Bats, wolves prop up Dracula

By NANCY MAZZARA

Bats will fly through the air, wolves will howl out of the mist, and people will disappear in the Barn Theatre's production of "Count Dracula." Located on the Oakland University campus, the theater will open the show on Halloween night.

Ted Tiller's play based on Bram Stoker's novel has many special effects. The Barn production will play up this aspect because of the Halloween opening.

"The bats are rigged up on fishing reels and lines to fly over the audience," said director Thomas A. Aston. "Dracula disappears from inside his wired cape through a trap door."

Aston added that in one scene Dracula's cigarette lights by itself by means of sandpaper and sulfur matches.

"The show is not a parody but realistic, though some of the lines are ridiculous," Aston said.

The show's star, David Kelm of Southfield, agreed. "We are playing this show for real," he said.

"It's a play of ripe circumstances," Kelm said. "The play opens just as all the action comes to a head."

The story takes place in Dr. Seward's Asylum for the Insane. Dracula makes his nightly visits to the patients there.

He discovers the doctor's ward, Mina, who soon contracts a mysterious disease, complete with puncture wounds on her neck.

KELM DESCRIBED THE Count as "very debonair and urbane. He is well-read and passionate."

"The Count is 40 years old so he ought to have some class by now," Kelm said. "He isn't your typical evil monster, he just does what he does to survive."

The role of Count Dracula is Kelm's first at the Barn Theatre and his first major role.

"I never expected to get the part. It came as a shock," he said. "I was originally trying out for the part of Renfield, the madman."

"The first play I ever tried out for was also Dracula," Kelm said. "That was in high school. I didn't get the part, so I guess all these years I've wanted to do it. Now I've conquered it."



Mina (Maureen M. McDevitt of Farmington Hills) and Dracula (David E. Kelm of Southfield) get together for better or worse.

Review

him," Kelm said. "I have to get myself into the perspective of the part."

Kelm said the part of Dracula is his first straight dramatic role.

"I'VE DONE character stuff all along in high school and community groups," he said. "Dracula has romantic elements which may help me bridge over into straight parts."

Down Marie Weber of Rochester will play Nurse Hennessey in the show. Darien Martus of Pontiac is Dr. Arthur Seward of the insane asylum.

"Count Dracula" opens at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Performances are

repeated Wednesday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Nov. 5, Friday, Nov. 10, through Sunday, Nov. 12, and Friday, Nov. 17, through Sunday, Nov. 19.

Curtains are at 8:30 p.m., except for Sundays when they are at 6:30 p.m. There will be two Sunday matinees on Nov. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. For more information, call the Barn Theatre at 377-2245.

Others in the play are Jane Schultz from Holly, John Cowan from Royal Oak, Dan Derkacz from Warren, Dave Nelson from Grand Rapids, Maureen M. McDevitt from Farmington Hills and Gerald Baick from Union Lake.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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