

ੋ the movies √ Dan : Greenberg

Bizet's 'Carmen' is a feast for eyes as well as for ears

"Carmen" is beautiful!
The opera, the film, the character, the actress — all beautiful to see and hear. In fact "Bizet" Carmen," directed by Francesco Rosi, is one of the most rewarding visual experiences you will ever

have.

That's pretty ironic since one usually talks about listening to opera, but 19th-century grand opera is a visual as well as aural spectacle of the first order. It is much to Rosi's credit, and the credit of the entire crew, that this film is such a marvelous display is all regards.

create of the entire crew, that this finite is soon a marvenous unpiesy in all regards. Another one of life's incises: Bizet died three months after the disastrous premiere of "Carmen" in 1875. Today his work is the most popular of operas and some 25 to 30 films have been based on

IL.

Last year Carlos Saura's dance version was a hit in Detroit with
Antonio Gaden as lead dancer and choreographer. Gades also
choreographe Rosis's "Carmen" Jean-Luc Godard's "Carmen" is
opening in New York (with most of the music by Beethoven) but it
is another "Carmen."

Is another "Carmen."

THE STORY IS a simple one with all the best ingredients: love, passion, jealousy, freedom, self-restraint, crime, smugglers and murder. Carmen, the free-spirited and felisty gropy, attracts and discards men with an insouchant, happy air.

Den Jose, a soldier, deserts his post because of her and in spite of the love of Micaela. Excamillo, the toreador, also loves Carmen. When she leaves Don Jose for Excamillo, tragedy ensues.

Rost filmed his "Carmen" in Seville, Carmona and Rooda, Spain, which in itself is unusual for opera lima. So often the fixed spectator/camera position of opera in a theater or sound stage doesn't excause film is so realistic and opera is highly synthetic, and the distort of the stage of the st

ry told and the music sung.

IN THIS WAY, the proper balance between synthetic conventions of oper and the super-realism of film is achieved. Generally the movements of the camera are very limited and slow, but that is all right considering the scenes chosen are absolutely gergeous. The caves of Ronda and the surrounding countryside have lush, endies wistas with a romantic depth of focus that leads the eye deep in the picture and captures the imagination.

The temperarity restored-to-19th-century Swell is, by contrast, marsh, lead and sun-back. But even those images, particularly in the bulling, are softened by dust stirred by borse and bull knowes. The temperarity restored-to-19th-century Swell Compings is a superb Don does not suppose the surrounding as a superb Don does not read to the open is a femiline tour de force as Rosgree-Tolmon to the contrast of the open is a femiline tour de force as Rosgree-Johnson is tovely and sensuous in her singing, actional distributions of the contrast of

ole.

Faith Esham compliments Carmen's abandon with her forbearance and restraint as Micaela. She is lovely, controlled, spiritual,
yet a woman in more ways than Carmen.

THE CHORUS, the tobacco factory girls, and Carmen's partners's nerime — Mercodes (Susan Daniel) and Frasquita (Lilian
Watson) — are also extremely feminine — so much so as to cast
the opera in a different light. Minimized is the masculine aspect of
the bullring, even though that spectacle is there in good measure.
This version creates a very graceful presentation of love and tragcoy.

upcoming things to do

ORIGINAL WORK

Adjustments, "an original work by Oakland University adminis-rator Robert L. Douglas, continues at 8:15 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 2-3, at Varner Recital Hall on campus near Rochester. The work is a highlight of the Black Awareness celebration at the uni-versity. Tickets to the public are \$5, with student admission \$1. For more information, call 370-3262 or 370-3208.

MUSIC MACHINE

Viewers are invited to be part of the audience and find out if undefeated champion Gerry Woo, 17, of Troy holds onto his title when WDIV-Yr, Channel 4, tapes three more "Saturday Night Mu-sic Machine" shows at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, at LaNotte's, 34214 Groesbeck, Fraser. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The usual cover charge is being waived for the taping.

AT NICKY'S
 The Loving Cup performs for listening and dancing Tuesdays-Saturdays through Feb. 23 at Nicky's in the Annex of the Top of Troy building.

● PLAYING HURLEY'S
Chateau performs Top 40 sounds from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Fridays-Saturdays through
Feb. 16 at Hurley's in the Northfield Hilton Hetel in Troy.

• ESCAPE ARTIGT
The Great Viano, escape artist, will entertain in shows at 1 and 6:30 pm. Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 5:7, at Oakiand Mail in Troy. He will free himself from ropes, chains, handcuffs, a straight jacket and a guilloide, ne escape from the Chinese Water of the property of the control of the property of th

CABARET SERIES

A cabaret revue of Cole Porter continues at 8 p.m. FridaysA cabaret revue of Cole Porter continues at 8 p.m. FridaysSaturdays through Feb. 23, as part of a cabaret series to be presented at Henry Ford Centennial Library in Decarborn. The series
is offered by Dearborn's Recreation Department Fine Arts Diviston. Birmingham resident Pamela Cleeland is among the cast
members for the Cole Porter revue. The series is produced by
Larime Promotions Inc., of Birmingham, under the direction of
Cleeland and musical directors David Wilson and Dino Valle. Second show in the series will be an evening of opera highlights,
March 1-2, and the life and songs of Gerahwin, March 8-30. Tickets
for individual shows are 48, 45 for students and seniors. For reservations, call 943-2354.

Trends include just 'red wine'

Let's review some recent trends in the affairs of the world of wines. What are some of the more notable tendencies that will have the greatest effect on us, the consumer? Here are some that come readily to my mind.

The use of generic terms such as burgundy, chablis and rhine is rapidly decreasing. Especially at the higher quality level, terms such as red wine, just that simple, are becoming more common. This suggests that wimemakers feel that it is no longer necessary to emulate the wines of Europe to espouse quality. This evolution has occurred in the last three or four years, truly an astonishing pace.

asionising pace.

Paralleling this is the greater use of premium varietals in jug wines. Small and large juga of cabernet sauvignon, zinfandel and colombard are increasingly common on the shelves, both at Kroger's and the classy wine shoppe down the street. Sebastiani Vincyards started this trend toward the end of the 70s. It is now accepted practice.

70s. It is now accepted practice.

The tremendous upourge in the demand, and supply, for sparking wines must be noted. While see that the wines, both domestic and sultrained wines, both domestic and sultrained was a second to be supported by the second to the sultrained was selectedly, especially the excellent and modestly priced Spanish wines, and the California market is taking off with increased produced by established sparkling produces, and new wineries are also invading the field. Walk in or Appointment. Wharlood, Saunas Showers. Oriental Stath. Muncle Pressure Massage. Private Rooms for Men and Women.

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FRENCH WINE sales, both of true champagne and their less noble coun-terparts, have never been stronger. Sparkling wines are, it would seem, no longer for holidays and celebrations

alone.

Trends being the flexible things they are, it is never prudent to announce the "death" of a grape. But sales and production of two from California are ex-

'death' of a grape. But sales and production of two from California are extremely tough now. And they have been for some time.

While German wine sales remain strong, the equivalent from California, ricalling, does not. The latter has nover truly established a set style, and consumers seem to go with the predictable quality of German wines and eschew the sometimes-dry, sometimes-aweet California products.

Use of the zinfandel grape to make red wine is the other near-oblt story. There are some notable exceptions to this trend but, in general, consumption of this once highly esteemed grape is way down. Perhaps because wheemsters did too many different things with it during the '70s, consumers are now wary.

Its variability and its adoptability.

it during the '70s, consumers are now wary,
Its variability and its adaptability,
Its variability and its adaptability,
or some its charm, may now be its listbility. Zinfandel has been nur-tended as a port, a late harvest, a fresh berry-like
wine, a near-cabernet, and more. Now
it is not marketed well at it.

The flip side, however, is the dramatits turn zinfandel has taken in beling
produced as a white wine. We have
nearly a score of zinfandels available



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Richard

to us locally. Reports indicate that more than 50 wineries produce it, some of them in huge quantities.

Watson

EVEN SEBASTIANI is marketing infrandel in 1.5-liter jugs. This trend has kept many sinfandel vines in the ground and producing that otherwise would have been torn out, awaiting a better day when they can be used to make the good red wine of which they are capable.

California cabernet sauvignon is no longer being vinified as the heavy, brutal monster it once was. Wine makers are endeavoring to develop wines closer to the eloquence of the best of the bordeaux where. This way they win fewer competitive taste-offs by sheer power; now they will attempt to do so

with class and complexity.

French burgundy wines continue to be expensive as they always have been, but their style is increasingly light. Veteran imbibers of this most marvel-ours red are saddened by the continuing irend toward ready-to-drink-upon-release wines that tack the depth and richness of the Burgundians of the 469 and before.

Sauvignon blanc continues, under its various names, to do well in the mark-etplace as well, as the glass as an alternative to chardonnay. More available than ever, the selection in wine stores is buge, the price range modest to decent. Interestingly, while bordeaux interest has not developed in the same way.

Whalliv while the orders in general

terest has not developed in the same way.

Finally, while the prices in general of European wines have dropped soundly (due to the present strong doliar). Callfornia prices have at least stabilized in the last year or two. The cap, however, may have come too late, allowing many Americans to once again return to imported wines as their choice. One can hardly blame them; the parallels to the automobile market are very close.



For the third year, Kingsley Ion of Bloomfield Hills is declaring February "LET'S GET ACQUAINTED MONTH." Your dinner club card - no matter what name or origin - will be honored for full use in our restaurant at dinner only Sundays through Thursdays in February - The card will not be punched or otherwise devalued.

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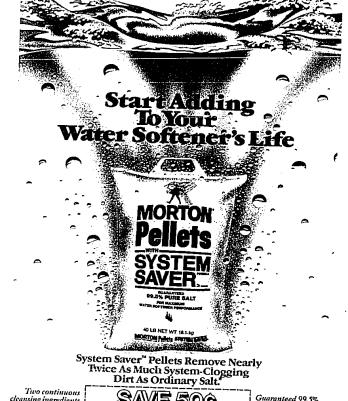
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