



the movies

Louise Snider

Lively dialogue relieves clichés of 'It's My Turn'

Jay Clayburgh once again takes on the role of an independent woman, a band of the m-vie spectrum she has made her own.

Unfortunately, going from "An Unmarried Woman" to "Starting Over" to her latest film "It's My Turn" (R) does not represent a progression in either acting achievement or social understanding.

Many people are going to enjoy "It's My Turn," and with good reason. The principals, Ms. Clayburgh, Michael Douglas and Charles Grodin, do a commendable job. The directing and editing are precise and effective. They capitalize on a script which possesses that rarity of rarities, sparkling dialogue.

There is nothing wrong with these qualities, but there is something wrong with a film that purports to deal with real-life situations in a slice-of-life comedy and offers us bromides.

"IT'S MY TURN" perpetuates a number of cherished myths about women and is about as true to life as a beer commercial.

This is the most disturbing quality about the film. Masked behind a facile production and what appears to be a "with it" attitude are the clichés.

Ms. Clayburgh is a college math teacher who is being considered for an important administrative position by a major university in New York City. So far, so good. She is not in traditional woman's job and, furthermore, she is being considered for a "management" role.

She must spend a lot of time on pro-

fessional activities, research and such right? Wrong. From the look of the elegantly furnished loft she shares with her live-in boyfriend (Charles Grodin), a successful real estate developer, she spends a lot of time shopping.

When she isn't doing that, she rushes home from work to prepare a Grand Marnier omelet (don't we all?).

THEY MUST BE quite a rational person, right? Wrong. She rides an emotional pendulum throughout the film, swinging first one way, then another.

Should she go to New York and interview for the job or not? While in New York, should she go to her father's wedding, or a not? Especially when you consider that he's marrying a woman who can't even swim.

She goes to New York and at a family dinner meets her future stepmother's son, a divorced, ex-baseball player (Michael Douglas).

Naturally, like any woman, Ms. Clayburgh has never heard of Reggie Jackson and is completely stupid about baseball.

This endears her to Douglas. He is instantly smitten by her quirky manner, unflattering clothes, ill-cut hair and generally disheveled appearance. Just your typical true-life romance. Plain, dumb girl meets sharp, handsome athlete who sweeps her off her clumsy feet.

Claudia Weill, who directed "Girlfriends," a bright, original film, sadly disappoints us with the trivia and commercialization of "It's My Turn."

Cast of 'Gonzo Theatre' includes 4 performers

The Southfield Repertory Theatre has announced the cast for "Gonzo Theatre," a musical satire about Detroit opening Saturday at Stouffer's Northland Inn in Southfield.

The cast includes Hal Doyle of Southfield, Beth Hall and David Turrentine of Detroit and Ralph Valatka of Hamtramck.

Doyle, frequently seen in SRT's children's plays, also can be seen in the current film "Somewhere in Time."

Turrentine and Ms. Hall come to "Gonzo" from a statewide tour, with the Adventures in Theatre Company, of Kay Britten's musical "A Place to Be Me."

Valatka, who founded the Southfield

Repertory Theatre in 1974, will direct. Musical direction is by Marlene Louks of Birmingham. Ms. Louks has worked with several Detroit dinner theaters and has conducted shows at the Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre.

SRT, which presents professional children's theater productions, is funded by the Michigan Council for the

Arts, the Southfield Arts Council and the City of Southfield.

Stouffer's Northland Inn has remodeled the former Grogshop, now Stouffer's Showcase, into a dinner theater seating approximately 100. Cocktails will be served from 6:30 p.m. dinner from 7:30. "Gonzo Theatre" is at 9 p.m. For reservations and information call 569-4700.

Michigan acts perform in 8th annual talent show

The eighth annual Michigan Performing Arts Talent Show for persons with mental retardation will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Varner Hall on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Bob Talbert, Detroit Free Press columnist, will serve as master of ceremonies for the show. A \$1 admission

donation is requested.

Twenty acts from around the state will perform. All areas of performing arts will be represented during the show, including vocal acts, dance routines and instrumental numbers.

Acts will be judged on talent, originality, stage presence, appearance and

the overall quality of performance. Trophies will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in the overall competition.

Additional awards will be presented for first and second place in vocal, dance instrumental music and diversified art. All other participants will receive honorable mention awards.

The Performing Arts Talent Show is sponsored by the Association for Retarded Citizens of Oakland County. The ARC is a non-profit membership organization of interested individuals, professionals, families and groups who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for all retarded children and adults.

Lighthouse offers spoof

"Dames at Sea," a spoof of 1930s movie musicals, is presented Fridays-Saturdays through Dec. 13 at the Lighthouse Inn Dinner Theatre, 24230 W. McNichols, west of Telegraph, Detroit.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., with curtain at 8 p.m. Dinner/show combination tickets are available, as well as show-only tickets which include one cocktail. For reservations call 535-9411 Tuesday-Sundays.



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Private Judy Benjamin (Goldie Hawn) endures the rigors of basic training in "Private Benjamin."

what's at the movies

NEW RELEASES

THE ELEPHANT MAN (PG). Largely true story of grossly deformed man rescued from sordid life by compassionate doctor. Fine acting by John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins and John Gielgud balances out directorial shortcomings.

FIRST DEADLY SIN (R). Cop searches out killer responsible for series of bizarre murders. Frank Sinatra and Faye Dunaway star.

THE GREAT SANTINI (PG). Robert Duvall as Air Force pilot and dominating father in strong story of family conflict and love.

HOPSCOTCH (R). Chemistry of Matthau/Jackson pairing works again, but we don't see them together often enough in this halfway humorous (first half) film.

IT'S MY TURN (R). Jill Clayburgh in humorous story as independent woman (again) who falls in love with ex-baseball player during weekend in New York.

OH, GOD! BOOK II (PG). George Burns returns as the Almighty with a new message, Luanne, "Tracey," to deliver his words.

ORDINARY PEOPLE (R). Robert Redford's directorial debut is a smash in this extraordinarily well-acted, moving film about a "perfect" family trying to cope with a son's mental illness.

PRIVATE BENJAMIN (R). Goldie Hawn joins the army to escape and find herself.

SOMEWHERE IN TIME (PG). Romance with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. Young man falls in love with portrait of a beautiful woman and goes back in time to find her.

THE STUNTMAN (R). Fascinating, complex film that "books" the viewer as it toys with notions of reality and illusion. Action comedy and mystery on a movie location.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

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