



The cast of "Shag: The Movie." CNS

## Refreshing cast, good plot save 'Shag'

By Judith Trojan  
Catholic News Service

With its dopey title, "Shag: The Movie" (Hemdale) would seem destined for the bottom shelf in video markets. Not so. Although no celluloid heavyweight, "Shag" is saved by its refreshing cast of young players and a feel-good plot reminiscent of classic 1960s beach-party flicks.

Set in the summer of '63, "Shag" tracks the last weekend fling of four recent high school grads at Myrtle Beach, S.C., where boys, the annual Sun Fun Festival and a Shag dance competition are big attractions.

The girls are pretty, sheltered and supposed to be visiting Confederate monuments at Fort Sumter. A wealthy senator's daughter, fussy Luanne (Page Hannah) plants her friends in the family beach house

and picks up the pieces as sultry blonde Melaina (Bridget Fonda) aims for stardom in the Miss Sun Fun beauty pageant; cute Pudge (Annabeth Gish) falls for shy Annapolis-bound Chip (Scott Coffey) and practices for the Shag contest; and beautiful, engaged Carson (Phoebe Cates) loses her virginity to bohemian Buzz (Robert Rusler), who's headed for Yale in the fall.

All four actresses bring class to their cliched characters, but Fonda ("Scandal") and Cates ("Gremlins") are the standouts. As Southern belles who flourished during a time when teen sexual promiscuity was off limits, the girls giggle and struggle over the idea of "free love;" but only Carson relents after much pressure, angst and the realization that she's too young to forego college and life experience for mar-

riage to a man she doesn't love. Carson's moral dilemma is realistically agonizing, despite the film's overall cartoonish plot.

Due to one teen couple's sexual involvement and some locker-room language laced with mild sexual vulgarities, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Trojan is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Serving lunches 11:30-3 p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring an Early Bird Special every night but Friday. Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60 people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and receive \$5.00 off two dinners (not valid on dinners under \$8.00), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of September. Please present ad when ordering.

**MaMa Deak's Pasta Kitchen  
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**Mr. Dominic's at the Lake  
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(716)865-4630**

Noted for their fine Italian dinners that include 11 veal dishes and homemade pasta, Mr. Dominic's is now open for lunch. Early Bird dinner specials Sunday-Friday. Also offering 10% senior discount. Delivery is available for your luncheon group of ten or more. Lunch hours from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Dinner hours Monday-Friday 4:00-9:30 p.m., Saturday 5:00-10:00 p.m., Sunday 3:00-9:00 p.m.

**Mrs. Murphy's Smorgasbord & Lobster House  
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(607)776-6211**

Our 50th Anniversary Festival is now on. Wednesday and Thursday Buffet, \$8.95. Also, 12 Early-Bird Specials \$3.95 and up, 5-8p.m. Friday's, Famous Fish Dinners. Smorgasbord with Prime Rib and Crab Legs Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday Champagne Brunch 12-2:30, \$6.50. Sunday Smorgasbord 2:45p.m. till. Take 390 S. to Rt. 17, exit 37 or 38.

**National Hotel  
Bed and Breakfast Inn  
Rte. 20A & 39  
Cuylerville, NY 14481  
(716)382-3130**

Built in 1837, the 150 year old National Hotel is a landmark in and of itself. Serving dinners only, Tues.-Sat. 4:30-10 p.m. and Sundays, 12-8 p.m. A special Senior Citizen menu is featured nightly and Sunday. From Rochester, take 390 South to exit 8. The National Hotel Bed and Breakfast Inn is located on Rts. 20A & 39 in Cuylerville just 3 miles south of Genesee or 3 miles east of Letchworth State Park. Reservations are appreciated.

**Omega Family Restaurant  
Cedarfield Commons,  
496 Long Pond  
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**Sherwood Manor Restaurant  
60 W. Main Street  
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(716)624-3580 Closed Mondays**

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**Dining Around the Diocese**

The first issue of each month, the *Catholic Courier* will be featuring some prime dining spots in and around the Rochester diocese. If you, or someone you know, would like to have your restaurant included in our Dining Guide, call the *Catholic Courier* at (716)328-4340. Look for our Dining Guide in the upcoming months, and pay a visit to the restaurant of your choice, and enjoy a pleasant evening of "Dining Around the Diocese."

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