

# Fun abounds at dinner theater

The Somerset Dinner Theatre production of the comedy "How the Other Half Loves" begins with a buffet dinner from Alfred's — at 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays — and luncheon — at noon Wednesdays. The play will be performed through May 15 in the lower-level auditorium of Somerset Mall, Troy. For reservations, call 643-8865.

By Margo Parker  
special writer

"How the Other Half Loves" is a rip-roaring good time, with strong characterizations and intelligent direction, both of which make up at least in

## review

part for the unoriginal fare that is the dinner part of Somerset Dinner Theatre's current effort.

A fling between two married lovers sets this Alan Ayckbourn play spinning. Their respective spouses are quickly sucked into the maelstrom, along with the couple they use as a cover-up for their late-night peccadillo.

Two living rooms exist on a single set, two dinner parties take place si-

multaneously on two different nights and three marriages are headed for the rocks before Act One is over.

Director Arthur Beer establishes a snappy pace that still takes time to spell out the nuance of each line. We get the laughs and we see the tenderness that is necessary between all the couples if we are to believe in their ultimate reconciliations.

WHILE EVERYONE in the east does a super job, top honors go to Gregg Zellen as a hyperactive apple polisher and Mary Whiting as his moony wife. They're hilariously in character from their first entrance and their timing is uncanny.

Dave Bokas as the philandering husband and Joanne Roth-Bokas as his un-reconstructed flower child of a wife are equally consistent. He creates just the right mix of sarcasm, thoughtless-

ness and good humor. She is definitely the square peg in the round hole of his junior executive life.

Howard Egan as Bokas and Zellen's affably daffy boss is a living example of the Peter Principle, compounding the confusion whenever he opens his mouth. His unfaithful wife spends most of the play trying to smooth things over, and it is only in this that actress Elaine Boike falls short. She looks and sounds right, but isn't quite phony enough.

Dinner theater has never had a reputation for providing an outstanding culinary experience and the meal at Somerset doesn't contradict that generalization. But the prospect of a cold night's entertainment all under one roof meant a sellout crowd on one recent Saturday and the quality of the entertainment alone should keep the crowds coming.



Hollywood's top stars will vie for Best Actor and Best Actress Awards to be announced on the 54th Annual Academy Awards Presentation aired live beginning at 9 tonight on ABC-TV.

the movies  
**Louise Snider**

## Oscar winners may include two from around home

There just might be an Oscar on a Birmingham mantle after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announces its awards tonight.

Birmingham resident Kurt Luedtke, former editor of the Detroit Free Press, has been nominated in the Best Original Screenplay category for "Absence of Malice." The script is up against some tough competition — "Arthur," "Atlantic City," "Chariots of Fire" and "Reds" — but what an honor for Luedtke to be nominated, especially for his first screenplay.

A former Birmingham resident, Susanne Simpson, also has distinguished herself in filmland's top competition. Her documentary "Eight Minutes to Midnight" is in contention for Best Documentary Feature.

The 4,000-member academy will reveal its choices this evening. Just for fun, we'll go out on a limb now. Here is a list of the nominations in the major categories and our picks to win Oscars.

**BEST PICTURE.** "Atlantic City," an aging, small-time hood and a struggling young woman live out some of their dreams in this changing city where old hotels are razed for new casinos.

"Chariots of Fire," biographical account of two British runners who participated in the 1924 Paris Olympics. One ran to please God, one to prove himself.

"On Golden Pond," an older couple returns to their summer home. They confront the infirmities and frustrations of age while going through the rituals of settling in for another season at the lake.

"Raiders of the Lost Ark," the adventures of a globe-trotting archaeologist who escapes from one danger after another while attempting to recover an artifact of awesome powers.

"Reds," biography focuses on journalist John Reed, his love affair with unconventional Louise Bryant and his involvement with American communism and the Russian Revolution.

Our choice: "Reds."

**BEST ACTOR.** Warren Beatty, the writer and agitator in "Reds." Henry Fonda, the sarcastic and archetypal husband in "On Golden Pond." Burt Lancaster, the old-time gangster with fond memories of "Atlantic City." Dudley Moore, the rich and happy drunk of "Arthur." Paul Newman, the innocent victim of press and police harassment in "Absence of Malice."

Our choice: Henry Fonda.

**BEST ACTRESS.** Katharine Hepburn, the loving, scolding and sensible wife in "On Golden Pond." Diane Keaton, the Bohemian journalist in "Reds." Marsha Mason, the mother reconciled with her sick daughter in "Only When I Laugh." Susan Sarandon, the fledgling card dealer in "Atlantic City." Meryl Streep, the mysterious woman in "French Lieutenant's Woman."

Our choice: Meryl Streep.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR.** James Coco, "Only When I Laugh." John Gielgud, "Arthur." Ian Holm, "Chariots of Fire." Jack Nicholson, "Ragtime." Howard E. Rollins Jr., "Ragtime."

Our choice: John Gielgud.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS.** Melinda Dillon, "Absence of Malice." Jane Fonda, "On Golden Pond." Joan Hackett, "Only When I Laugh." Elizabeth McGovern, "Ragtime." Maureen Stapleton, "Reds."

Our choice: Maureen Stapleton.

**BEST DIRECTOR.** Warren Beatty, "Reds." Hugh Hudson, "Chariots of Fire." Louis Malle, "Atlantic City." Mark Rydell, "On Golden Pond." Stephen Spielberg, "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

Our choice: Warren Beatty.



"Reds," starring Diane Keaton and Warren Beatty, is one of the nominees for Best Picture. The epic film on the Russian Revolution also was directed by Beatty.

## Buddy's Pizza hosting benefit

Buddy's Pizzeria is asking customers to "Eat So That Others May," at a benefit being held today for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

Patrons at the new Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills, as well as other Buddy's locations, may buy a ticket for \$8, good for all the Italian salad and pizza they can eat at one sitting.

The new Buddy's at 31646 Northwestern Highway is, open today from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Deep-dish pizza was introduced to Detroit at Buddy's original location, still at 17125 Conant and Six Mile.

This is the fifth year for the annual benefit, which has so far raised more than \$50,000 to feed Detroit's needy.

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