

SCREEN SCENE

DETROIT FILM THEATRE
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200
Woodward Ave., Detroit, Call 832-
2730 for information. (45)
"Totò Le Heron" (Belgium)
France — 1991, 7 and 9:30 p.m.
Aug. 7-8 and 4 and 7 p.m. Aug. 9.
The DFT reprises one of last year's
most fascinating films. A man in a
convicted that he was exchanged at
birth that he grows obsessed with
reclaiming the life that was stolen
from him.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
15110 W. Ten Mile, Oak Park. Call
967-4030 for information. (Free)
"The Cantor's Son" (USA — 1992)
1937, 10 a.m. Aug. 11. A young man
leaves his hometown for America,
where he barely scrapes by until
someone discovers his fine singing
voice. He becomes an immediate
sensational in this rags-to-riches story
based on the life of its star,
Naike Oysher.

MICHIGAN THEATRE
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call
668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4
students and senior citizens)
"Casablanca" (USA — 1942)
through Aug. 20 (with free show-
times). The 50th anniversary cele-
bration of the classic love story, with a

Pepe Le Pew cartoon from the
1950s.
"The Draughtman's Contract"
(Britain — 1992), 9:30 p.m. Aug. 10-
11. Like most of director Peter
Greenaway's films, this is a confu-
sing but visually arresting story of a
painter whose portrait may hide
clues to the murder of his employer,
a wealthy landowner.

"Women on the Verge of a Ner-
vous Breakdown" (Spain — 1988),
7:15 p.m. Aug. 13 and 9:30 p.m.
Aug. 14. The best and most colorful
film from Spanish director Pedro
Almodovar, about an actress (Car-
men Maure) driven crazy by the
dalliances of her lover.

WINDSOR FILM THEATRE
215 Wyandotte St. W., Windsor.
Films alternate between 7 p.m. and
9:30 p.m. show times Tuesday
through Sunday. Call (519) 254-
5111 for information. (44-25)
"My Father Is Coming" (USA —
1991). A young waitress in New
York drags a visit from her Ger-
man father.

"Noises Off" (USA — 1992). Peter
Hodgkinson directed the film ver-
sion of the hit play about a troupe
of eccentric and paranoid actors
who perform a British sex farce
from London to Broadway.
— John Monaghan

'Whispers' puts audience ill-at-ease



JOHN
MONAGHAN

"Whispers in the Dark" longs to be a scary, sexy, sophisticated thriller about a high-paid New York City psychiatrist who gets too involved with her psycho clients. Sure, the movie dredges up all sorts of dark psycho-sexual fantasies through its sicko characters. But it's handled with such a supreme lack of cleverness and style that you're left feeling ill-at-ease and questioning who this kind of nastiness is supposed to appeal to.

There is an air of pseudo-artistry here since many of Ann's patients belong to the real world. Johnny, a leather-clad young Latino, seems to reflect his sado-masochistic leanings into his art.

Eve, an attractive gynecologist, insists on stripping in front of the psychiatrist during one of their sessions.

Ann (Annabella Sciorra), meanwhile, believes she has finally found the man of her dreams in Doug (James Sheridan), a sensitive pilot.

When the psychiatrist decides to peek in on Eve and her lover during a weekly lunch date, three guesses as to what she finds sitting across the table.

When Eve ends up dead, the movie does successfully keep you guessing the identity of the killer.

Sciorra is fairly convincing as a woman wracked by terror and manipulation. She needs better material than this trash, both written and directed with the finesse of a sledgehammer by Christopher Crowe.

By the time heroine and killer duke it out with a tire iron at the end of "Whispers in the Dark," you can't believe that you're once again being led over such familiar slasher-movie territory.

"My Father Is Coming" also deals with the sexual subculture of New York, but it's far more entertaining and infinitely more honest. When Vicki, a struggling actress, discovers that her father will soon visit from Bavaria, she enlists her gay roommate to pose as her husband. Actually, dad fits in better than she expected as he effortlessly lands a part in the commercial she auditioned for.

His love life blossoms when he starts dating a New Age sex goddess

played by real-life porn star Annie Sprinkle.

Treut, best-known previously for directing "Seduction of the Cruel Woman," focuses her attention on

the often extreme edge of gay life-styles. Here, with only a slightly larger budget, she adopts a kinder, gentler look at characters who are likable as well as weird.

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