

Confidentiality is an important part of therapy



BARBARA SCHIFF

Dear Barbara, I would like to know if counseling is supposed to be highly confidential. I have heard conversations which makes me think that it is not confidential at all. If what was heard is true, some people would be shocked to know that people know some very personal information about them.

divulge information obtained in clinical or consulting relationships, or information obtained in evaluations, without written consent. There are, however, laws that supersede confidentiality. An example of this is when lawsuits are brought against psychologists who do not divulge threats, when the results are that people who might have been saved are hurt or killed.

Another twist on confidentiality is highlighted by the Mendez case currently being tried in California. In this case, one of the boys accused of killing his parents confessed to his parents. It was reported by the psychologist's girlfriend. It took a year of legal wrangling in the California courts before the psychologist was forced to testify.

Psychotherapy, mainly, is a talking cure. It is very important for therapists to maintain the highest standards toward what is said despite knowing that sometimes there will be mistakes. That mistakes are sometimes made does not decrease therapy's value, rather it is yet another unfortunate reality with which we must cope.

Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to *Street Sense*, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36221 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. You can also leave a message by calling 853-2047, mail box 1877, on a touch-tone phone.

Campion has true vision for 'Piano'

By JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Writer/director Jane Campion has a vision. With her third feature, "The Piano," she states it most clearly in the tale of a mute woman who arrives in the jungles of 19th-century New Zealand as the result of an arranged marriage.

Ada (Holly Hunter) lands on a beach with her 9-year-old daughter Flora (Anna Paquin) and all of her possessions, including her beloved piano. She tears the board from the crate that houses it and starts playing right there on the spot.

When husband Stewart (Sam Neill) arrives to escort her to her new home deep within the bush, he insists that the instrument stay behind. Stewart expects Ada to grow affectionate, yet he makes no attempt to retrieve it.

An illiterate, tattooed neighbor Baines (Harvey Keitel) sees an opportunity, bartering with Stewart for the piano and asks for lessons as part of the deal. Ada, who agrees only because it will give her a chance to play, soon realizes that scales aren't the only thing that Baines wants to practice.

MOVIES

"I want to do things to you while you play," he states matter of factly. Behind Stewart's back, they arrive at their own agreement where Ada will earn the piano back one key at a time each time she succumbs to Baines.

The premise is not unusual for Campion, the New Zealand-born writer/director attracted to bizarre heroines. Her "Sweetie" (1989) dealt with mismatched sisters. "An Angel at My Table" (1990) focused on the real-life writer Janet Frame, who gained success only after a serious bout with mental illness.

She presents the characters in "The Piano" (playing for a second weekend at the Detroit Film Theatre) with almost no explanation. Why does the husband, a starch-collared New Zealander, live in the bush in the first place? How did Baines get the striped native tattoos that cover his face?

For that matter, we are never really told Ada's origins, except that she is widowed and has been mute since about age six. Daugh-

ter Flora, who makes the beat of any situation as long as it includes her mother, delights in explaining to prying ears how Ada became mute.

In one elaborate version, her German composer father was hit by a bolt of lightning while her mother was literally struck dumb. She thinks that most of what comes out of people's mouths is rubbish anyway," the daughter explains.

The story is punctuated by a flash of animation in which a roughly-sketched man catches on fire and burns to ashes. It's just one of the quirky visual tricks that keeps you off guard throughout the two hours of "The Piano."

Another comes while Ada gazes into the bush, understandably confused about her situation. The shot comes from behind, zooming in slowly on the swirling bun in Ada's hair. The camera appears to penetrate her hair, then her head, then dissolves to a shot of the heavy New Zealand brush.

Campion has assembled a top-notch cast of respected American actors who aren't necessarily household names. Hunter, still best-known for "Raising Ari-

zona," speaks volumes through her eyes, communicating with Flora through sign language and to others through her daughter's expressive translation or the small note pad she wears around her neck.

Keitel, always up for a challenge, plays the mysterious Baines with surprising sensuality. He looks downright appealing compared to the stuffy Stewart, a Neill undoubtedly relished after co-starring with dino effects in "Jurassic Park."

And that vision? Each of Campion's features have presented women trying to cope in a surreal and typically threatening world. And with each successive film, her heroines have traveled a painful road that ultimately lead to more happiness and empowerment by the closing credits.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 853-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone, or write him care of *Street Sense*, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36221 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 833-2323 for information. (\$5; \$4 students and senior citizens)
"The Piano" (New Zealand — 1993), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Nov. 26-27; 4 and 7 p.m. Nov. 28. The highly acclaimed film from director Jane Campion stars Holly Hunter as a deaf woman and piano teacher who enters an arranged marriage. Harvey Keitel and Sam Neill costar.

MAGIC BAG THEATER
22918 Woodward at Nine Mile, Ferndale. Call 544-3030 for information. (\$8)
"The Return of Film Threat," 7

and 9:30 p.m. Nov. 26. Chris Gore, editor of "Film Threat" magazine, arrives home for the holidays with a batch of bizarre short films, among them his own "Red" and underground animation.

Film Threat presents "Hated: GG Allin and the Murder Junkies" (USA — 1993), midnight, Nov. 26. A documentary about an ex-con who performs unprintably vile acts on stage, billing himself as "the last true rock and roller." (Separate admission for both programs.)

MAIN THEATER
118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday. Call 542-0180 for information and show times. (\$6.50; \$4 students; \$3 twilight/matinee)
"Short Cuts" (USA — 1993). Robert Altman weaves together

some eight stories in this ambitious but ponderous exploration of the screwed-up character types that populate contemporary L.A. Tom Waits, Lily Tomlin, Tim Robbins and Jack Lemmon just scratch the surface of the all-star cast, but no matter what you hear it's no "Nashville."
"Remains of the Day" (Britain — 1993). Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson play butler and housekeeper at a 1930s English estate. Top-notch performances far overshadow the occasionally schmaltzy story line, the latest from the producer/director team of Ishmail Merchant and James Ivory.

"Ruby in Paradise" (USA — 1993). Ashley Judd, from the famous singing family, has received raves as a young woman who flees the mountains of East Tennessee in search of a better life.

MAPLE THEATER
4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call 855-8930 for show times. (\$5-7.50 evening; \$2.95 twilight)

"Remains of the Day" (Britain — 1993). Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson play butler and housekeeper at a 1930s English estate. Top-notch performances far overshadow the occasionally schmaltzy story line, the latest from the producer/director team of Ishmail Merchant and James Ivory.

MICHIGAN THEATER
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call 668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4 students and senior citizens).
"The Piano" (New Zealand — 1993). The highly acclaimed film from director Jane Campion stars Holly Hunter as a deaf woman and piano teacher who enters an arranged marriage.

Charm Farm from page 5B

Breaking stereotypes at every turn, White and his musical partner, Tommy Onyx, originally of Orlando, first met while metriculating at Boston's prestigious Berklee School of Music, where White studied for three years. The initial version of the band was formed there and packed off to Detroit ("Boston's too expensive; I knew Detroit well. We chose Detroit on purpose," White said), where it was almost instantly put on hiatus while White and Onyx embarked on an international tour as band members with Detroit's famed house band Inner City.

"We all lived on the same block," is White's explanation for the union. The "block," in question was Riopelle, where the loft and techno scenes serendipitously collided in the late 1980s.

"Pure timing and luck," he admits. "The kind of thing people don't have happen to them, and that they hate to hear about."
"Picture this: A couple of 22-year-olds touring the world. It's the ultimate rock 'n' roll fantasy."
"Once off tour, though, White decided that it was a fantasy that should reach a ripe old age before being retired. So, Charm Farm was resurrected to almost unanimous critical and popular praise a couple of years ago.

Where most bands, logically, would play all over town to build momentum, Charm Farm chose a unique tact.
"We started playing shows," White says, but they were so successful that they began to "do events," which is to say they had a great deal to do with ushering in the rave scene in Detroit, first with their "Fanie in Detroit" rave parties and then with the enormously successful "Love Club" at the Shelter, downtown, where they have been spending most of the past year's worth of Saturday nights.

Most unsterotypically, naturally, the band isn't there to play. They run the show — lights, security, disc jockey. It's been a means of learning more about the business while keeping a pretty cream job in the process. It may be coming to an end, though. The reason is "Flirt," the new compact disc that has been getting raves from one end of the globe to the other.

"It was a result of my deal with PRA," White says of the disc. Previously exclusively a management company for the likes of pop-jazz heavyweights like Al Jarreau and David Sanborn, Charm Farm fell under the umbrella

management when PRA decided to broaden their scope.

Charm Farm will perform Friday, Nov. 26, and Sunday, Dec. 26, at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Doors open at 9 p.m. Must be 18 to enter. For more information, call 334-1993.



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