

The show goes on after police confiscate porn films

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Sexually-explicit movies are being shown at the Cabaret Theater in Southfield despite the arrest of two theater employees and the confiscation of two

Police, the county prosecutor and the owner of the Eight-Beech shopping center all say they don't know who is running the business but are looking into it.

As part of a special introductory offer, the Cabaret Theater management offered free admission to X-rated movies from the date the show reopened, Nov. 28, through Dec. 4.

"NAKED CAME The Stranger" and "Barbara Broadcast" were advertised in the Detroit Free Press along with the free admission notice.

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Southfield Police didn't consider the money-saving offer a benefit to the community.

At 5:50 p.m. Monday, five officers from the Southfield Police department walked into the theater, located in the Eight-Beech shopping center, and arrested ticket-seller Karen Jackson, 22, of Detroit and Norman Wilson, 49, of Dearborn Heights who managed the theater.

Both were arraigned Tuesday before 46th District Judge Jessica Cooper on two misdemeanor charges of distributing obscene matter to a minor. Wilson and Ms. Jackson posted 10 percent of a \$1,000 bond at the time of their arrest and must return Wednesday for a preliminary exam in 46th District Court.

Conviction on the charge carries a maximum fine of two years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

According to Southfield Police, two 15-year-old boys from Redford Township were observed leaving the theater Thursday, Nov. 29. After securing "John Doe and Jane Doe" warrants from the Oakland County Prosecutor's office, officers moved in Monday to arrest the two subjects and confiscate two films.

About 40 theater patrons left without incident, said Sgt. John Hood, public information officer for Southfield Police. A projectionist, who was not arrested, locked the doors.

"It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop," said one officer at the theater when the arrests were made.

WITHIN HOURS the theater was back in business showing adult films.

The manager of the Eight-Beech shopping center, Charles Grenadier, said an unknown party is subleasing the movie house from the lessor of record, Edward Shumate, of Westland. Grenadier said he asked Shumate who he sub-

let the theater to, and was told that he didn't know the man's name.

"Shumate acted dumbfounded," said Grenadier. "But I don't believe it."

Police said they doubt Shumate's story that he doesn't know who's subleasing the theater from him.

"I find it hard to believe this Shumate would end up in a lease with someone who's keeping his name," said one law enforcement official.

"Was there no signed contract, no remuneration by a check with a name on it?"

The landlord, Grenadier, wants the adult movies out of his shopping center.

Shumate, who also owns the South Lyon and Northwest theaters, could not be reached for comment.

In 1973 Southfield Police stopped the New South Cinema Ltd. from showing "Deep Throat" at the theater, then known as the "Playhouse Theater." The previous owners dropped a lawsuit against the city alleging violation of First Amendment rights.

"Deep Throat" was only shown for two days in January 1973 at the shopping center, according to the landlord.

Owners of nearby businesses report that the free admission policy made it hard for their customers to find a parking space. Howard Malley, co-owner of Aladdin Drugs, said an employee complained of receiving sexual harassment by movie-goers making overtures to her.

"(She) had four guys in line asking her to go to the show with them," Malley explained to his partner, Dave Moss.

"I'm quite upset that the nature of the shopping center is changing," Moss said. "I don't approve of the change the theater has done. I own a theater myself. I didn't have particular success with it but I didn't sell out to something like this."

A MIDDLE-AGED man who identified himself only as the manager of the theater responded to the other tenants'

charges Monday by saying "We're not hurting their business."

The theater manager was asked if he thought theater patrons were bothering the woman behind the counter at the drugstore.

"That's the nature of the male of the species," he answered. "I don't care what theater you stand in front of."

Upon further questioning, the man said "At the present time we have no statement to make. Quote me and I'll deny ever saying it."

The manager refused to say who he was working for or how they could be contacted. Later that day, police made the arrests.

Further police action is expected.

"We do intend to pursue the matter further," said Assistant Prosecutor Richard Thompson, explaining that Southfield Police are in charge of the investigation.

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