Movie review Deathtrap filled with twists and surprises

by Terry Dupuis Ira Levin is a novelist who is best known for such offbeat thrillers as Rosemary's Baby and The Boys From Brazil.

He is also a playwright whose play Deathtrap received enthusiastic reviews and a long Broadway run. Levin's play is now a movie adapted for the screen by Jay Presson Allen and directed by Sidney Lumet. Lumet is perhaps best known for his police dramas Serpico and Prince of The City and for his searing direction of the powerful drama Network. But Lumet is nevertheless not a complete newcomer at directing murder mysteries. He guided an all-star cast quite expertly in the screen adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel called Murder On The Orient Express.

Like the Christie murder mystery, Deathtrap is mainly confined to a single set: in this case, the comfortable country home of a frustrated playwright played by Michael Caine. But Deathtrap is also reminiscent of Sleuth in which the major characters play deadly cat and mouse games with one another. Coincidentally, Michael Caine was also one of the stars of that popular comedy thriller.

This time around Caine is a middle-aged playwright of murder mysteries named Sidney Bruhl who has seen better days. He was once the author of well-received Broadway plays, but his well of inspiration seems to have dried up. When we first meet him in the movie, he is standing at the back of a theatre listening to the unfavourable response of the audience towards his latest play. Then we see him sitting in a bar drinking heavily while listening to a variety of television critics who are panning his play. We soon learn that this is Bruhl's fourth flop in a row.

His sympathetic wife Myra tries to console him, but to make Sydney even more miserable, a manuscript of a play arrives at his home for his inspection by one of his former students. Sydney recognizes the play to be of brilliant potential, and he toys with the idea of murdering the real author and stealing his play. He goes so far as to invite the young unknown playwright to his home to discuss the play, and then the fun and games really begin.

Caine has a field day in the showy role of

the neurotic and desperate writer of murder mysteries who contemplates a murder of his own. It's the best role he's had in recent years.

His costar as the young playwright is Christopher Reeve, who extends his acting range in this movie.

In Deathtrap he demonstrates that there is no danger of his becoming typecast as Superman. The third major role in the movie is played by Dyan Cannon as the wife who doesn't know how seriously to take her husband's plot of murder.

Deathtrap is well-acted by all concerned, but of course the main interest in this murder mystery is the complicated but intriguing plot. It has enough twists and turns and surprises in it to make even the late Alfred Hitchcock envious.

Equine opener

The 1982 "A" rated equestrian show season time showing for Lembo taking a second began April 25. The Crestwood Farms' new place in "B" equitation Lembo and Mr. Lincoln opening show, held at Markham Lane Stables in Markham, was notable for a number of first-time events for local show stable Crestwood Farms of Tiny Township.

Markham Lane was the first show of the the first season, Canadian Equestrian Federation recognized "A" show ever held at

Markham Hill, the first hunter, Mr. Lincoln, and the first time that Crestwood Farm rider Toni Lembo showed in the Junior Division.

All in all it was a successful outing for everyone concerned. The Markham Hill show committee saw entries of well over 150 horses and ponies in all divisions.

Crestwood came home with its share of the ribbons with Toni aboard Something Ventured, a second place in Hunter Stake class with Mr. Lincoln and eighth place in the same class with Something Ventured. Additionally, Toni

placed fifth with Something Ventured in the Junior Hunter over Fences, and eighth with Mr. Lincoln in Junior Hunter over Fences.

The graduation into the Junior Division places the Crestwood rider amongst the toughest and keenest competition in Ontario, if not all of Canada.

The second show was the Toronto Sprint Show held at the C.N.E. Horse Palace May 8-9. This was a disappointing show for the Crestwood staff, as they came away empty-handed.

But the past weekend Richmond Hill

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Thurs. May 27

7 and 9:15

PEN 1

proved to be another Rider Toni story. found the groove; entering three classes, the Lembo-Lincoln combination won each one. The three first-place positions were more than enough for Toni to capture a Richmond Hill Championship for the second year, this year in the Junior Division. Something Ventured also provided a strong showing, placing third in the Junior Hunter Stake and third in the Junior Hunter under Saddle.

Showing for the first time in the childrens' division, Tom Lembo, Jr. put in three strong performances in the Children's Stake and Children's Working Hunter.

Crestwood riders will next show at the Bolton National Horse Show, which begins today and runs through May 30.

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It II be afund dance

The Midland Legion Major Midgets will give area sports fans an opportunity to have a good time and help support the club's Christmas trip to Norway at the same time when they host a dance this Saturday at the Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers Club on Ogden's Beach Road.

Tickets are \$15 a couple for the bash, which includes a lunch and entertainment by the

group Broadway. Doors open at 8:30 p.m.

For tickets contact any member of the Midland Legion Midgets or the club's executive.



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OPEN

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1982 Mass Times for the Season: Daily: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.

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