

STREET SENSE

DETROIT FILM THEATRE
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 832-2730 for information. (\$5)
"La Discrete" (France — 1991), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Oct. 9-10; 4 and 7 p.m. Oct. 11. When an aspiring young author is abandoned by a new love, he vows revenge against all females by seducing a woman chosen at random and keeping a diary of the affair. His publisher hopes that the memoirs will be marketably erotic.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LIBRARY
13650 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2330 for information. (Free)
"Pygmalion" (Britain — 1938), 7 p.m. Oct. 5. In the first film adaptation of the George Bernard Shaw play, a phonetics expert (Leahtie Howard) accepts the seemingly impossible challenge of turning a Cockney flower girl (Wendy Hiller) into an aristocratic gentlewoman.

MAPLE THEATRE
4135 West Maple, Bloomfield Hills. Call 855-9090 for show times. (\$5.75 evening; \$2.95 twilight)
"Blade Runner" (USA — 1982). The re-released director's cut of Ridley Scott's influential sci-fi film stars Harrison Ford as a futuristic policeman on the trail of runaway robots. The irritating voice-over narration is gone and the ending has been changed to the bleaker one that Scott intended.

"Bob Roberts" (USA — 1992). Tim Robbins wrote and directed this stinging mock-documentary look at a folk singer vying for a seat in the Senate. The outlandish study of a "rebel conservative" targets political campaign as insincere and money grubbing.

REDFORD THEATRE
13670 Lahser, Detroit. Call 537-2560 for information. (\$2.50)
"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" (USA — 1989). 2 p.m. Oct. 10-11 (organ overture begins

at 1:30 p.m.) The most recent installment in the popular adventure series, this time teaming our hero (Harrison Ford) with his archaeologist father (Sean Connery). Great fun.

STATE THEATRE
2116 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 961-5450 for information. (\$1.89)
"The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover" (Britain — 1989), 8 p.m. Oct. 5. Director Peter Greenaway delivers another nasty but visually fascinating assault of the senses. This time a fascist gangster arrives nightly with his gang at a fancy French restaurant and turns the place upside down. Meanwhile, he has tasty revenge in store when he finds his wife (Helen Mirren) is having an affair with a bookish fellow diner.

STATE WAYNE THEATRE
35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. All films play nightly from Wednesday through Sunday. Call 326-4600 for show times. (\$2; \$1 students and senior citizens)
"Honky Tonk Man" (USA — 1982). Clint Eastwood took a break from the "Dirty Harry" thing to both direct and star in the sappy story of a country singer dying of leukemia who dreams of performing at the Grand Old Opry.

"The King of Comedy" (USA — 1983). Martin Scorsese directed this tale of warped ambition about a miserable comedian (Robert DeNiro) who dreams of stardom on a late-night variety show. Jerry Lewis is priceless as the Carson-type host.

— John Managhan

'Onibaba' captures lives on a claustrophobic edge



LAANNE ROGERS

The only noise is wind blowing through a forest of reeds that run deep on each side of the river. The quiet is broken by the sound of two Samurai, one wounded, fleeing from enemies pursuing them on horseback.

The two men are eventually hidden, nearly swallowed up by the bending and shift reeds. Just as they start to relax, they are killed by spears that seem to come from nowhere. It isn't the enemy soldiers. It's a peasant woman and her daughter-in-law, who strip the men of their armor and weapons before throwing the bodies into a deep pit.

Set in medieval Japan, the fascinating 1964 film "Onibaba" is a story of murder, survival, greed and lust with a bit of the supernatural thrown in for good measure. It's a beautifully photographed film, capturing the claustrophobic quality of people constricted in every sense of their lives.

es make little difference. The conscripted farmers start out fighting for one army and then are added to another force when their original captors have been killed in battle. Which side they fight on doesn't matter.

Living in the path of moving armies and battles, daily life has been disrupted, in particular farming. So it is that the women turned to murder and theft to survive, pawing their spoils with a local merchant for food and clothing.

In their thatched hut hidden in the reeds near the river, the women are surviving well enough. Problems begin when a local man, who was among those conscripted to fight, returns after having run away from the battles. He tells the women that the son, the younger woman's husband, has been killed, not by soldiers but by villagers, defending their food and homes.

The man casts a covetous eye not only on the women's food but also on the younger woman. He joins the women in dispatching a couple warriors and adds some saki to his list of bartered goods.

Ever watchful from the corner of her eye, the older woman is hostile towards the man, a resentment from her son's failure to return and of losing the younger woman who she fears will abandon her. She's also somewhat jealous of the sexual relationship

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she sees developing between the man and her daughter-in-law.

After failing in her machinations to keep the couple apart, the woman takes drastic steps to put the fear of Buddha into her wayward daughter-in-law. In the end, nothing good comes from it for anyone.

Directed by Kaneto Shindo and photographed by Kyomi Kuroda, the visual style of "Onibaba" is gorgeous and one of the most compelling components of the movie. There are times when the blowing reeds look like a forest of swords, appropriate for a land savaged by war. There is a fatalistic quality to the film that almost makes death and destruction inevitable.

"Onibaba" is available in video cassette at your local video store.



Lack of grace: Michael Gambon is the fascist gangster and Helen Mirren his wife in Peter Greenaway's "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover" at the State Theater in Detroit.

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