



the movies

Louise Snider

'The Last Metro' playfully captures thespians at work

Even during their serious moments, there is something about most movies by Francois Truffaut that call to mind a child's sense of play. His latest movie, "The Last Metro," which he directed and co-authored with Suzanne Schiffman, especially has this quality.

Set in Paris during the Nazi occupation of World War II, it tells the story of a theater owner, Marion Steiner (Catherine Deneuve), and a group of actors trying to put on a play and maintain some semblance of normalcy during the repressive years of 1942-44.

The title refers to the curfew and the importance of catching the last subway of the night. It is symbolic of the oppressive German presence even while outwardly life appears to go on as usual.

But life does not go on as usual. Marion, an actress, has been forced to assume the role of theater manager because her husband Lucas (Heinz Bennent), the theater's manager and director, is a Jew and had to leave the country.

INITIALLY, Deneuve appears to be cast once again as an aloof beauty. One of the twists in "The Last Metro," however, is that we discover the cold, businesslike attitude she maintains is used to mask deception.

Her husband has not fled; he is living in the basement of the theater where Marion visits him each night and brings him food and news of the productions.

Through a conduit from the stage to the basement, Lucas listens to the rehearsals. He tells Marion his suggestions for changes, and she passes them on as if they were hers to the director who has taken Lucas' place.

While Marion is trying to keep the theater going and her husband safe, she has become attracted to her leading man, Bernard (Gerard Depardieu), a new member of the company.

The complications that ensue — the love triangle, the threat of Lucas being discovered, the ominous warnings of the anti-Semitic theater critic, the individual problems of cast members — are sufficient to keep an audience in a continual state of attentiveness.

TO A LESSER degree, "The Last Metro" does for the stage what Truffaut's "Day for Night" did for the movies. Scenes cut and weave between the theater and real life, and illusion becomes as important as reality.

This is where the director's wonderfully childlike sense of play becomes important. He engages us in his make-believe games, sometimes catching us up in the play within the movie, then jolting us back to the "reality" of the movie.

This game which provides such pleasant moments also raises a question about the historical relevancy of Truffaut's movie. For a story set during such dark days of history, it manages to be surprisingly devoid of passionate involvement or commitment.

Take Truffaut's Nazis, for example. They spout terrible propaganda, but they are not such terrible people. After all, they do flock to the theater eager to absorb French culture.

It's very gracious of Truffaut to be so far-minded, but depicting the most barbaric era in modern times as a period of unpleasantness is an absurd extension of good manners.

what's at the movies

AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (R). Strange happenings in London and on the moors in this macabre spoof of horror flicks.

ARTHUR (PG). Dudley Moore is a playboy millionaire in love with Liza Minnelli in this contemporary comedy.

BLOWOUT (R). John Travolta and Nancy Allen star in Brian DePalma's murder mystery centering around the accidental recording of a murder and the cover-up attempts that follow.

CHU CHU AND THE PHILLY FLASH (PG). Most of the laughs are provoked by the costumes in this caper with Alan Arkin and Carol Burnett as two eccentric down-and-outers who find a briefcase with valuable documents.

COMIN' AT YA (R). A Western with a new-old twist — 3-D. Put on the specs and have flaming arrows, bats and rats comin' at ya.

ENDLESS LOVE (R). Brooke Shields and Martin Hewitt are two passionate teenagers who become so obsessed with one another that they drive them to acts beyond reason.

EYE OF THE NEEDLE (R). Adapted from the best-selling novel, this suspense thriller and love story stars Donald Sutherland as "the Needle," the code name for Hitler's top agent in England.

FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER (R). Jill Clayburgh is the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court and Walter Matthau is her most persistent adversary in this bright comedy-drama.

MOSCOW DOES NOT BELIEVE IN TEARS. Sentimental romance focuses on three Russian women and looks at their expectations in the 1950s and their lives 20 years later. Won the Academy Award as Best Foreign Film.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (PG). Produced by George Lucas and directed by Steven Spielberg, this action-packed adventure pits Americans against Nazi agents in a race to acquire a sacred artifact that gives its possessor invincible power.

STRIPES (R). "Private Benjamin" from a different perspective. Bill Murray is an Army recruit in this military comedy about the rigors of basic training and woman chasing.

SUPERMAN II (PG). The story continues as Superman struggles to save the earth from criminals who survived Krypton's extinction.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

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

Canadian directs 'Othello' at Meadow Brook opener

Canadian Director Arif Hasnain will stage Shakespeare's "Othello," which opens Meadow Brook Theatre's 16th season at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 8 on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

The announcement was made by Terence Kilburn, director of the professional theater.

Stratford Festival fans may remem-

ber Hasnain's staging of Ibsen's "Ghosts" in 1977 which starred Margaret Tyack, Nicholas Pennell and William Hutt. Hasnain was associate director of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival during the 1977 and 1978 seasons.

As artistic director of the Manitoba Theatre Center from 1976-80, Hasnain

staged Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," as well as many other modern and classical plays including "The Sea Gull" and "The Crucible." He also directed at the Vancouver Playhouse and at the Performing Theatre Company of Toronto. Hasnain's only other directorial assignment in the United States was at the Cricket Theatre of Minneapolis.

where he staged a production of "When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?" in 1976.

"Othello" is the first play by William Shakespeare produced at Meadow Brook since the 1978 production of "The Tempest."

Information about the 1981-82 Meadow Brook Theatre season may be obtained by calling the box office, 377-3300.

Flavio Varani to open Music Study Club season

Music Study Club of Metropolitan Detroit will open its season with a program by Flavio Varani, pianist, at 12:15 p.m. Thursday at Temple Beth El. It will be a concert in memory of Esther Sibrack, longtime board member and club officer.

Varani, now a member of the Oakland University music department has

appeared as a guest soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and with many of the symphony orchestras in Michigan. He has appeared at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall and has performed with Musica Aeterna, with the Brooklyn Philharmonic under Lukas Foss and has been a regular artist at the Newport Music Festival.

He began his music studies in his native Brazil, by age 20 had toured with the Brazilian National Symphony, and received a scholarship to study in France with Magda Tagliaferro. He won first prize in the International Chopin Competition in Majorca, Spain, when he was 18. He later studied with Rosina Lhevinne at Juilliard and completed his bachelors and masters at

Manhattan School of Music.

Music Study Club president Helen Kerwin of Southfield, 353-6245, said guests are welcome to this memorial program. Admission is \$2. Helen Rowin is chairman of the day. Future programs are scheduled for Oct. 22, Nov. 17, March 16, April 20, May 16, and June 8.



Hot stuff

(Above) John Belushi as Ernie, a Chicago newspaper columnist, and Blair Brown as Nell, an ornithologist, get romantic in a comic love story, "Continental Divide." Location shooting was done in Colorado and Chicago. (Below) Kathleen Turner as Matty Walker involves William Hurt as attorney Ned Racine in a plot to murder her wealthy husband in the mystery "Body Heat." Both films opened Friday at metropolitan-Detroit theaters.



LOBSTER MAINE-IA at Chuck Muer's* Whole Maine Lobster Dinner \$11.95

Come on, lobster lovers. Supplies are high, prices are low—so Chuck Muer's team can offer you a terrific deal on whole Maine lobster, or for just a little more, dip into the famous "Charley's Bucker" and enjoy mouthwatering morsels of Dungeness crab, clam, mussel, corn on the cob and redskins, topped off with a whole Maine lobster. Or feast on the New "Bar Harbor Bucker"—a real down-east treat at an introductory price. And then there's Chef Larry's ultimate creation, "Baked Stuffed Lobster Larry."

So roll up your sleeves and join us. But hurry! You only have until September 30th to catch Lobster Maine-ia.

*At these locations

Diggers	River Crab	Gandy Dancer
Farmington	St. Clair	Ann Arbor
Raw Bar	Charley's Crab	Chuck Muer's
Hotel Pontchartrain	Troy	Roadhouse
American Express Honored		Toledo

Stop by your Eastland or Westland Shopping Center and guess the weight of the giant lobster for prizes.



Monday Nights
Joins Tuesday Nights
as
INFLATION FIGHTERS
at the
Shalea Inn
\$6.99 per person
Featuring: Petit Frog Legs (All you can eat) served with Cheese Crook and Crackers, Soup, Salad, French Fries, Roll and Butter
852-3410
3315 AUBURN ROAD
Between Adams & Opdyke Road
ALSO IN GRAND BLANC
Just off I-75 Exit 1-895-1650

SEA SHELL SURF & TURF RESTAURANT
\$5 OFF ANY DINNER WHEN A SECOND IS PURCHASED OR EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE (Does not include specialty & ala carte)
Dinner only
• BUSINESS LUNCHEONS • DINNERS • COCKTAILS
FRESH SEAFOOD & CHOICE MEAT DISHES
WOK, TAPAS, FRI LUNCH & DINNER SAT. DINNER ONLY FROM 5 PM.
1886 JOHN R. JUST S.W. OF 19 MI. 689-1258
MOY'S RESTAURANT
4025 MIDCLOVELLY AT 19 MI. LIVINGSTON
Cantonese & American Food
Japanese Steakhouses
• Exotic Cocktails •
CARRY OUTS ON CHINESE FOOD
Chinese Lunches 11-2 Japanese Lunches 11-2
Chinese Dinner 5-9:30 Japanese Dinner 5-9:30
No Entertainment 6-9:30 PM. Closed Monday
Phone 477-3171

ON THE TOWN
fall season 1981
miles davis Sat., Sept. 19 Hill Aud. 8:00 pm \$12.50, \$11.00, \$9.50
blood uimer Fri., Oct. 16 Power Ctr. 8:00 pm \$6.50
betty carler Fri., Nov. 6 Union Bldg. 8 & 10:30 pm \$6.50
dave brubeck Tues., Dec. 15 Hill Aud. 8:00 pm \$8.50, \$7.50, \$6.50
All tickets available at Michigan Union Box Office and all C.T.C. outlets. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (313) 763-6922.

THERE'S ROOM AT THE INN
A thoughtful way to welcome visitors or clients is a reservation at the Kingsley Inn. We are near all business, sports, and educational centers in Oakland County.
Kingsley Inn
Woodward and Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills
614-1400 564-5144