

Lizzie Borden took an axe



Photo: G. Georgakakos

finger has remained pointed at her to this day. All that was confirmed was that someone, possibly very close to the family, brutally murdered Lizzie's parents in their own home.

The bulk of the play is performed in a 'dream thesis' manner, a kind of extended flashback that occurs in 1902, ten years after the murder of Lizzie's parents. Lizzie (portrayed by Nicola Lipman), still living in her parent's house, is provoked by an actress friend (portrayed by Wanda Graham) into recounting the events that led up to the double murder. However, the roles at this point become a little complicated because of the flashback sequences. From the present staging, the play slips back in time to the days of Lizzie's trial. At this point, Lizzie tells the tale through the role of Bridget, the Borden's Irish maid. The role of Lizzie herself is taken over by the actress. After an initial courtroom framing sequence, the play slips further back in time to the days before the tragic murder of Lizzie's parents.

The time period switches would have been somewhat confusing if the creative lighting aspects of the production had not been properly used. To differentiate between the present sequences, the courtroom flashbacks and the pre-murder 'dream thesis', the lighting was subtly altered for each case. As it should be, it was the actors' mannerisms and Sharon Pollock's writing that successfully brought the changes home to the audience.

Once the initial confusion from the role switches was sorted out, the play progressed into Lizzie's engrossing tale of alienation, misunderstanding, harassment and suffering at the hands of her parents. Therefore, the 'Did she or didn't she?' question becomes secondary and a justification of motivation leaps to the forefront. The first act of the play was quite well done, with the story and dialogue moving along at a comfortable pace. However, the second half of the play, while equally well acted, seemed to drag at

points. It was as if suspense was intended to be created by the manipulations of the dialogue, but was somehow lost on the audience. Be that as it may, the play's climax made up for the slow sections and was actually quite terrifying. The particular effect was one of those devices that are often featured in horror movies but work much better in a live setting. (I am not going to tell what it is — don't worry. This is just a warning for those who are scared easily and have weak

hearts. I would hate to see Neptune sued for causing a heart attack.)

To sum up — *Blood Relations* is worth seeing. The play is well written, intelligent and the performers carry their roles with professional precision. However, if you are hoping to see a live action version of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, forget it. The chills in this production rely heavily on the imagination of the audience for full effect.

Pleasant dreams.

Lizzie takes the first whack.

By Scott Neily

Dracula. Frankenstein. Jason. Freddy. All big names in the horror genre, and all equally fictitious in regards to the horrendous 'legends' they inspire.

When the movie is over, when the last page of the book is turned, one can relax, comforted by the knowledge that such beings do not exist. . . at least, not in our safe, private little worlds. We are sure that none of our acquaintances, let alone family members, could be an axe murderer. Yet when the tale of Lizzie Borden and what she may or may not have done to her parents is consi-

dered, are we completely secure in the knowledge that we have done nothing to anger anyone to the point of murder?

Those fans of good theatre who also appreciate a few spine-tingling chills now and then will appreciate the award-winning drama *Blood Relations* playing at Neptune Theatre until November 20th. The play, directed by its writer, Sharon Pollock, re-enacts the infamous tale of Fall River, Massachusetts, inhabitant Lizzie Borden, who was accused of axe murdering her parents around the turn of the century. Although she was acquitted of the grisly crime, the

At Wormwood's Cinema, Caffeine junkie's heaven

By Shelly Galliah

Discovering that one of the city's newest spots, Cafe Lumiere, had recently opened and being an unsatiable coffeehouse junkie, I convinced myself that checking out this scene would be a good excuse to pump more caffeine into my bloodstream. Although this place is somewhat out of the way, in the Wormwood Cinema building on Gottingen Street, I gambled that such an excursion would be worth the effort. The cafe's interior and furnishings re-

in the style of trendy black and white art deco. Notwithstanding that the surroundings are a little sparse and somewhat commonplace, the milieu is the only thing ordinary about this coffee shop.

Unlike many other cafes, this one is comfortable, spacious and airy; I was ecstatic that I didn't have to wade through a hovering sea of smoke or squeeze past crowded tables. While it boasts a good selection of coffees, and tempting fresh treats, what is particularly refreshing is its wide variety of flavoured teas. In the

near future, the cafe may host a luncheon menu as well. I found the coffee delicious, the service overwhelmingly friendly, and the prices reasonable.

But you must not take my word for it. Presently, the Cafe is open 6 pm 'til midnight, Mondays through Saturdays. On Sundays, it opens its doors at noon. If you are addicted to caffeine, and you want a change of pace, or an enjoyable aperitif to a film, you may wish to take in the relaxing, unpretentious atmosphere of Cafe Lumiere.

THIS WEEK

11

Friday

Remembrance Day

The Grawood will be open from 11:30 am - 11:30 pm

12

Saturday

Good friends, quiet conversation, The Grawood is the perfect place to relax this holiday weekend.

14

Monday

3 pm -- Soaps

10 pm -- VIA's Game of the Week:

NFL Football: Bills @ Dolphins
World Beer Tour

15

Tuesday

3 pm -- Soaps

9 pm -- Games, Games Games...

16

Wednesday

3 pm -- Soaps

9 pm -- CKDU Night

17

Thursday

3 pm -- Soaps

9 pm -- Dance, Dance, Dance -- The Grawood is the place to be on a Thursday Night!

Coming Soon!

I.C.U.

