“Suddenly Last Summer”

Liz In Bathing Suit Is ‘Home on Derange’

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It’s adult movie time again! If you haven’t seen “Suddenly Last Summer” at the Majestic, then gather ’round and speak in hushed tones because this is one of “those” movies.

Williams’ intent is the creation of a specific mood rather than a character, and his rather uncommon characters are the consequences of the offbeat moods he chooses to create.

Gilded Cocoon

This addition to the growing collection treating the decadent modern South shows a dominant matron (Katherine Hepburn) who has withdrawn into a detached environ of memories and opposes any force that threatens to anchor her illusions to the horrible reality of the external world.

Such a force exists in the person of Catherine (Elizabeth Taylor Hilton Wilding Todd Fisher) who brings a story that shatters the basis of the mother’s illusion, her son.

Summer Sojourners

For many summers the mother and son, a bachelor although attractive, traveled the world enjoying each other’s companion-ship. Then “suddenly” the mother was left behind and the younger, more beautiful Catherine became the travelling companion.

The son was a poet so it was normal for him to be abnormal, but he used Catherine for such a perverse purpose that she began to retreat from herself.

Delicate Designs

Her exceptional beauty was being used to procure talent for Sebastian’s rather delicate designs which, needless to say, are in the movie only by implication. When Sebastian stops distributing lira to the boys on the Italian beach, the frustrated urchins kill Sebastian, chopping him into bite-size bits with their tin cans, and eat him in front of Catherine’s disbelieving stare.

The mother, bitterly jealous of the attractive girl who replaced her, refuses to believe such a kookie story of her son’s death. Accusing the girl of murder, she plots to wipe this horrible commentary on her son from Catherine’s troubled brain by approaching a doctor (Montgomery Clift) whose specialty is pre-

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frontal lobotomy.

Key Word: Truth

Her offer is a tempting grant for research in this new field of the doctor’s first patient is our girl Cathy. In the ensuing examination of the apparently deranged girl, the doctor and audience discover what truth there is in the problem, while the predominant mood, Catherine’s complete helplessness, builds to its climax.

Although the emotions required by this particular set of characters are for the most part unrecognizable, the acting is recognizable as superb.

Nowhere else in town can one get so much for his money: homosexuality, insanity, pre-frontal lobotomy, cannibalism and Liz in that white lisle bathing suit.