A secret room

Jerry Snider and Jeanine Head argue over blueprints that reveal a secret room in the Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood mystery-comedy "The Bat." Performances continue at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through Nov. 13 and on Thursdays, Nov. 4 and 11, at the Henry Ford Museum Theater at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Tickets are $4.75. A dinner-theater program is offered, featuring dinner at Heritage Hall and the play for $16.50. Reservations are required for the dinner theater.

table talk

BENNIGAN'S Tavern is encouraging Halloween celebrants to "Get Bewitched at Bennigan's" in Bloomfield Hills.

On the evenings of Oct. 28-30 and at Sunday brunch Oct. 31, the Halloween Houdini will entertain with magic tricks. Wooden nickels used in the tricks may be exchanged for prizes including baseball caps and jerseys, playing cards and bar glasses.

Revelers may come in costume if they wish.

MASTER Chef Duglass Duglass will teach a series of cooking classes, "Club de Culinar," for four Wednesdays beginning this week at Northland Center in Southfield.

The seminars from 6:30-8:30 p.m. will concentrate on dishes for buffets and parties from large to small. Final seminar will be dinner at the chef's Restaurant Duglass in Southfield.

Each seminar costs $25 and the entire series including recipes is $85. For reservations call 569-6272.

OCTOBER is Michigan Restaurant Hospitality Month, proclaimed by Gov. William Milliken.

The governor issued a proclamation accepted by Richard E. Cregar, chairman of the Michigan Restaurant Association. Cregar is president of Le Gourmet, a catering service in Troy.

A NEW England Bake on Wednesday nights and a Gourmet Dinner-for-Two on Saturdays are newly added features at the Main Street Seafood Bar & Grill in Rochester.

These promotions were dreamed up by Michael Russell, who became corporate chef for the Schmid Haus and Cos. this summer. Russell also has instituted an "all you can eat" fresh-fish buffet, with 16 varieties of fish, for a Friday Night Fish Fest, and the Gourmet Dinner-for-Two on Saturdays at the Schmid Haus in Warren.

Menu for the seven-course gourmet dinner changes each week. Appetizer, soup, fish course, salad, entrees, dessert and beverage are included, with a choice of one from several offerings in each area except for a single item on the fish course (which still varies each week). The dinner is $19.95 for two.

TWEENY'S Cafe, which changes its menu each season, is now into fall with seafood tortelli and stuffed shoulder of lamb among entrees for the prix fixe dinner. New a la carte offerings include lobster strudel and sirloin steak with oysters.

The Birmingham cafe also has added a late-night "happy hour," from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. After-dinner drinks and cordials are two-for-one during that time.

Restaurant proprietor Yvonne Gill also has some special events this month at her Birmingham food shop, Magasin de Cuisine. A pumpkin-carving contest for kids under age 12 is set for Sunday. Brownies and giant cookies are the prizes. Call 540-4420 for details.

A Pumpkin Festival for Grown-Ups is planned for Oct. 31, with pumpkin treats — including pie, soup and tortellini — at special prices.

"DINNER for Two" is being offered at several Machus restaurants from 4 p.m. daily and all-day Sunday. The dinner at $16.95 is said to be a $23 value.

Entree choices are Oriental Boneless Breast of Chicken, Baked Fresh Boston Scrod Monterey or Broiled Steak on a Stick. Dinner also offers a glass of house wine, soup, Machus' salad service, potato or vegetable and bread pudding or rice pudding for dessert.

Machus restaurants participating are 160 W. Maple in Birmingham, Foxys of Troy, Foxys in Great Oaks Mall in Rochester and Foxys at the Mill in Clarkston.

Theater offers 'Private Lives'

A dinner-theater presentation of Noel Coward's comedy "Private Lives" will be given by Alpha Omega Repertory Theatre at 8 p.m. Wednesday in H-Building at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

The play focuses on a couple who were married, are now divorced and coincidentally meet again while honeymooning with their respective new spouses.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for entertainment and the buffet-style dinner are $13 per person, $11 for senior citizens and $9 for OCC students.

For reservations or more information, call the Orchard Ridge Office of Student Activities at 476-9400, ext. 500 or 501.

'Jim Thorpe' salutes Scouts

theater

Detroit Youtheatre will salute area Cub and Boys Scouts with a live, musical presentation "Jim Thorpe All American" at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Oct. 30 in the museum auditorium at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Tickets at $2.50 each for children and adults ($1.75 each in groups of 10 or more) may be purchased at the museum's ticket office and at the door.

"Jim Thorpe," a fully staged production of New York's Performing Arts Repertory Theatre, follows the life of the national hero from his childhood on an American Indian reservation through his trials and ultimate triumph as Gold Medal winner at the 1912 Olympic Games.

Each season Youtheatre honors the goals and activities of young people's service groups and community organizations by designating several presentations as Salute Days. Troop leaders wishing to participate may call 832-2730 for information.

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