

the movies Louise Snider

Tears may flow watching cloying 'Table for Five'

"Table for Five" (PG) is a soggy, sentimental sponge of a movie. It's about as sincere and exciting as a commercial for dandruff shampso. At best, the movie is a third-rate "Kramer va. Kramer" with Jon Volgat as a father learning to be a father.

With Jon Volgat as a father learning to be a father. It is clearly the service (Miller burses) and the many learning the with his ex-write (Miller burses) as a conclusion of the second his backghildren. Along comes Volgat, who decides that he about play a more meaningful role in the lives of his children and not just be an occasional visitor. He wants to get closer to his children, but it is clear he doesn't know how. It is also clear he will have a problem since he still has not mastered being an adult.

His idea of getting close to the children is to take them on a Mediterranean cruise for their vacation and insist they have fun. Well, you don't have to be a kid to know that when someone keeps insisting. "We're going to have any fun.

AFTER SOME skirmishes with all three, he gives up the father le and decides to be their friend. The parenting business conflicts to be illested.

AFTER SOME skirmishes with oil three, he gives up the father role and decides to be their friend. The parenting business conflicts with his lifestyle.

The kids catch on to him quickly and quickly size up the limits of his commitment. Volght feels he has exercised his father-friend duties by playing with the kids when he feels like it. When he doesn't feel like it, when he wants to go out, for example, and pick up someone at the ship's bar, he expects the kids to be content to quictly stay in their rooms.

It comes as no surprise then to find that the big question this movie axis is, "Can he change?" Can be become a nutruing, responsible father? Nor is it a surprise to find that the question is answered affirmatively.

Actually, "Table for Five" might have been more interesting, and certainly more surprising, if the answer were negative. It would have been a novelty if he found he couldn't change. Better yet, if he admitted that he didn't want to change, that he wanted to continue being a selfish, immature individual, and that the kids were a drag.

LET'S LOOK at them. The vouncest is a cute little guy who has

LET'S LOOK at them. The youngest is a cute little guy who has nightmares and a reading problem. The middle child is a girl, walse beyond her years. She's the adult always admonishing him. The cliest, the adopted son from the Philippines, is a surjy teenger whenever he is not plugged into some circuitry. When we first see him, he is sittling on the floor of his bedroom, wearing headphones, watching television and playing a hand-held computer same.

game.

So there is Voight with one malcontent, one nagger and one learning-disabled kid, when he learns his ex-wife and the family dog were killed in an auto accident.

We are spared seeling his ex-wife's mangled body, but we do get a look at the fatally injured dog as he gamely tries to get up from the wet cavement.

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David Seltzer, who wrote this shameless, cloying script, will go to any length to wrench a tear from an audience. His past credits include, "The Other Side of the Mountain" (about Jill Kinmont, the skier who became paralyzed in an accident) and "Sit Weeks" (about a child with a terminal illness).

Knowing this, if you still want to see "Table for Five," take your Kleenex and your chances.

table talk

'Irish' celebrating St. Patrick's Day

A LEPRECHAUN Lunch with Irish dishes, including corned beel and cabbage and Irish stew, will be offered at a buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Dewey's lounge in the Michigan Inn. Soups, salads and desserts complete the buffet, at \$5.95. Irish music will backforp the festile meal. The fun on \$1.7 p.m. when Dowey's provides free shrimp with drink orders at Happy Hour from \$7.7 p.m. when 57 p.m. Green-and-white party hats will be given out, and there will be live entertainment at the party. The Michigan Inn is at 18400 J.L. Hudson Drive in Southfield.

JOHN LAFFREY'S opens a new restaurant on St. Patrick's Day, in the former home of Maximillan's Restaurant at 4616 N. Woodward, Royal Oak.

Laffrey's menu will be similar to that offered at his "Steaks on the Hearth." The Comedy Castle, which performed at Maximillan's, will continue to present shows at the revamped restaurant.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle is in its fifth year. Grand-opening week the stand-up comic will be native Detroiter Dave Couwlier, the voice of Mork in "Mork and Mindy" cartoons.

A BUFFET for St. Patrick's Day will be spread at the Wicker Works in the Northfield Hilton at Crooks and 1.75 in Troy,
Corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, and greens at a salad bar will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30

p.m.
In Hurley's lounge, the happy hour from 3-8 p.m. will be highlight-ed with an Irish folk singer. Irish coffee for \$1 and green beer are the

drinks of the day.

More live entertainment begins at 8:30 p.m.

GREEN BEER, Irish coffee and melon balls are being served for 13.00 nst. Patrick's Day at Yester-day's lounge in the Sheraton-Southfield Hotel, 17017 W. Nine Mille. Drink discounts, hors d'ocuvres, carnations for lassies and St. Pat's buttons for lads also are promised.

EL TORITO, the national

EL TORITO, the national resturant chain, annunced special prices during a recent week for all its restaurants — including one at 26555 Evergreen in Southfeid.

Turns out, however, that the local restaurant hant' opened yel. The address is in the Traveler's Tower, where El Torito-La Fiesta is expected to open shortly.

ed to open shortly.

A "RAILROAD Diner Party" will try to bring out young people as well as oldsters from 8-11 yn. Friday at the Rochester Family Diner, 800 Main, Rochester.

Tom Karadimas and John Anderson host the evening, which will feature Greek music, a sing-along and coledas and all you-called the population of the state of the single people will be served, as well as ground rounds, potatoes and alaw.

The party is ticketed at \$4.75 per person. If it's a success, the event will become a regular one at the family dinner.

For reservations, call 652-1358 or 631-3434.

THE WINE will flow at the annual wine tasting presented by the Oakland Community College Cullinary Arts Food Service Executive Association at 7 p.m. Thursday, Association at 7 p.m. Thursday March 24, at the MSU Managemen Education Center in Troy.





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