### Leaven Reviews

# Baby Maker "Pleasant, Thin

"The Baby Maker" is a mildly diverting, anemic motion picture which makes a virtue of its own thinness of content and lack of intellectual energy. It's like a cameo: if it's plastic instead of ivory, it still retains clarity of outline and a polished surface. You can enjoy it providing you not only do not ask the film to be something other than what it is but don't ask it to be much of anything at all.

In a sense, "The Baby Maker" is below criticism. You either assent to it or you don't. It's about a childless, well-to-do couple who hire a young girl to perform the offices of the sterile wife, so that they can have a baby which is at least "half" theirs. I saw "The Bahy Maker" in a party of four, and the vote was two against the reasonableness of this situation, and two for (this critic voting "for"). On that reaction rests one's appreciation of the film, because "Baby Maker," unlike "Junie Moon" or "The Sterile Cuckoo." respects its audience's emotions: it doesn't force itself on you. Its strength is its restraint.

The first confrontation between the wife and the hired mother-to-be is a key to the entire presentation of "The Baby Maker's" plot. Sue and Tish meet, chat and impress us as equally attractive characters. Tish has a good idea why she's been called, and allows the wife to explain the situation slowly and

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allusively. They communicate by indirections, though the audience understands everything almost from the first. The result is a dissipation of the dramatic impact of the scene. Both characters are rigidly fixed in their role. Each is engaging in her own way; neither will lose her dignity through "undisciplined" or indecorous emotionality: the facade is the person.

If this is not gripping, it's not unpleasant. It's a kind of atmosphere drama, and it sets the tone for the first of the film. You assume that underneath "The Baby Maker's" strenuous decorum, there must be fairly strong human emotions. No matter that these would be incompatible with the thin dramatic line the film walks; they never surface, and the hint of them gives the movie the illusion of depth. For instance: Tish accepts the commission and, among other things, has an incipient romance with Jay. the husband. But it's a romance which puts her very nearly in the position of a daughter, because decorum is never violated. If Jay feels tenderly towards her, it is never to the exclusion of his wife. He is, after all, the husband in this

Hence, "Baby Maker" succeeds precisely because it consistently fails to develop its situations dramatically. It never attempts to be drama, and it never slips into sentimentality.

The direction of James Bridges, who also wrote the script, is generally satisfactory, because it's unimpressive. The style is an amalgam of cliches borrowed from "The Graduate," "Goodbye, Columbus," and even "The Sterile Cuckoo." Because they are cliches, they're seldom noticeable. When they are detectable, however, they're a little too precious for so dry a film. The color photography is too romantically washed-out; symbols occasionally

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"philosophical" theme song of movie is. alas! reminiscent of the banalities of "The Sterile Cuckoo." The lyncs-"People .. laugh, people cry. That's the way it is. I know it is...Don't ask me why. I only know what I know"-are more than a little unfortunate. They tend to color the movie's narrative viewpoint with Tish's Woodstock "wow-beautiful!" appreciation of life, which is basically a naive sentimentality.

Barbara Hershey, who starred in one of last year's best movies. "Last Summer." turns in a creditable performance as the baby maker. Her exuberant little-girlishness is perfect in the movie's schematic presentation of reality. Colin Wilcox-Horne and Sam Groome are excellent as the childless

If you intend to see "Baby Maker," bear in mind that nothing will happen while you are in the theater. This movie not only lacks a second act, it lacks a third, too. It is little more eventful than a landscape painting. But it's a pleasant, peaceful way to pass an autumn

NOTES: The Chapel Hill Carolina is presenting something of a festival this week. On seven successive days it is showing "A Thousand Clowns," "Phaedra," "The Russians Are Coming," "If ...," "Barbarella," and "Goodbye, Columbus." The last will play for two

Most of these films have been in Chapel Hill three or five times before. "A Thousand Clowns," "The Russians Are Coming," and "Barbarella" have played at the Student Union free flicks. "Phaedra" is a circa 1963 bit that was unanimously panned as a tawdry, inept rewrite of Racine's classic tragedy. "If ... and "Goodbye, Columbus" are both

obtrude themselves: and the interesting overrated films, which likely as not will hit the Union freebies next year or the year after. Both have been part of the Super Sunday series already. They would be worth a viewing if they were on a first run. But it is inconceivable to me that the management of the Carolina was unable to find and book worthwhile current films. If that management assumes it can milk the student body by continually serving up the same, cheap, movie fare, like last week's left-overs. I hope they're wrong. Let's make the Carolina off-limits this

> LAST WEEK'S column was written by Jim Charney, to whom all thanks.

Charles Donahue, a student of Marharishi Mahesh Yogi, will address the § Political Science 95A class today at I P.M. D.C. center of the Students International Meditation Center (SIMS). SIMS is & sponsoring Donahue's appearance.

He will offer a vision of possibilities concerning solutions to all contemporary problems, political, social or economic. Donahue received a degree in philosophy from Dartmouth College in 1966. He is \$ also a University of Chicago alumnus in

He has studied with the Maharishi at & Shis academy in Rishikesh, India as well as S Sin Europe and the United States. Donahue is one of a few full-time Expression of "Transcendental Meditation" & Sin the world. He contends that & "Transcendental Meditation" is the method for eliminating all of man's \$ sufferings. Donahue will relate his \$ method to contemporary political issues.

Skip McGaughey, graduate leader of 95A, has termed the upcoming lecture one of the most potentially exciting talks: this fall. He has urged both class and public attendance.

Campus Calendar

The UNC Chess Club will hold its Chess (k) Night tonight at the Carolina Union. The club invites all chessplayers regardless of ability to drop in any time between 7 and 11 p.m. Chess (k) Night's purpose is to provide a time and place for chessplayers to meet and play.

There will be an RCF meeting at 6 p.m. in the James Social Lounger. All governors and independent dorm presidents are invited to attend. Tommy Bello will speak to the group.

Professor Emerson Spies will visit the campus this Friday afternoon to talk with students interested in attending the University of Virginia's School of Law. Interested students should go by the Placement Service, 211 Gardner Hall, to set up an appointment with Dr. Spies. Students who had arranged to talk with him last week when his visit was cancelled because of illness are urged to sign up

Christine Hatfield, pianist and composer, will present an evening of her own and other masterworks tonight in Morrison's small social lounge at eight

o'clock. The program will be the first one for November in the "Fall and the Fine

Alpha Epsilon Delta, pre-med, pre-dental honorary fraternity, will hold a rush meeting for all prospective members Mon., Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in room 204, Student Union.

Interviews for the Carolina Symposium Interim Committee will be held Nov. 9, 10 and 199 from 1-5 p.m. in room 205, Student Union. Applications and sign-up at the Union Information

A panel of prominent North Carolina journalists will be in Howell Hall tomorrow at 8 p.m. to discuss the results of the elections and the impact student involvement may have had in them. The panel members are: Ed Yoder, Associate Editor, "Greensboro Daily News"; Perry Morgan, Editor, "Charlotte News"; Paul Jablow, "Charlotte Observer"; and Joe Doster, "Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel.

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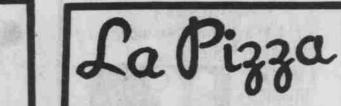
56-Prohibit

60-Deposit

59-Be mistaken

63-Prefix: down

57-Expire

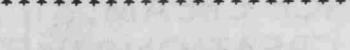


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4-Dens 9-Label 12-Southern

13-Group of

15-One who

19-Jury list 21-Affirmativ

31-Fruit seed

34-Symbol for

35-Carpenter's

37-Long, slender 39-Parent (collog.)

40-Greek letter

46-Of the same

material 48-Music: as

51-Irritate

58-Pendent

66-Equals 67-And

62-Downy duck

64 Period of time 65 Abstract being

2 Collection of

42-Siamese native

written 50-Cronies (colloq.)

53-Slumber 55-Followed orders

22-Sense

24-Weaken

apprehends 17-Package

THE WKIX MEN OF MUSIC WELCOME

4-Diving bird 5-Land measure 7-Corded cloth 10-Fruit drink 11-Female (collog.)

20 Once around 23-Growing

25-Hog 27-Country of

41-Foreigners 45-Fell into disuse

47-Cook in fat 49-Change 52-Retain

THE THING THAT BOTHERS ME ABOUT GETTIN' MARRIED, AUNTIE FLORRIE. IS THAT AFTER A WHILE WE'LL FIND WE'VE GOT NOWT T' TALK ABOUT







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called it whore and slut, called it my beloved, called it For Emil Sinclair, Abraxas was both god and devil. And his painting had cost so much of himself that it was everything he was. And everything his god was. Good. And evil.

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