Life goes on comically for 'Chapter Two' couples



Jimmy Launce (right) is surrounded by Patricia Carozzo (left), Jack rueke and Laura Levine-Niesen.



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amonds. Served with rice and fresh frut.

SPANISH OMELETTE

If you egg amelete fised with seasoned stredded beet.

Icoped with Spanish souce and checker cheese. Served
with firsh that and choice of hash brown potatoes or effect bears.
MUSHROOMS AND AVOCADO OMELETTE . . 4.95
hree egg omelette filled with soutleed mathrooms and
egged with dreets backe and procado. Served with
each fluif and chace of hash brown potatoes or refried

Severed with mean titur card under an oriented becard or intended becard cheere in a India-decker depend in egg and frield golden-brown. Severed with restationary preserves, fresh had and hosh brown portations. WESTERN QUICHE In a company of the land, or per persons with restance in a read of the land, or person persons where or many of the land, or persons when or many or a severe or the company of the land of the land of the land of the land, or persons when or or one of severed with the land of land land of land

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Jimmy Launce, the radio personality behind the Somerset Dinner Theatre, heads the capable cast of four in Neil Simon's "Chapter Two," about marriage, death and divorce.

This time Simon has used events in his own life to tell of George Schneider, Gimmy Launce, a man uncomfortably on his own after his beloved wife dies. Hal Younglood directed the neat production, which is presented Friday and Saturday nights and at Wednesday matinese in the lower-level auditorium at Somerset Mall in Troy.

It's a comedy with more serious overtones than Simon's earlier works. This makes the play both less gag-rid-en and more human, although the second act suffers from characters who overanalyze themselves.

overanalyze themselves

review

LAUNCE HAS a good, resonant voice and clear enunciation. His timing is unburried, and he assuredly presents a once-confident guy at loose ends, trying to get his life together again. One half of the stage is Schneider's lower Central Park West apartment, the other half is the apartment of Jensifer Malone (Patricia Carozzo) on New York's upper East Side.

Ms. Carozzo detily displays the sensitivity and confusion of a recently acrossed, when the confusion of a recently the covered, very attractive, intelligient woman. She's a fine match for the lone by Schneider, who accidently phones her and finds that they hit it off.

"Schneider's brother Leo (Jack Grucke) and Faye Medwick (Laura Levine-Nicsen) also finen enicely in the subplot. Leo's both the matchmaker, who leave Jennie's phone number with George, and the errant husband, who makes a practice of making love dishing, preferably unromantic women. Faye, a wife disappointed with becar lite, plots an affair with Leo but gets turned off by his businessilic off-hand approach to their romance, as well as his too-practiced sweet talk.

PLAYWRIGHT SIMON manages to show the unhappy, distillusioned side of marriage at the same time we are laughing at Faye and Leo's verbal jousting. Grueke and Ms. Levine-Niesen are at

their comic best in the seduction scene. He's fast-talking and she's tough-talk-

ing but both are vulnerable.

*Launce and Ms. Carozzo make the most of the first act routines where they have animated, crazy telephone conversations and pursue the love affair that quickly turns into marriage. In the second act, the fast turning surns sour, as the couple reassesses their commitment. The plot turns sour to come almost too abundantly, the characters sorting out their true feelings. This is the only area where the action lags.

All the characters are well cast: The still boyish-looking Launce, in his trim-fitting suits and designer sweaters; the soft-haired, pretty Ms. Carozzo, the lanky, dark-haired, mustached Grueke; and snappy, attractive Ms. Levine-hises (who got a responsive hand from the audience at curtain call.





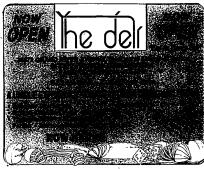
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