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Watching The Screen

'Boone's Journey'

By RAY SMITH

The father of science fiction writing, Jules Verne, gives us a holiday treat with "JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH" at the Paramount Theater. You will recall that Jules was also responsible for "Around the World in 80 Days" and "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." I wonder if Mr. Verne ever thought that the teenage attraction, Pat Boone, would star in one of his stories.

The story concerns an expedition, led by James Mason, a dedicated scientist, to the center of the earth. Among those who descend to the depths with Mason are Boone, one of his students; Arlene Dahl, the widow of a Swedish geologist who steals Mason's information and tries to heat him to the "underworld"; and Pat Boone, an Icelandic guide and jack-of-all-trades.

In true Jules Verne fashion our descent is a treacherous one, filled with all kinds of dangers — underground floods, unusual winds, excessive heat, and devils paths. (My teenage readers will be happy to know that Pat Boone comes out of everything all right.) The intrepid explorers succeed in the mission, discovering that the center of the earth consists of an ocean. (Ah! There's where I can build a cottage.)

Before reaching their goal, they confront pre-historic monsters, a forest of mushrooms, a cavern of quartz crystals, and a salt vortex. A volcano, an eruption of Stromboli, lifts the group to the earth surface and they are fished out of the sea off the coast of Italy after starting their descent on the side of a crater in Iceland. (I'm not booking with that Travel Agent anymore.)

Boone has been given the opportunity to exercise his tonsils with a couple of songs. Romance has not been neglected as Pat is sweet on Mason's niece, waiting back (on top) home. So, if you true-blue sci-fi-



PORGY (Sidney Poitier) greets some young friends on his rounds of Catfish Row in Samuel Goldwyn's motion picture production of "Porgy and Bess." Also starring in the Todd-AO wide-screen presentation, in Technicolor and six-channel stereophonic sound, are Dorothy Dandridge, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Pearl Bailey. It will start Dec. 26 at the Monroe Theater.

'Porgy And Bess' To Open Dec. 26 At Monroe

Samuel Goldwyn's motion picture production of "Porgy and Bess" will have its Rochester premiere at Schine's Todd-AO Monroe Theater for an extended road-show engagement, starting Saturday, Dec. 26.

All seats will be reserved for the showing of the film which is currently playing to SRO crowds in New York, Los Angeles and other major cities.

The American musical "Porgy and Bess" stars Sidney Poitier, Dorothy Dandridge, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Pearl Bailey, and features in its cast such star performers as Diahann Carroll and Brock Peters. It was adapted for the screen by N. Richard Nash from the stage version, with music by George Gershwin, and lyrics and libretto by Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward.

The picture was produced in Todd-AO wide-screen, Technicolor and six-channel stereophonic sound. Heard in it are all of the immortal Gershwin tunes, including such all time greats as "Summertime," "I Ain't Necessarily So," "I Got Plenty 'O' Nuttin'" and "Bess, You Is My Woman Now."

"Porgy and Bess" according to producer Samuel Goldwyn was 12 years in the making. Most of that time was spent in clearing the legal rights with the Gershwin and Heyward estates; about 18 months were required for shooting, editing, scoring and technical details.

The Monroe Theater is also celebrating the installation of new Heywood-Wakefield lounge chair seats. Each seat has been installed to give every patron an unobstructed screen viewing area.

"Porgy and Bess" will start its exclusive Rochester engagement on Saturday evening, December 26th at 8 p.m. with all the Hollywood festivities. The first nite will be complete with kleig lights, personalities, excitement, and "VIP" treatment.

"Porgy and Bess" will be shown on a reserved seat policy each evening at 8 p.m. and matinees on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The first week between Christmas and New Years the Monroe will have daily matinees at 2:30 and evening performances at 8 p.m. With a great big New Year's Eve show on Thursday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m.

College Glee Club Slates Annual Tour

St. John Fisher College Glee Club, under the direction of Marie Burbank, will present its Christmas Program before six different audiences on Friday, Dec. 18.

The Christmas tour, as it is called, will start from St. John Fisher College at 9 a.m. and proceed by chartered buses with police escort to Our Lady of Mercy High School, Nazareth College, McQuaid Jesuit High School, Nazareth Academy and St. Agnes High School, where they will present a program of religious songs and Christmas novelties.

The tour will conclude at the Glee Club, is in charge of arrangements, Mrs. Helen Kondolf is accompanist.

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Christmas Play Listed At Mercy High School

Our Lady of Mercy High School's Christmas gift to parents and friends will be a Christmas play entitled "Genesis and the Woman" to be presented Tuesday, Dec. 22, for the student body and at 8:30 p.m. for parents and friends.

The play, directed by Sister Mary Plus, was written by Sister Gretchen Bogan, a Sister of Saint Joseph, who studied with Sister Plus at Catholic University. The play was Sister's dissertation for her Master of Fine Arts Degree.

Adaptation of it to a Christmas play was done by Sister Mary Petrus of Mercy's English department.

"GENESIS and the Woman" tells the story of the promise of redemption and God's mercy. The fulfillment of this promise is seen in the nativity scene.

Eve, portrayed by junior Sue Kernan, is tempted by the devil who is portrayed through a speech choir composed of Terry Benson, Barbara Blisell, Mary Jo Brennan, Donna Bernardo, Diana DeMare, Jeanne Casser, Eileen Barrett, Terry Hickey, Wendy Lesniak and Diane Nucietelli.

There are two other speech choirs, one of the higher spirit, the good spirits, are Cathie Averill, Mary Lou Bohnke, Patricia Erdle, Nancy Florin, Marcia Farrell, Judy Kirchhoff, Kit Kleisely, Lynn Meegan, Marian Mullen and Terry Vigna. These speech choirs personify God and Adam.

Wendy Lesniak, acting as choreographer, assisted by Barbara Hnauf, Kathy McKenna, Rosalee Sassano, Judy Kirchhoff and Sue Timmons, taught dance movements to all three speech groups.

Bill Gregory portrays Joseph and Cain and Abel are played by Ken Sarkis and Greg Haier. Senior Suzanne Stewe has been chosen to play Our Lady.

Sister Mary Margaret and Sister Mary Leo are directing the music for the Nativity scene.

All-inclusive rate is \$1.185. For reservations, contact: Catholic Travel Office, Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Ave., Washington 6, D.C.

Pageant Slated At St. Agnes High

Christmas will be corporately celebrated at St. Agnes High School on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 11 a.m. when several groups unite to present the school's Christmas entertainment for the student body.

A chorale pageant "At the Feet of the Madonna" will be the offering of the Junior class. In a procession of seekers of consolation come to the feet of the Madonna, played by Patricia Kreckel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kreckel of St. James Parish; first a young mother (Margaret Lester) lonesome for her dead son, then a martyr (Gall Bristol) trembling for the coming persecution. She is followed in turn by a powerful Queen (Gall Weaver), a Pioneer Woman (Virginia McHugh) and a Modern Girl (Virginia Hammer), all of whom lay their problems and their praise at Mary's feet.

THE PLAY will be preceded by a medley of traditional Christmas Carols sung by the freshmen chorus under the direction of Sister Ann Virginia.

The Glee Club under direction of Sr. Joseph Eileen will feature the selections "Gloria to the Highest," "Carol of the Bells," and the "Steigh."

Also appearing will be the St. Agnes High Band directed by Richard McCrystal.

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