



With a twist

Tom Spackman, Michael Allinson and Carolyn Lagerfelt play leading roles in G. B. Shaw's comedy of the American Revolution, "The Devil's Disciple." This exuberant play of colorful characters and twists of plot is the opening production of Meadow Brook Theatre's 13th season. Performances continue through Sunday, Nov. 5. The professional company is located on the campus of Oakland University.

Jose Greco plays Dracula

New York's first smash hit of the current Dracula productions, "The Passion of Dracula," starring Jose Greco, opens Nov. 6-18 at the Birmingham Theatre.

"The Passion of Dracula," the Bob Hall-David Richmond Gothic production, premiered at midnight on Sept. 28, 1977, under a full moon and has been playing to full audiences ever since.

The comical update of the classic

thriller continues to win wide critical acclaim.

The legendary count is at the height of popularity. The novel "Dracula," first published in 1899, has never been out of print and continues to be a bestseller.

Evening performances are at 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Wednesday matinees are at 1 p.m. and Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. Ticket information is available by calling the box office, 644-3533.

'The Other Half' makes the grade

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Review

Women writers, how they first put pen to paper and what they write, is the theme of "The Other Half," a compelling production that played Thursday through Saturday at the Birmingham Theatre.

The first of three productions presented by the John Houseman Acting Company, it bore out the advance notice that this is an exceptionally talented company.

Performance time was unexpectedly short; "The Other Half" was presented without intermission, starting at 8 p.m. and ending before 9:30.

It's a dramatic presentation that requires your full attention. Surprisingly, most of the time it managed to rivet mine.

Five women perform on a simple stage set. Each sits in a different wooden-back chair, the kind of chairs you find in flea markets.

THEY ARE DRESSED in an assortment of garb that could be contemporary, or period clothes—longish skirts; some with boots; loose, blousy tops. Some wear their hair swept up.

From time to time they take down a shawl, a hat, or a jacket from two wall pegs at either side of the stage. Or, they remove a skirt or blouse in a dress, changing their apparel with a costume underneath. In this way, they create an amazing variety of moods and dress that suits the temperaments of the women they portray.

The drama—this is a play with music—starts with Sappho in 600 B.C. and then moves to China where Lady Murasaki wrote the first novel.

Narration is interspersed with individual performances. A woman steps

forward to tell how she dared to learn to read and write, first in secret; another to reveal that she was bold enough to write for publication—using a man's name, of course.

No woman would be so brazen as to submit her work with her own name. Women's brains were not meant for this (they had their "women's work" to occupy them instead), as other characters comment during the play.

BUT STILL women triumph, gradually assuming importance in the world of letters, with poems, essays and books.

I particularly enjoyed Frances Conroy's blazing Mary Shelley, who wrote from the inspiration of her waking dream the novel "Frankenstein;" Jane Austen, author of "Pride and Prejudice," portrayed with snap and warmth by Leslie Geraci.

Rebecca Guy was convincing as a good-natured, practical Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote "Uncle Tom's

Cabin." As the two female, literary Georges, Harriet Harris as George Sand and Claudia Wilkerson as George Eliot, brought strength and fire to their performances respectively.

The play is by Ellen Jones and directed by Amy Saltz. Adding their shares to the production are Perna Rose, musical direction; Patricia Woodbridge, settings; Jeanne Butten, costumes, and David F. Segal, lighting.

"The Other Half" ended with quick sketches of Mary McCarthy, Katherine Anne Porter, Marianne Moore, Lillian Hellman and Dorothy Parker. Old songs with emphatic lyrics were used for musical interludes. A new song "A Voice of My Own" by Kathryn King Segal made a point for modern-day woman.

After the audience applauded for the show, they clapped along with the song while members of the cast continued to sing out.

Adventurer shows films of today's Paris

Third-generation adventurer Robin Williams will show new color films of "The Paris We Love" at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Sunday, in the second of 22 Sunday World Adventure Series programs.

Robin is the grandson of Eugene Williams, a world traveler lost on the

Amazon in 1916. He is the son of travel writer David Williams, who circled the world at least 50 times, journeyed across the Khyber Pass as a holy man and studied cinematography in Russia. Williams, whose films of Paris are being shown for the first time in Detroit, will be introduced by world-

traveler George Pierrot. Williams was born in England, schooled in California and began traveling as a student in Arizona.

He has organized tours to Europe, operated a travel agency, chartered yachts and studied cinematography at

Brooks Institute of Photography in California.

He takes viewers through the nostalgic Paris that smells of baking bread and flower stalls along the Seine and through the contemporary Paris that created skyscrapers and launched the Concorde.



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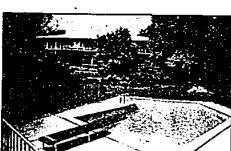
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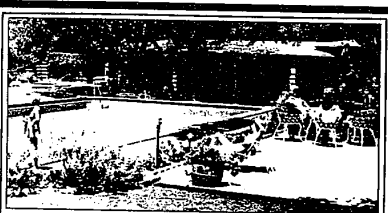
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