St. Dunstan's doesn't cook with 'Dial M for Murder'

"Dial M for Murder" is a classic British thriller, but, despite all the right ingredients, the current produc-tion by St. Dunstan's Guild of Cran-brook only simmers when it needs to

brook only simmers when it needs to boil.

The cast is competent but somehow lacks the polish that usually distinguishes St. Dunstan's productions. Director George Ryder's pacing seems a bit sluggish, particularly in the first act. Later acts also contain some uncomfortably long pauses that hamper rather than heighten tension.

The Prederick Knott mystery is sufficiently convoluted and intriguing. When jealous husband Tony Wendice (Ron Wheeler) learns that his wealthy wife Margot (Barbara Elipern) has been unfaitful, his thoughts turn to murder. After his first clever plan diablotical internative control of the co

BARBARA ELPERN does a nice job BARBARA ELPERN does a nice job
sa Margot, earnestly contrie deter her
one infidelity, but apparently doomed
to pay with her life. Ms. Elpern's Margot maintains her cool British exterior
throughout he ordeal, a kind of Aliceini-Wonderland response to the horrible
events that envelop her.
As Tony, Ron Wheeler is a savae villain, though he son dquite as convinerstant, bettoric forgo's
minute to beat Patrick Beach of Fogo's
ing when he masquerades as a loving.
Real Seafood Co, Ann Arbor, and Dave

review

concerned husband. Wheeler makes effective use of facial expressions, and here's an iciness to his malice that adds credibility to the plot. Paul Geiger portrays Max, the American mystery writer who was formerly Margot's lover. Geiger seems a bit stilf and ill at ease in the role, more

a plodder than a plotter.

Lesgate, the hired killer, is played convincingly by Fran Loud. Despite the many shady doings in his past, Lesgate's ineffusive personality is the per-

fect counterpoint to his ineffective murder attempt. Loud's understating

works well.

Lou Bonamy is competent as Inspecto Hubbard, the stolid, methodical detective whose dogged pursuit of justice comes through in the nick of time.

OVERALL, the production lacks the snap and crackle necessary for a suspense thriller. Saturday night's performance found the audience laughing formance found the audience tauguing in many of the wrong places, a particu-lar embarrassment when the killer at-tacks Margot. An inept staging of the struggle turns what should be a high point of tension into bad melodrama. "Dial M for Murder" concludes its

Charley's Crab worker wins in oyster trials

Michigan will be represented in the 1980 national oyster shucking championships at Leonardtown, Md., by 19-year-old Michael Beasley of Davisburg. Beasley, an oyster shucker at Charley's Crab restaurant in Troy, beat out two other finalists in a recent event at Hotel Pontchartrain, Detroit.

Michigan will be represented in the 1980 national oyster shucking chamingshins at Leonardtown, Md., by 19Leonardtown in October for the finals, compliment of the State of Maryland.

WORLD CHAMPION oyster shucker (12 a minute), Cornelius Mackall of Maryland, was chief judge for the event at Charley's Raw Bar & Seafood Restaurant in the Pontchartrain. A novice event was won by Herbert Strack of Birmingham, who shucked three oyster in a minute. He won dinner-for-two at Top of the Pontch.

Mime starring in show at Birmingham library

Pat Judd, seasoned Michigan mime artist, will be the star attraction at a Valentine Day program at 7 p.m.

February is the month for lovers of ime.

Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Jeanne Lloyd Room, at Baldwin Library in Birming-

ham. Ms. Judd teaches at the Midwest



Pat Judd, mime, will perform at Baldwin Library on St. Valentine's

schools and has six years of solid per-forming behind her. She has appeared on Channel 2s "Good Morning De-troit," Channel 4s "This Morning-show, and Channel 5s" College of: Lifelong Learning" Series. Ms. Judd has done classic repertory, mime and improvigations at Meadow with the Patigue Wind Linguistic Morning and Brook Music Festival, Orchesters Hall and Michigan Art Train. She performed with the Patigue Wind Quinted at Som-erset Mall last summer and last Thanksgiving.

erset Matt 128. Summer and lass Thanksgiving. Despite her art, Ms. Judd is a highly verbal-young woman; she graduated with English honors from Oakland Uni-versity.

"CONTROL AND story telling possi-bilities are what attracted me to mime," Ms. Judd says. She studied with Tom Aston, director of the Mime Eri-semble Association at OU, and James' Tompkins at the Drama Studio, Lon-don.

Tompains at the Draina Studio, LonLondon Landon L

647-1700. People who miss the Feb. 14 program can catch Pat Judd's act at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28, at Bloomfield Township Public Library in the Green Room. Bloomfield Township Public Library is at 1099 Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills. For information, call 642-5800.



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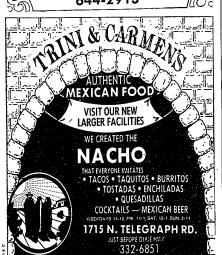


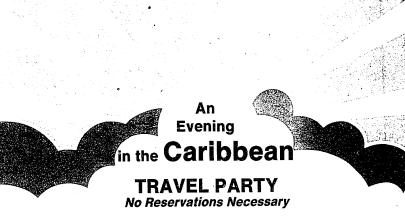
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Thursday, February 21st 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sheraton Southfield Hotel 17017 West Nine Mile Rd. Located East of Southfield Rd.

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