

# Crawford stages second comeback at dinner theatre

*The Second Time Around* proves better than the first for widower Broderick Crawford and widow Mary Alice Moore at the Village Dinner Theater this month even though the old folks "wished we had met sooner so we could have drunk coffee together instead of Sanka." And veteran actors Crawford and his real-life wife, Miss Moore, make an engaging pair indeed when they confront their uptight children with the startling announcement that they plan to live together instead of marry so they won't lose their Social Security benefits.

His applauded appearance at the Village Dinner Theater is the "second time around" in another way for Broderick Crawford, who won an Academy Award for his leading role in *All the King's Men* (Huey Long) back in 1949, played Lennie in Steinbeck's *Of Mice*

## theatre

By WALT SPEARMAN

### Second Time Around Village Dinner Theatre

and *Men*, and had long television runs in *Highway Patrol* and *The Interns*. Illness and an automobile accident in the 1960's slowed Crawford down, but he is now back on his "second time around" with a successful tour with his wife after recently completing three new movies: *The Howard Hughes Mystery*, a thriller entitled *Proof of the Man* and *The Private Files of J. Edgar Hoover*, in which he plays the controversial director of the FBI. As Samule Jonas, the middle-aged lover

who doesn't really want to get married, Crawford is having a high old time at the Village and making a lark of the whole thing, bringing gruff joviality to the role that delights his audience. And his wife, Mary Alice Moore, makes her role of Laura Curtis (widowed) so warm and supportive that it's a joy to watch this superb team work together on stage.

The first act sets up what plot there is and gets the show off to a good start, but in the middle of the second act the plot disintegrates into a very funny series of one-liners, double-takes and slapstick comedy without bothering to be very coherent. By that time Crawford and Moore have their audience and make them like it.

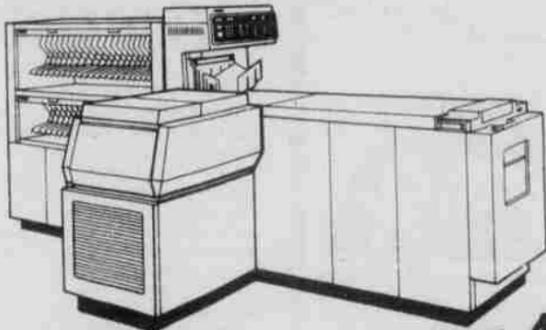
The best support comes from Jerry Grayson as Mike Curtis, Laura's neurotic, mother-pecked, thumb-sucking son, whose facial reactions, impeccable comic timing and hilarious mugging constantly bring down the house. He is the best comedian to appear at the Village in months and would

have stolen the show from anybody but the professional Crawford and Moore. His wife Eleanor (played amusingly by Ann Hodges) is hung up on "simultaneous orgasms" and goads her husband to comment "Other men go to bed with a woman; I go to bed with a book of instructions."

In the role of Cynthia Morse, daughter to Samuel Jonas, Sue Garrett-Hall is just as repressed and analyst-ridden as Laura's son Mike; and to cap it off, she is married to her analyst, Dr. Arthur Morse, played by Eugene A. Texas in an incredibly phoney style, all surface ties and no internal character. In a brief scene at the end of the third act Jonas' grandson, Bruce Morse (Jerry Colbert), and his girl friend Angelique (Kathreen Harrison), play a charming bit as the uptight third generation who gladly use Grandpa's apartment for their rendezvous but rather disapprove of Grandpa's doing the same thing. Colbert is a graduate of UNC-G, and Harrison is a student at Queen's College in Charlotte.

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## weekend bartender

By CARL R. FOX

Drink of the Week  
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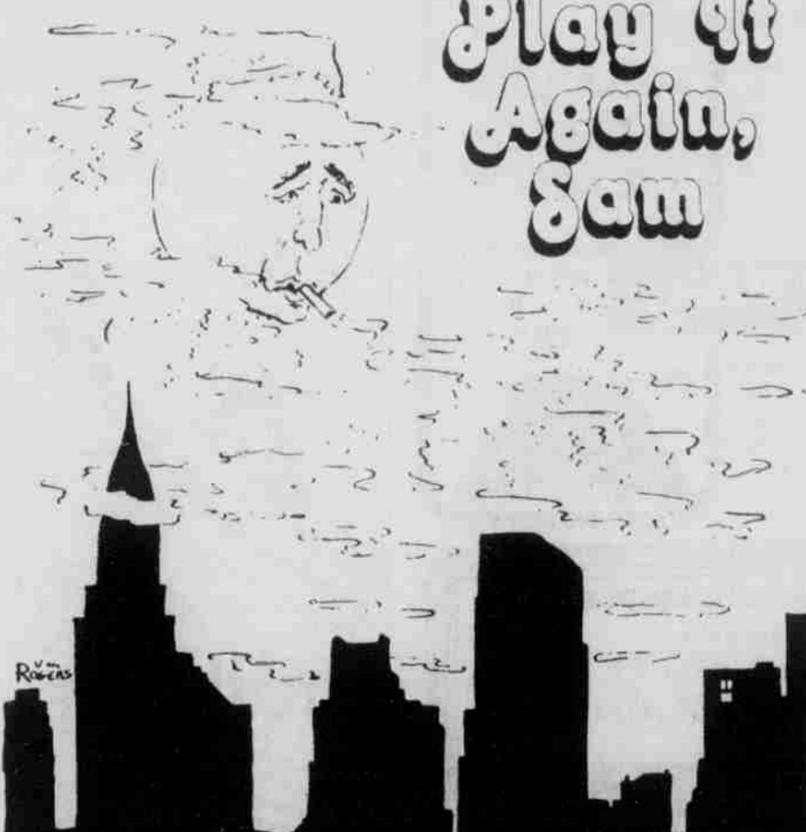
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