

# Joke stretched out in comedy about critics

By JOAN METTE

When a critic arrives at the theater and learns that the play is a swipe at the foibles of critics, it does give one pause. But unimpressed, I will plunge right in and say that St. Dunstan's latest production, "The Real Inspector Hound," is not a very good play.

English playwright Tom Stoppard is popular right now; his surrealistic view can be amusing. The St. Dunstan's Guild can be credited with trying something new and offbeat. But "The Real Inspector Hound" is not good Stoppard.

Stoppard has taken one clever idea,

## Review

exposing the idiocies of critics as they view a potboiler of a play, and expanded it into dullness. What was material for a clever skit has become Monty Python with a glandular condition.

Faced with this kind of material, Director William Everson might have salvaged more of the production with

an antic style. Stoppard has a insane view of the world, and it helps to play him at a slightly mad pace.

RICHARD HARTLE'S rendition of the archly good-humored critic is closest to the parody that was intended. He works the humor out of the role with meticulous timing so that even a cock of the head is not wasted. His English accent is so good, it's probably real.

Vince Hayes, as the dour critic, plays good counterpoint to Hartle, but his interpretation is a bit to straight. A broader stroked performance would

have been more appropriate here. Broader performances would have added humor to the play within the play, too. But Director Everson chooses a more subtle approach to this charade which pokes fun at every cliché used in melodrama. When the playwright gives you a bludgeon, why pretend it is a razor?

But given the directed style, the cast does it with flair. Mary Jane Remington is particularly delightful as the ubiquitous housekeeper, essential for giving messages and setting scenes.

As the two leading ladies, Pamela

Tucker and Mary Ann Wilson are appropriately lovely, making grand entrances and reeking of sophistication.

EDWARD HRU gives the juvenile lead a neblish quality that seems to fit. Robert Dearth as the crippled brother and Jack Waters as Inspector Hound seem to have the most fun with their roles, approaching closer to that broad style.

Since I've found some fault with Director Everson let me give plaudits to Set Designer Everson. The English country manor set is reminiscent of

every mystery melodrama ever seen. I do sympathize with the people at St. Dunstan's in choosing plays for production. No one wants to keep doing Neil Simon—even if he is funny. With a long, venerable history like St. Dunstan's, it's hard not to repeat yourself. The first two plays of the season, "The Royal Family" and "I Never Sang for My Father," were winners. But in this case, the play reading committee chose not wisely and not well. "The Real Inspector Hound" will be repeated Friday and Saturday at the St. Dunstan's Playhouse on Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills.

## Order one for road, on the road

By the year 2,000, adults may be sipping bourbon on the bus and highballs under the hair dryer, if predictions about the hospitality industry come true.

In a presentation to Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) members, Richard Brown, vice-president for corporate marketing of the American Distilling Co., in New York City, also will predict more ethnic, theme and vegetarian restaurants.

Vegetarian restaurants will increase because growing vegetables requires less land than cattle. And seafood restaurants will offer new species of fish coming from still unexplored watery depths, according to Brown.

Brown, who also served on the executive committee of the Culinary Institute of America, will be the head-off speaker at an MRA seminar, open to all restaurateurs, Wednesday, at Long's Convention Center in Lansing.

ENERGY USAGE, another subject of tremendous interest to restaurateurs, also will be on the agenda of the MRA's seventh annual Restaurateur's Day gathering.

Others speakers at the day-long educational seminar will include David Wexler of Chicago, publisher of Institutions Magazine, discussing business efficiency in his speech "Oper-

ations Audit for the Future."

Ronald Plummer, senior vice-president, Mandabach & Simm Advertising Agency of New York, will encourage restaurateurs to "Merchandise Your Way to Success." Plummer, whose ad agency specializes in food service, is famous for his creative restaurant designs, concepts and menu development.

Don Greenaway of the Texas Restaurant Association and a graduate and later director of Michigan State University's School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management, will discuss "The Future of Restaurants and Energy."

He is a former executive vice-president of the National Restaurant Association.

Myron Osborn, general manager of Schweizer's North in Midland, will serve as moderator for the day, and Henry Montague, president of the MRA, will welcome an expected 200 guests.

A PANEL of industry consultants and restaurant operators will exchange views on restaurant design in the '80s, and Detroit Edison and Consumers Power Co. representatives will explain electric bills.

Registration for the seminar begins at 9 a.m. The program runs 9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. and will include lunch. Further information may be obtained by calling the MRA office in Southfield at 645-9770.



Located in the Mercantile Building, American Center, Southfield

We invite you to experience dining at its finest. Our menu is designed to satisfy your unique taste with the finest of foods. For exquisite dining in a gracious atmosphere, be our guest.

- Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres With Dinner.
- Soup & Salad Bar Included With Every Entree

**FOR RESERVATIONS AND EASY TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CALL 353-8144**

|                                             |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Dinner Hrs.: Tues. thru Sat. from 5:30 p.m. | Lunch: Mon. thru Sat. 11:30 to 3 p.m. |  |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

## Win a Super Food Processor

"With a Little Help From Your Friends."

Listen to WOMC FM104 for details.

Turn to **WOMC**  
"We Play Your Songs!"

METROMEDIA, INC.

# Energy Outlook:

# Returning to Normal.

The nation's longest coal strike has now become history and shipments of coal are returning to normal. For Detroit Edison customers this means you have all the electricity you need, but we hope you will continue to use it wisely.

Unlike many other states, Michigan was able to avoid mandatory power cutoffs through careful planning and the cooperation of business, government and consumers. By buying electricity from outside sources and by burning alternate fuels like natural

gas and oil, Detroit Edison was able to stretch its supply of coal and help avoid shutdowns and layoffs. Of course, this was more expensive and the costs will be reflected in higher electric bills for April, May and June. For the average customer using 500 kilowatt hours, this could amount to between \$2 and \$3 more than billed in March.

The recent crisis once again points out the need for energy consciousness on the part of everyone. So while coal is beginning to move again, Detroit

Edison would like to remind all its customers to use good judgment in their use of electricity. This especially holds true for major energy users like refrigerators, furnace blowers, air conditioners and electric clothes dryers. The more wisely these appliances are used, the more the savings in energy and money will count up.

Detroit Edison thanks you for your cooperation during the coal strike and reminds you to save where it really counts. The power is in your hands.

## Detroit Edison

Wheel Horse

**"Get a free dump cart... when you buy a new Wheel Horse tractor!"**

For example, Model C-81 Garden Tractor:

- 8 HP Kohler cast iron engine.
- 8-speed all-gear transaxle.
- Optional 36" rear or side discharge full floating mower available.

\$1395\*

\*Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Tractor only.

**Free Dump Cart Offer!** Get a free 5.5 cu. ft. two-wheel dump cart (\$130.00 value) with the purchase of any new lawn tractor or get a free 10 cu. ft. two-wheel dump cart (\$160.00 value) with the purchase of any new garden tractor.



Offer good until June 3, 1978 at participating Wheel Horse Sales, Inc. dealers.

|                                                                  |                                                   |                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Farmington<br>Andersons Vehicle Sales<br>34600 W. Eight Mile Rd. | Pontiac<br>Toms Hardware<br>905 Orchard Lake Ave. |                                                |
| Millard<br>Mr. Mower of Farmington<br>28859 Orchard Lake Rd.     | Pontiac<br>King Bros.<br>2391 Pontiac Rd.         | Millard<br>Bickford Home & Auto<br>405 N. Main |
| Southfield<br>Mr. Mower of Southfield<br>28879 Greenfield Rd.    |                                                   |                                                |

WHEEL HORSE  
Lawn & garden tractors