

Twists trap audience

"Deathtrap"
Michael Caine
Christopher Reeve
McDonald Theatre

Ira Levine's new movie, "Deathtrap," is as full of twists as its "Rubik's Cube" promotions suggest. Some might say there are too many twists, but far from making "Deathtrap" tedious, the plot twists only enhance it.

The "who'll do it" mystery-suspense-thriller even pops a few subtle comedic one liners. But comedy isn't the movie's forte, suspense is.

Michael Caine plays Sydney Bruhl, a 42-year-old, once brilliant playwright who is, in the writer's words, "written out." After four miserable flops, he receives a manuscript from Clifford Anderson, played by Christopher (Superman) Reeve. The plot calls for Caine to murder Reeves, steal his play and make a couple of million dollars, sort of.

Everything falls neatly into place and Reeve shows up at Caine's comfortable New Hampshire home. The ensuing

conversation between Caine, Reeve and Bruhl's pill-popping wife (Dyan Cannon) is some of the most subtly humorous dialogue to hit the screen in quite a while. While Cannon tries to talk Caine out of murdering Reeves, Caine tries to convince Reeves he is only joking. Reeves isn't quite sure who he should believe and the audience expects Cannon to keel over any second from a threatened coronary.

And if all this wasn't enough, Marie Ten Dorp (Irene Worth), a Dutch psychic in grey jogging sweats and a pink bicycle reflector hat enters. At this point the fairly straight-forward plot is discarded for roller coaster-like twists.

These twists might have been confusing, but some (generally) fine acting saves it.

One exception is Reeve's acting. It's far from super, man. At times his character becomes overly "swishy" (everyone who's already seen the film knows what I mean.)

One of the best aspects of the production are the camera angles, not as dramatic as

Hitchcock's, but just as effective. The full-face close-ups of Reeve delivering some tense lines lend credence to Caine's statements that Reeve is a "socio-path."

The cinematography of the movie gives the appearance of a play being performed to be a movie, which tends to lend credence to the bizarre plot.

There are some graphic murder scenes and virtually no "sex scenes" (again with the twists). The most explicit show of affection in "Deathtrap" is a kiss which horrifies the audience more than the murder scenes do. (Once again, to explain why would give away the secret.)

The effects in the final scene are totally Agatha Christie-ish, with traditional thunder, lightning and pouring rain.

"Deathtrap" is one of the best new movies of the year. And the best way to see it is to find a comfortable, dark corner of the theatre with a big tub of popcorn. Just sit back in your seat and figure out what will happen — if you can.

by debbie howlett

A P R I L 1 4



In spite of XTC's cancellation due to illness, Jools Holland and his Millionaires will rock the Ballroom Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets have been reduced to \$1 for students, \$1.50 for general admission.

"Dr. Strangelove" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in 150 Geology. \$1.50.
SUNDAY
 "On The Waterfront" at 7 and 9 p.m. in 180 PLC. \$1.50.
 "Tosca" at 7 and 9:15 p.m. in Beall Hall. \$1.50 donation.
TUESDAY
 "Northwest Film Festival" at 8 p.m. in 177 Lawrence. \$1.50.
NIGHTLY
 Bijou Theatre - "My Dinner With Andre" at 7 and 9:30 p.m., weekend matinees at 3:30 p.m. Students \$2.50 (Sunday - Thursday), general admission \$3, children \$1.50.
 "Creature From The Black Lagoon" tonight - Saturday at midnight. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. Prices vary.
 "Dance Craze" Wednesday at midnight. \$1.
 Cinema 7 - "Pixote" nightly at 7:30 and 9:50 p.m. Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. \$3.

G A L L E R Y

University Museum of Art — "100 Treasures Celebrating 100 Years: An Exhibition for the Centennial of the University of Oregon Library." Also, pastel drawings by Ron Kowalke. Photography at Oregon Gallery: Color and split-toned still life photographs by Olivia Parker. Shows through May 2.
 Collier House — Prints made by University artists. Shows through April 16.
 Lawrence Hall: Lobby — Photographs of prize-winning homes. Shows through Wednesday.
 Artists' Union — "Light Connections." Shows through April 24.
 Lane Community College — "A Look at Local Resources" by ceramics artist Chris Gum. Shows through Tuesday.
 Maude Kerns Art Center — "Variations on a Window," fiber wall panels by Barbara Kensler. Also, photos by Hall Anderson.
 Opus 5 — "New Kiln, New Pots" by Lotte Streisinger
 Project Space — Oil paintings and pastels by James Ulrich and photographs by Byard Pidgeon. Shows through April 17.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

Osland & Co./Dance and Joint Forces present an evening of dance tonight at 8 in the EMU Ballroom. Students \$2.50, general public \$3.50.
 The Tolpa Folk Ensemble will present a program of international folk dance and music Saturday at 8 p.m. at Condon - Magnet Arts School, 1787 Agate St. Adults \$2, children \$1, family \$5.
 Peter Slitt, critic of contemporary American poetry, will give two lectures Tuesday. At 1:30 p.m., he will lead a discussion on interviewing, reviewing and criticism in literary magazines in 348 PLC. At 3:30 he will lecture on contemporary American poetry in 146 Straub. Both are free and open to the public.

compiled by matt meyer
 campus events:
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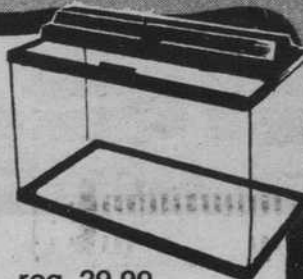
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