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COURIER'S CURRENT CINEMA COMMENTS

By JOHN SPRINGER

The Academy Award selection committee won't have any sleep in pondering the relative merits of the pictures of the week. They're a pretty wacky group of movies but, I suppose, each has some appeal to some type of film fan.

"The Big Shot"—A-2

Although "The Big Shot" is not a remake, it is the kind of picture that leaves you thinking you've seen it all before. And so you have—many times. For the picture is a hash of situations from most of the gangster and prison movies you've seen in the years since "Little Caesar."

But, although the story is a spent bullet, the picture itself keeps you well toward the edge of your seat for one reason alone. The reason is that Humphrey Bogart is there, giving a characteristically vigorous performance in a role that hardly seems worth it. But Bogart is actor enough to work as hard in a routine role as in a part that is strong to begin with.

Irene Manning, once known as Hope Manning and before that an Eastman School of Music student named Inez Harvot, has the principal feminine role and Susan Peters suggests possibilities in another bit. Stanley Ridges and Chick Chandler are best in support. "The Big Shot" is just a second-rater hurriedly thrown together but Bogart's quietly forceful characterization is, as always, worth seeing.

"Pardon My Sorrow"—A-2

The only novelty about Pardon My Sorrow is that the nasty men with whom Abbott and Costello get mixed up turn out to be jewel thieves instead of Nazi spies. Otherwise the team is pretty standard in a picture that differs from their others only because they haven't been on a tropical island before. It's all extremely obvious slapstick, with the Messers Bud and Lou getting off some of their oldest and corniest gag routines, but that's exactly what Abbott and Costello fans expect from their idols and the gentlemen are not the type to disappoint their public. For more staid and less appreciative audiences, the specialties of pretty Nan Wynn, the Four Ink Spits and Tip, Tap and Toe will be something in the nature of relief. Virginia Bruce and Robert Pulze are the mild romantic twosome, with Lionel Atwill stamped as a will-yun the minute you set eyes upon him.

"Thru Different Eyes"—A-2

There was a momentous decision involved in naming a certain picture recently and a public release from the studio told how it was settled. "The title of the forthcoming movie, 'Through Different Eyes,' has been changed to 'Thru Different Eyes,'" said the dispatch. It was nice to have that settled.

What You Buy With WAR BONDS

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Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED

Calico, A-1
Cavender Explores, A-1
Deep in the Heart of Texas, A-1
Get Hip to Love, A-1
Killing Through Nevada, A-1
Lullaby, Soft Shoulders, A-2
Olson Key, A-1
Island, A-2
Wildcat, A-2

LOEW'S ROCHESTER

Somewhere I'll Find You, B
CENTURY
Men of Texas, A-1
A-Hunting We Will Go, A-1

TEMPLE

Danger in the Pacific (Not classified)

REGENT

Pardon My Sorrow, A-2
Lady Gauguier (Not classified)

LITTLE

Citizen King, A-3

AT THE THEATRES

PALACE

Holiday Inn, A-1
I Live On Danger, A-3

There was once an interesting movie of that title which detailed how a set of circumstances in a murder case became different as glimpsed through the eyes of various important witnesses. Unfortunately, only the titles of that picture and the new one are the same. The new story is a far-fetched melodrama, the only bright spots of which are the performances of Frank Craven and June Walker, two able actors of long stage experience, who deserve better than they got in this movie.

"Joan of Ocarik"—A-1

And now it's the turn of Judy Canova and Joe E. Brown to foil the nasty Nazis. It depends pretty much on how you feel about the talents of these artists whether or not you will want to stay for the picture. Most audiences do quite a bit of chortling at the picture. I am told.

Theater Season

Tonight is the night that Rochester theater lovers have been waiting for—the official opening of the 1942-43 theater season at the Auditorium. And to get the season off to a good start, Will Corris is doing both "something new and something proved." The "something proved" is the play itself. So popular was the sprightly comedy, "My Sister Eileen," when it ran at the Auditorium this spring that Manager Corris is returning it for another visit. And the "something new" is the prices at which "My Sister Eileen" will be shown—

prices that are considerably reduced from those of the usual theater production. Yet the production, which features Betty Furness and Russell Hardie, both well-known on the screen, is the same as that which played here before at the usual legitimate theater prices.

With "My Sister Eileen" starting off the year, the Auditorium is planning a strong schedule of productions to round out the season. Either definitely or tentatively booked are the George Gershwin musical masterpiece, "Fanny and Brava," John Steinbeck's noted drama, "The Moon Is Down"; a Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire presentation; "Angel Street," one of the best mystery melodramas ever produced; Ethel Barrymore's magnificent "Corn Is Green"; Neel Coward's gay ghost play, "Blithe Spirit"; the powerful "Watch on the Rhine"; the delightful "Junior Miss"; the vaudeville-revue, "Priorities of 1940," and, probably, such other shows as Katharine Hepburn in "Without Love" and the Lunts in "The Pirate" when they go on tour.

It looks like good pickings for the theater fans.

(Henry Fonda, now of the Navy, has given many strong screen performances but none better than his Tom Joad in "Grapes of Wrath." John Spranger reminisces about this outstanding picture as Your Movie Memory over WSAY, Monday morning at 12.)

Use Radio Phone For Mission Talks

NEW YORK—A weekly broadcast of instruction, encouragement, warnings and news, features the programs of the 130 Maryknollers engaged in mission work in beleaguered South China. The Rev. Robert P. Kennelly of South Norwalk, Conn., stationed at Loting, provides a reassuring picture of the war-time life.

"Father Tennen, our Maryknoller in Chungking, talks by radio-phone to Monsignor Romanello at Kweilin for an hour each Tuesday, and all the missions with sets listen in. Our little group of priests here at Loting could hear the two conversing very well.

"Living costs are up at least one-third; indeed, in some sections rice

is ten times normal price. We all have great opportunities for conversion work but of course we are worried about feeding the people during the days of instruction.

"Father Tennen answers inquiries, gives instructions from Maryknoll, passes on news which in our isolation here is very welcome. He helps to add to the general morale which, as a matter of fact, is very high here. It is remarkable how quickly we have adjusted ourselves to being cut off from the outside and to turning our eyes on Chungking as our one contact with the world beyond the Japanese lines."

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