

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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## Comedy with shock

### New play premiering at Ann Arbor Summer Festival

By Victor E. Swanson  
special writer

**Y**OU'RE IN a theater. The curtain goes up, and here's — roughly — the opening scene.

It's Christmas. It looks as if it will be a great Christmas. The tree is beautifully trimmed and decorated, and the lights are so wonderful that they're like sparkling candy balls. Two children eagerly await the moment to rip open the presents. Their parents seem happy. Then comes the big shock — Tom, the husband, has a contract out on the life of

his wife, Rachel, who's the main character. Poor Rachel. All she can do is run.

And that's the start of the new play called "Reckless," written by well-known playwright Craig Lucas.

"I'm very, very curious to see what the audience response will be to a brand-new work," said Tanya Berzin, artistic director of Circle Repertory Company (of New York), which will present five performances of "Reckless" at the Ann Arbor Summer Festival in July.

"Reckless" is a wonderful play, because it's everything . . . It is without question a comedy," Berzin

added, in an interview by phone from New York, where the play was just going into rehearsal and the sets were being made. "And it's extremely moving."

"IT'S THE STORY of a woman's total change, an . . . evolution of a woman in her adult life. It begins with a woman's husband taking a contract out on her life on Christmas Eve . . . so she flees to avoid being killed and goes through all kinds of adventures with various people, becomes very withdrawn, then comes out of being withdrawn, and eventually comes full circle and really becomes, evolves as a mature woman."

Basically, Rachel goes from being an average suburban housewife to being a psychoanalyst living in Alaska.

To discover how she comes to be in Alaska, a person has to see the play. It's quite a story.

Rachel runs across all sorts of characters. There's Lloyd and Pooty, husband and wife, who take her in. Rachel sort of adopts them as her family when they appear on a game show, which nearly has deadly consequences. Tom Jr. almost kills Rachel, not knowing that she's his mother.

It must be realized that the play evolves over about a 15-year period — 15 years during which little Tom can forget what his mother looks like.

During those years, Rachel comes

across or has six different psychiatrists (all of whom are played by the same actress in the play). She goes through primal-scream therapy and must flee a "possible murder rap."

Berzin said, "She gets a job in an office where she deals with corruption and espionage." The shady company is called Hands Across the Sea.

"RECKLESS" is presented in two acts and is made up of about 25 parts. "There will be music, but whether it will be original or not original, we're not sure," she said.

"Robin Bartlett is playing Rachel. John Dossett is playing Lloyd . . . (His) wife's name is Pooty. And she's played by Walker Wake. Tim Timko, the game-show host, is played by Kelly Connell."

For this production, Norman Rene is the director and Loy Arcenas is the set designer.

"Norman Rene and Craig Lucas have been working together in collaboration for quite some time. Norman directs all of Craig's plays," Berzin said.

Rene has directed such Lucas plays as "Marry Me a Little," "Missing Persons," "Prelude to a Kiss," "Three Postcards" and "Blue Windows." And Rene directed a version of "Blue Windows," featuring Randy Danson and Brad O'Hare, for "American Playhouse," which was shown on PBS during the 1986-87 season.

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Tanya Berzin is the artistic director of Circle Repertory Company, which will perform Craig Lucas' "Reckless."

### Fest opens Saturday, play runs 4 days in July

The 1988 Ann Arbor Summer Festival begins Saturday and will continue through Sunday, July 17, "Reckless" will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, July 14-15; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, July 16, and 2 p.m. Sunday, July 17, in the Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre.

Tickets may be purchased at the Michigan Union Ticket Office in Ann Arbor or at all Ticketmaster locations in the Detroit area. Tickets also may be purchased by call-

ing 763-TKTS. Tickets are priced at \$20 and \$15.

Playwright Craig Lucas will meet with the public to discuss "Reckless" and other topics at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 14, in the Founders Room of the University of Michigan Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Director Norman Rene will meet with the public in the theater after the Saturday evening performance.

### table talk

#### Bimonthly dinners

Chef d'Cuisine Edward Janos, formerly of Detroit's Money Tree restaurant, presented the first in a series of bimonthly dinners Monday at Chez Raphael in Novi. The six-course gourmet meal with champagne and wines introduced new culinary creations. The menu included warm carpaccio of salmon and scallops, mushroom ravioli in broth with spring vegetables, warm baby pheasant breast salad, beet sorbet and a combination of beef, veal and lamb. Each dinner in the series will focus on a culinary specialty or incorporate a seasonal or cultural theme.

#### Cocktail tapas

"Tapas," or saucers of select hors

d'oeuvres, are being served with each of five types of sherry that customers may order. During June, at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills. The saucer of nibbles is served on top of the sherry glass, just as is the custom in Spain, where sherry originates. Tapas are available beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Kingsley dining room and lounge.

#### Executive chef

Carol Haskins has been named executive chef at the new Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Haskins was certified as Michigan's first executive chef in 1981. She and the new maître d'hôtel, Lewis Weldemann, will oversee food service and preparation at the Ruby Grille and Tony's restaurants, as well as private din-

ing service. The Ruby Grille opens tomorrow and Tony's, an American chop-house, in September (restaurantier Norman LePage is operating both restaurants). Haskins formerly worked as executive chef at several Detroit-area establishments including Jacques, Healthy Jones, the Great Oaks Country Club, the Great Dane Restaurant, the Money Tree and the Village Women's Club in Bloomfield Hills. She also was executive chef at St. John Hospital in Detroit.

#### Golden Years

Machus Restaurants and Pastry Shops has inaugurated a Golden Years Club card at the Machus Adams Square Cafeteria in Birmingham. The card is designed for indi-

viduals 65 years and older and is valid for a 10 percent discount on food and beverages. Applications are available at the cafeteria.

#### Outdoor cafe

The Bates Street Cafe, Birmingham's largest outdoor cafe, has opened for summer luncheons, on the north lawn of the Community House across from Shala Park. Light summer lunches are served weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cafe offers a variety of salads, sandwiches and cold soups. New items this year include fresh shucked oysters, a pate platter with cucumber salad, and cold poached salmon with cucumber dill sauce garnished with jellied vegetable. The cafe is open for buffet dinner every Thursday

night preceding the "In the Park" concert series.

#### New chef

Eddie Matteson, who worked at the Money Tree for three years, is the new executive chef at Medallion in West Bloomfield. He is a graduate of the culinary arts program at Oakland Community College and also has taken courses at the Culinary Institute of America. The new seasonal menu includes entrees such as Maryland Crab Cakes at \$9.50 and Tournados of Beef at \$17.95. There are nightly specials, including fish and seafood, and nightly special duck sauces and veal sauces.

#### Gold medal

Joseph Allen Elias Jr., line cook at

Al Mitchell's Blue Sky Bar-B-Q in Southfield, won a gold medal in the recent Vocational Industrial Club of America's (Michigan Region) Olympic conference culinary art competition in Grand Rapids. He prepared sautéed boneless chicken halves with a fruit glaze sauce. He will represent Michigan in the national VICA competition later this year.

#### Yogurt Express

An alternative to sit-down meals is offered at Yogurt Express, newly opened on the main floor at Hudson's Westland. Offered are frozen yogurt, fruit juices, yogurt cones and yogurt sundaes made with fresh fruit nut toppings. Hours of operations are the same as Hudson's store hours.

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