

## Upcoming at Cinematheque

## 'Sleuth' tantalizes on film

By HELEN ZUCKER

"Sleuth" one of the wittiest whodunit's produced during an era that seems to excel in filming Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie tales, will be shown at 3 and 7 p.m., April 22 in Dodge Hall, Room 201 at Oakland University. Sponsored by Cinematheque, OU's Film Club, "Sleuth" is the final, and scariest, offering of the winter term program.

Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, younger brother of Herman Mankiewicz, "Sleuth" is charged with the savage, funny, looney competition the Mankiewicz brothers engaged in during the years they worked together in Hollywood. A recent biography of the older brother, delineates "the war of the Mankiewicz boys" in great detail. Based on Anthony Shaffer's award-winning play, "Sleuth" is the perfect vehicle for Joe Mankiewicz, and he pulls out all the stops.

IN THE HANDS OF Sir Lawrence Oli-

vier and Michael Caine, "Sleuth" is, basically, more of a whodunit — a case of who can top whom, who is quicker, brighter — than a straightforward mystery story. Competition is the name of the game here. Competition from unexpected sources, from upstarts and from "civilized" gentlemen. This film depicts rivalry in full flower. Class rivalry, sexual rivalry, ego rivalry all take their turn.

Sir Lawrence Olivier gives one of his finest performances as a brilliant, upper-class English writer. He writes complicated detective stories, and has a "flair" for "gamesmanship" in real life as well. Enraged at his wife's affair with her hairdresser, though he does not love her and has a mistress, he invites the hairdresser to his extraordinary home for an evening of good sport and humiliation.

However, Michael Caine, the lower-class lover, the upstart, is more than a match for his educated adversary. After his initial astonishment wears off,

the hairdresser proves a worthy opponent. The games that follow, involve fake hangings, guns, clown costumes and possible dead mistresses. The plot becomes increasingly intricate and deadly.

THE HOUSE, a marvel of theatrical excesses suited to the character played by Olivier, and the equally lush, fantastic garden, become the scene of a life and death battle. The tricks, trapdoors, gibbets, and staircases hidden in the house, known to the writer, and quickly learned by the hairdresser, make for great, spooky fun. Olivier and Caine, going at each other full tilt — with wonderful lines to exercise their skills — are a joy to watch.

"Sleuth" is in color, rated PG, and runs 138 minutes. Dodge Hall is located on the campus of Oakland University, near Rochester. The only showings are on April 22.

## How to submit information

News releases, photographs or other information can be mailed to Ethel Simmons, entertainment editor, at 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012.

The entertainment pages include news, fea-

tures and reviews on movies, music (pop, rock, jazz, country), night life, restaurants, special attractions, theater, TV and radio.

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## Strauss opera premiering

Attention music lovers! On Wednesday evening, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. in Ford Auditorium, Detroit audiences will have opportunity to see Music Director Antal Dorati direct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's concert version production of the Richard Strauss opera "Die Aegyptische Helena."

Following its Detroit premiere, "Helena" will be performed at Carnegie Hall April 27 and the Kennedy Cen-

ter for the Performing Arts April 29. The cast features world-famous Welsh soprano Gwyneth Jones in the title role. The excitement surrounding this event can also be explained by the recent high profile and positive image of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

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