

'Dracula' — campy style

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are bumbling stooges. At every crisis they run off in opposite directions to defend Mina but always manage to leave her vulnerable. "The hero" (Lawrence Overmire), endowed with a chiseled profile and good guy good looks, can't cope when his "demure" fiancée turns into a steaming seductress as the Count's power over her grows.

Dr. Seward (Richard Easley), Mina's father, runs a clinic for the insane and deals better with ravaging patients on the loose than with his own daughter's metamorphosis. Paul Hopper as inmate Renfield descends upon the asylum wards and descend upon the company.

There he snatches flies in mid-

air and eats them with a quivering, sensual pleasure that's as hilarious as it is disgusting. His is a masterful performance in the cameo crazy role.

Joseph Reed plays Seward's friend, Dr. Heinrich Van Helsing, a vampire specialist. With an exaggerated Germanic accent, Herr Doctor prescribes crucifixes, wildflowers and garlic cloves to protect them from the vampire's power. Susan Puvall as Nurse Hennessey rounds out the fine supporting cast.

FINALLY, SARA McCord Williams as Mina camps up her role with luscious, feline body language. Organ music plays her theme to announce her entrances. She appears at the top of the staircase and descends with all eyes on her.

Wearing a clinging, white satin nightgown cut so low that the neckline of her gown adds tantalizing suspense to the mysteries of the plot, she plays both innocent and vamp rolled into one attractive package.

A baronial old house — a staple for English mysteries — also serves as Dr. Arthur Seward's clinic for the insane. Set designer Peter Hicks, always in his element with spacious, high-ceilinged rooms, creates a worthy baronial mansion with a black stone fireplace and arched wooden door.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writing classes and works as a freelance writer.

table talk

Spa Brunch

A Spa Brunch is being offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays at Bouquets restaurant at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Town Center in Southfield. The Sunday brunch menu features entrees and desserts with the health conscious in mind. The menu also provides complete nutritional information including calorie, fat, cholesterol, sodium and carbohydrate contents.

Fresh fruit and muffins are available from the buffet. A selection of entrees, which changes each week, may be ordered from the menu, as well as desserts. On a recent Sunday, entrees included Sesame Chicken, Gazpacho Linguine, Potato Omelet, Gingerbread Waffles, Citrus Grilled Swordfish and Grilled Pork Chops. For dessert there was a choice of Old Fashioned Marble Cake, Glazed Apple Cakes or Raspberry Sorbet.

Through May 27, order one brunch and the second is free. For reservations or more information call Bouquets at 827-4143.

Tastefest

Forty Michigan restaurants, wineries and breweries will sell "tastes" of their specialties Memorial Day Weekend at the 1990 Michigan Tastefest at New Center (West Grand Boulevard between Woodward Avenue and the Lodge Freeway) in Detroit.

Free entertainment will be offered all weekend on three outdoor stages. Attractions include the Spinners, Mitch Ryder, the Association, the Chenille Sisters, the Larados, a Family Fest with a Children's Stage, the Peanut Butter Players, "1-2-3 for Kids" by the Chenille Sisters; a Michigan Marketplace, and celebrity chefs and cooking demonstrations.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Sunday, May 25-27, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 28. Admission is free, and free parking is offered all weekend beginning at 6 p.m. Friday.

The tastefest also is seeking volunteers, who will receive a special Tastefest T-shirt. For more information about volunteering, call Betty Ingraham at 872-4311.

Dinner series

Several dinner series are being offered on the Las Gruber Food and Wine Subscription Series at the London Chop House in Detroit. The International Series begins Thursday, May 17, with a dinner highlighting "The Far East." The American Series, which began in April, continues Thursday, May 31, with "California, New Orleans and the Heartland." The New London Chop House Series, which also began in April, continues Thursday, June 14, with "The Other White Wines."

'Odd Couple' is amusing

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ply doesn't work as well with women as it does with men. A woman who likes to clean and cook isn't funny. As a complete slob (one who holds sandwiches under her arm and serves year-old potato chips) a woman isn't believable. Given the fact that they are forced to play what are essentially male roles, Treadwell and De Wolfe are fairly convincing.

Based on memories of Walter

Mathau and Jack Lemmon, or Jack Klugman and Tony Randall, one might easily forget that "The Odd Couple" is not a two-person show. In fact, there is a very active supporting cast of six. Happily, this group is terrific. Judie Rosati, Martha Tabacco, Kerri Langen and Laurie Pokowski play the Trivial Pursuit pals. They range from hard-boiled and street-wise to astonishingly naive. All four succeed in giving their characters special flair.

Biggest treats of the show are John Stokes and Frank Marcus as Manolo and Jesus Costazuela. They are terribly funny and charming, playing the upstairs neighbors who don't speak much English and know even less about American culture. More importantly, they manage to pull it off without falling into offensive ethnic stereotypes.

The set, done in a striking combination of blacks, whites and reds, serves the show well.

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