

# 'Oh, Cashablanca' has bright moments

(Continued from page 1D)

Last, but perhaps most hilarious, is Count Tuoutentle, a Frenchman of determinedly suspect character. John Brumley plays the soldier of misfortune, a former resistance fighter, first with affected dignity.

EVENTUALLY, HE begins camping it up with increasing extravagance; he smirks with laughter, sighs and sobs with operatic copiousness, as changeable in emotion as he is in allegiance and military position (from captain to admiral to general) He ends up as maître d' at the disreputable Cafe Continental, with a car parking concession on the side.

The 15 musical numbers cover a lot

of territory. There are: Spunky revue, old soft shoe, staccato recitative, campy cabaret, soppy romantic, slick jazz, bright '20s flapper, tango, '50s rock, and ballad in waltz time. The best numbers are a satiric alteration of "As Time Goes By" and a quite catchy tune called "Sham the Private Ear Man."

The songs are all derivative and, if less than memorable, are never tiresome or overly pretentious, but easy, brief and witty.

In addition to all this fun are a good many throwaway lines which you may find yourself remembering for a couple of days after the show. Unlike many original or world premiere works, this one is not a bomb, but it is a blast.

# New Polish movie offered on series

Five films will be offered by Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts in December, including a new movie from Poland, the classic "Wizard of Oz," and a double feature of both versions of "The Invasion of The Body Snatchers."

Tickets for all Detroit Film Theatre weekend movies are on sale at the art institute ticket office and, on an availability basis, at the door. All showings are in the museum's 1,200-seat auditorium theatre.

December's line-up includes:

• Saturday, Dec. 17 and 9:30 p.m. — "Rembrandt" (England, 1936 — Alexander Korda, director) Charles Laughton and wife Elsa Lanchester star, with a rare film appearance by Gertrude Lawrence, in this biography of one of the world's greatest painters.

• Friday, Dec. 7 and 9:30 p.m. — "A Woman's Decision" (Poland, 1977 — Krzysztof Zanussi, director) called "one of the year's 10 best" by critic Andrew Sarris — is this study of brink of middle-life crisis, acknowledged as this director's triumph.

• Saturday, Dec. 8, 7 and 9:30 p.m. — "The Wizard of Oz" (U.S.A., 1939 — Victor Fleming, Director) Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley and Frank Morgan set the scene for Margaret Hamilton's immortal "Wicked Witch of the West" portrayal in Technicolor.

• Friday, Dec. 14; 7 and 9:30 p.m. — "Hair" (U.S.A. 1979 — Milos Forman, director) Called "something of a miracle" by the New York Times is this film version of the Broadway play. Opening Night Selection of the 1979 Cannes Film Festival.

• Saturday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m. only — "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" (U.S.A. 1956/1978) Double Feature Now a part of American folklore is this story of the "pot people" and their plot to replace the earth's human population. Film critic Pauline Kael said "the new version) may be the best movie of its kind ever made."

Detroit Film Theatre will open its 18th season on Saturday, Feb. 2. Complete schedules will be available through the museum ticket office.



## Another chapter

Vincent Baggetta (left), Barbara Anderson and David Hedison head the cast in Neil Simon's comedy "Chapter Two," opening a five-week engagement at Detroit's Fisher Theatre on Tuesday, Dec. 4. The holiday attraction will run through Jan. 5. This is the 12th Simon play to be presented at the Fisher and is the third subscription play of the new season. The cast of four also stars Jane A. Johnston.



Other Things & Co. dancers (from left) Flora McIntyre of Rochester, Gary Mark of Detroit and Mari Winsor of Detroit will perform in "Whales and Other Things."

## Ensemble performing in children's production

"Whales and Other Tales," a collection of whimsical stories and vignettes, will be performed by the six professional members of Michigan's Other Things & Co. for Detroit Youththeatre's "Something Every Saturday" audience this weekend.

Two performances are planned, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium. Tickets may be purchased in advance through the museum ticket office (832-2730), or at the door.

Music, mime and movement will be combined by the ensemble to illustrate the tales in a contemporary style. "Whales and other Tales" is designed for families with young people 5 years of age and older. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 5 will not be admitted.

In addition to Youththeatre's professional performances, free, guided backstage tours are offered for young people 10 years of age.

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