'Arsenic and Old Lace' comedy of manners now

By CRAIG REYNOLDS

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Revivals of old plays resemble reunions of the old class or the old battalion: they're fan income in a while, but never the control of the mean of the mean

bodies buried in the cellar.

NEPHEWS JONATHON, Teddy and
Moritimer also pass the time on a
Queen Anne settle, Jonathon, the recreated Boris Karloff, Teddy the
acted image of the late Roosevelt and
Moritimer the drama critic. One of
them is supposed to be same.

Naturally, police and mad totorra.

trabby old men, a minister and a

THE TRING that doesn't quite work is Resselving's aging script. It's not just that the film of "Arence and Old Laco" is as familiar as "Cities Rase", but that repetitiveness and belabored exposition no longer sit well on the stage before a contemporary audience.

Some judicious pruring would be in order; a dosen bodies in the basement we can take, but the extra dosen minutes truming time is too much.

As always, the performing company at The Theatre is attractive and com-petent, though the familiar Dennis

AS THE GOOD doctor's latest in-piration, Stuart Grant stalks the stage as Jonathon, an upright serpent of conflicting moods and (shudder) de-

of conflicting moods and formader i deMyron Papich makes a fine figure
Myron Papich makes a fine figure
as Toddy, though his speech is a bit
moddled, but the real kick in "Arsenie and Old Jace" is the female componers of Mary Callaghan, Looise
Martin and Raye Bush, all of the
greater, Birmingham area.

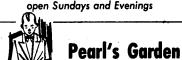
Ms. Callaghan portrays Mortimer's
fiance, Elaine with a fine sense of the
mood and skyle of the period, while
Ms. Martin and Ms. Bush fisiter
about as the bestifically morderous
santies Abby and Martha.

This pair of ladies could kill with
kindness as with chemicals; their combined skills make as charming a product as the cut glass gobiets in which
they serve the problem-solving potion
of the tithe.



Louise Martin of Bloomfield Hills (Abby), Mary Callaghan of Birmingham (Elaine) and Raye Bush of Franklin (Martha)

TIMOTEY R. Dewart provides both string and lighting, both of which are string and lighting, both of which are structurely pleased but leads to the light of the l



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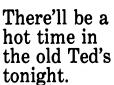
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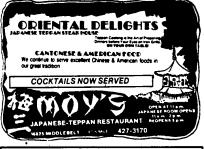


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