



Laura del Sol (right) plays the title role in "Carmen," a movie about a dancer who plays Carmen in a dance version of the operatic classic. Cristiana Hoyos is Cristina, another dancer, who has a rivalry with the star.



the movies

**Dan Greenberg**

## Passions mount as dancers relive the 'Carmen' story

"Carmen," which opened Friday at the Maple Theatre in Bloomfield Township, is at least the 20th film based on Bizet's opera and Prosper Merimee's novel of passion, jealousy and intrigue.

Even if you've seen all the previous film "Carmens" and some at the Met too, you're in for a visual, musical and dramatically choreographed treat in Carlos Saura's latest version.

That noted Spanish director garnered an Oscar nomination for "Carmen" as Best Foreign Film. Working closely with friends and previous collaborators, Spanish dancer-ballet master Antonio Gades and producer Emiliano Piedra, Saura has created an intense, gripping motion picture. The film's visual impact lingers as you reflect on the ambiguity of human experience and the shifting borders between theatrical performance and daily life.

But you don't have to be an opera or dance buff, or even interested in the psychology of human experience, to enjoy "Carmen." The film is so well photographed and so attractively staged that it is quite easy to sit back and enjoy the sensuous appeal of song and dance, particularly dance.

"CARMEN" IS A FILM about the rehearsals for "Carmen" staged as a dance performance rather than an opera. Excellent, but brief, operatic performances by noted singers Regina Resnik and Mario Del Monaco are classic presentations presented as voice-over background to the choreography.

Antonio Gades is Antonio, director/choreographer/lead dancer/male lead of "Carmen," the film, and "Carmen," the dance performance within the film. As such, he shifts from director to participant, often with subtle, barely perceptible movements.

As the film opens, Antonio is searching for a dancer with the smoldering sensuality that epitomizes Carmen. "A woman, like a stray cat, who comes when you don't call her." That fictional film-story activity was paralleled by Saura's and Gades' search for a dancer-actress to play Carmen.

They chose a 21-year-old classical Spanish dancer, Laura del Sol, who had danced for six years with her parents' company. Her dark, Spanish beauty — particularly her eyes — her intense, accomplished dancing and her excellent camera presence project del Sol in a polished performance far beyond what one would expect for her first film.

The leading lady chosen, rehearsals begin with intensity and rigor. Just as the search for the film character, Carmen, was similar to the actual search for del Sol, Antonio as Carmen (the characters) begin to live the Carmen story of passion and treachery off the rehearsal stage as well as on.

THE "CARMEN" rehearsals are staged in a large, mirrored ball. Deep-focus photography uses this mirrored wall to show us the reflections as well as the dancers themselves. These mirror images emphasize ambiguity as the roles of performers and participants shift. Similarly, visual details in extreme close-ups impress upon us the fragmentation of human experience.

Perhaps one sign of excellence is the ability to retell old stories with fresh, new perspectives that engage the eyes and minds of contemporary audiences.

"Carmen" has that fresh view as well as a passionate commitment to life and to performance. Carlos Saura has smoothly intermingled these elements in a visually and aurally rewarding film.

## what's at the movies

**ANGEL (R).** Do you care what drives a 14-year-old all-"A" student to nighttime prostitution?

**BLAME IT ON RIO (R).** Michael Caine in comedy romance about a middle-aged man and his best friend's daughter.

**CARMEN (R).** Beautifully choreographed modern version of the opera. A very mild "R."

**THE DRESSER (PG).** Life and relationships behind the scenes of a touring stage company.

**FOOTLOOSE (PG).** Energetic dance numbers wasted in this mish-mash of musical comedy and human drama.

**LASSITER (R).** Tom Selleck as international jewel thief working for Scotland Yard.

**REUBEN, REUBEN (R).** Alcoholic poet modeled after Dylan Thomas or Brendan Behan played by Tom Conti.

**TENDER MERCIES (PG).** Robert Duvall in excellent character study of down-and-out country music star.

**TERMS OF ENDEARMENT (PG).** Shirley MacLaine and Debra Winger are still jerking legs in mother-daughter relationship.

**UNFAITHFULLY YOURS (R).** Funny, entertaining romantic comedy with Dudley Moore and Nastassja Kinski.

**VERTIGO (PG).** Classic Hitchcock thriller with James Stewart and Kim Novak.

**ZELIG (PG).** Excellent film, a cleverly done statement about conformity in America, with Woody Allen and Mia Farrow.

### MOVIE RATING GUIDE

- G General audiences admitted.  
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.  
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.  
X No one under 18 admitted.

## table talk

### New entrance

A special loaf of braided bread, from the Machus bakery, was cut (instead of the usual ribbon-cutting) at a celebration Wednesday marking the new outside entrance to Foxy's of Troy. The loaf, long enough for four men to hold, was cut by Harris Machus, owner of the Machus Restaurants and Pastry Shops headquartered in Birmingham. Foxy's of Troy formerly was reached by going only through the building's main entrance, at the front or back, in the Sheffield Office Plaza. Now the restaurant also can be entered directly from the front parking lot, as well as through the other entrances. The new entrance leads into a large foyer for Foxy's. An all-day menu features salads, sandwiches, burgers, pasta and crepes and quiches, plus other entrees. Among dinner selections, served after 5 p.m., is a moist, delicious Baked Boston Scrod Monterey (\$8.95), covered with bread crumbs and Monterey Jack cheese.

### Now Pine Hills

The restaurant and lounge formerly known as the Honey Tree, at 28890 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, has a new owner and name. Mark Golematz' restaurant will be known as Pine Hills. Greek food specialties, along with American, are still being served. The menu features a dozen house specialties ranging from a single order of souvlaki at \$2.95 (double order, \$4.50) to lamb chops at \$9.50. A tasty combination plate offers spinach pie, lamb or shish kabob, rice pilaf and grape leaves. There are a half-dozen Italian veal specialties priced from \$6.75-\$7. Among international specialties are steak Diane at \$6.50 and filet mignon at \$8.50. Entertainment is provided by cocktail pianist Alan Singleton, who is happy to sing and play your favorite songs. For more information phone 851-1310.

### Olympic training

Dan Hugelier, new chef for the Win Schuler's restaurant group, is in training for the 1984 "Culinary Olympics," of which he is a team member. Hugelier, who also participated in the 1980 international competition for top chefs, has been preparing glorious new dishes, which are ever-changing and served daily at Schuler's in West Bloomfield. Hugelier is the executive chef for all the Schuler's restaurants but works out of the West Bloomfield restaurant. "This will be his home base. This will be our chef's training ground," said Dwight Newell, general manager for all the Schuler's restaurants, who also is based at Schuler's in West Bloomfield. Hugelier had been chef at the Detroit Athletic Club for the last 10 years. A new menu he's preparing for Schuler's should be ready in two or three weeks, Newell said. Entertainment at the West Bloomfield spot is provided by Charles Rowland at the piano Wednesdays-Saturdays.

### Cafe Pastels

Formerly a Maple House, the new Cafe Pastels at Maple and Coolidge in Troy puts the emphasis on the lighter trend in eating. "We're big on pastas. Salads — we're big on those, too. Chicken. We're high on the food that's good for you," said Assistant Manager Linda Catenacci. At breakfast, there are "exotic drinks" made with fruit juices. There's also a nonalcoholic apple cider drink called Charnay. This is the second Maple House, in Bruce Cameron's restaurant group, to make a switch. Confetti's in West Bloomfield also once was a Maple House.

### On Main Street

A bevy of new restaurants is scheduled to open in early March as part of the first phase of development in the newly updated Tel-Twelve Mall at Telegraph and Twelve Mile roads in

Southfield. Called Restaurants on Main Street, in the mall's north wing, there will be the Rikshaw, Little Cafe, John Laffrey's, Kluck Kluck's, Roman Terrace's Pastabilities, Gardens of the World, Kosch's Deli, Al-Saha, the Mediterranean Gourmet, the Big Chili, the Potato Works and Soup's On. Restaurants will have pastel storefronts and a turn-of-the-century decor and will share a common eating area in a park-like setting.

### Service awards

Donald Payne of the Family Buggy Restaurants Inc. in Farmington Hills received a Distinguished Service Award at the Michigan Restaurant Association meeting held recently in Troy. The newest Family Buggy restaurant is in Rochester. There's also the Buggy Works in Farmington Hills and a Family Buggy Restaurant in

Detroit. Payne, who has been an MRA member since 1968, was honored for his work on numerous committees, for serving as MRA officers including chairman and for chairing the Michigan & Great Lakes Food Service Show at Cobo Hall for two years.

### 'La Dolce Vita'

An Italian dinner for two, called "La Dolce Vita" (the good life), is being served at Ciro's Italian Restaurant, 1535 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. For \$12.95 per person, it includes a glass of chianti or valpolicella wine, antipasto, minestrone soup, choice of four pasta or three veal entrees, cannoli or spumoni for dessert and espresso. Reservations for the dinner, which runs through March, may be made by calling 861-3440.

— Ethel Simmons



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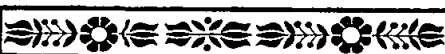
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