

Watching The Screen

Legion Pledge

By RAY SMITH

Next Sunday, Dec. 11, the Catholics of the United States will be asked by their pastors to renew their membership in the Legion of Decency, the most powerful Catholic agency in the field of movie entertainment. All of us have heard opinions pro and con about the Legion. I have my own which, as you will remember, was expressed in substance in a past article.

Be that as it may, my question hasn't been answered as yet by anyone in the "con" category. "What is a better solution for guiding Catholics in their movie entertainment than the Legion? If there is, let's have it."

LAST WEEK I read in one of my trade journals a copy of the Legion pledge to be given in a few days. If my memory serves me, it becomes a little stronger in the matter, this reviewer has been shouting for many a moon: that is, to PROMOTE GOOD ENTERTAINMENT.

To have anything done to stop the flow of some of the recent junk out of the movie capitals of the world, we must do more than just sit back and avoid the movie. Be assured that there are many others who race down to the particular theatre showing such a film. In my opinion the day of avoiding such films in the attempt to correct the situation is definitely over.

I think the Legion has recognized this in giving this year a more positive pledge, and "POSITIVE" means just that — to support the good product as our local movie houses.

I SUPPOSE it isn't nice to say but I'll say it anyhow. If anyone complains about certain movies at a particular theatre on a moral basis but hasn't been just as active in supporting the good stuff, his protests ring as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. You helped cause the situation and don't feel so righteous. Fortunately many who object to certain movies are the same ones who are seated in Theatres as the arch light hits the screen with an "A" movie. Keep it up.

The ideal of the Legion of Decency is to have each of its

members check its listing of movies before attending same. If one would find a film not listed as suitable for that particular person, he or she should not attend. Let's not think we are living in a Utopia. Everyone doesn't do this. Possibly the realization even from the secular press that more junk is being shown may wake a few up to the fact that something is necessary, especially for our children's entertainment.

A SAMPLE of top entertainment to be SUPPORTED is coming to Rochester and later to other communities. Next week, according to my list, "THE THREE WORLDS OF GULLIVER" is coming to the Loew's Theatre. This is for the WHOLE FAMILY and should be enjoyed by all from 8 to 80. So let's show by our attendance what we think of such movies. O.K.?

MORNELL — That music coming from the Majestic Theatre isn't from the radio in the manager's office but is emanating from the silver screen as Dirk Bogarde portrays Franz Liszt in "SONG WITHOUT END."

Theatre Guide

See-Hur RIVIERA A-1

(Unobjectionable)
Observation—The Legion of Decency recommends See-Hur as wholesome entertainment as an unusually high level of achievement for the whole family.

MONROE A-2
(Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents)

RIALTO — East Rochester
The Wind Cannot Read A-3
(Unobjectionable for adults)

Sound A-1
High Time A-1
Showing Wild A-2
For the Love of Mike A-1
Freckles A-1

The Majestic Theatre is to be commended for its policy of banning all objectionable films and only showing films rated in the "A" classification by the Legion of Decency.

PARAMOUNT
Father and the King (Unobjectionable) B

CINEMA
I'm All Right Jack A-3

PALACE
Surprise Package B
The Strangers of Bombay B

LOEW'S
Butterfield 8 B
(Unobjectionable)

Fine Arts
The Cranes Are Flying A-3

REGENT
G. I. Blues B

LITTLE
The Entertainer Not Listed

Decency Legion

Condemns 2 Films

New York — (NC) — Two French-made movies, "Come Dance With Me" and "Love Game," have been condemned by the National Legion of Decency.

At the same time the legion announced a change of classification from Class C (condemned) to Class B (morally objectionable in part for all) for the movie "Private Lives of Adam and Eve," produced by Universal earlier this year but never shown publicly. The legion said substantial revisions made in the film warranted the reclassification.

The legion posted the following objection against "Come Dance With Me": "In addition to grossly suggestive costuming, dialogue and situations pervading its development this film presents certain subject material in a manner which is morally unacceptable for entertainment purposes."

The legion said the movie "Love Game" was "seriously objectionable to Judaeo-Christian standards of morality and decency."

Legion Of Decency

Following are the Legion of Decency listings released this week. Complete listing appeared in the Nov. 28 issue. Clip both and save.

Class A, Section 1
Desert Attack

Class A, Section 2
Wackiest Ship in the Army

Class A, Section 3
General Della Rovere

Class B
Virgin Spring

Note: This classification is applicable only to prints shown in the United States.

Class B
Jazz Boat

Objection: Suggestive costuming, dialogue and sequences. Where the Boys Are

Objection: The contrived conclusion given to this film does not offset the fact that the major portion of the picture glorifies a standard of behavior which can be seriously detrimental to the morals, particularly of impressionable young people.

Class C
Come Dance With Me

Objection: In addition to grossly suggestive costuming, dialogue and situations pervading its development this film presents certain subject material in a manner which is morally unacceptable for entertainment purposes.

Objection: This film in both theme and treatment is seriously offensive to Judaeo-Christian standards of morality and decency.

NOTICE: Change of Classification

Private Lives of Adam and Eve (Condemned) to B (morally objectionable in part for all). The reason for the present objection is as follows: Suggestive costuming, dialogue and situations. Substantial revisions made in the film are deemed sufficient to warrant this change in classification.

Off The Record

By SUZANNE WIGG

Camelot

When Tennyson referred to King Arthur as "the once and future king" he could never have realized just what type of future it would be. But King Arthur along with his wife Queen Guinevere and faithful friend Sir Lancelot plus his entire roundtable have just invaded and conquered Schenectady.

Arthur comes back in the form of a musical comedy — brought to life by a couple of clever squires known as Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe. The Pygmalion who sculptured "My Fair Lady." The show is called "Camelot" and it unfolds the glittering pageantry of Arthur's court in the dawn of chivalry.

"Brave knights seek the hands of lovely ladies between jousting tournaments. Merlin weaves his magical spells and "Camelot" bursts into melodious life in a dazzling blend of music and movement.

Composer Frederick Loewe who collaborated with Lerner on "Brigadoon" and "Gigi" as well as "My Fair Lady" has given us in "Camelot" one of the loveliest scores in musical comedy history. Included in the score is a rousing "March," the zesty "The Lusty Month of May," the tender "How To Handle A Woman" the bittersweet "I Loved You Once In Silence," and the haunting "Follow Me."

"THE STORY" deals with the ill-starred romance between Queen Guinevere (for Jenny, as she is called in the play) and Sir Lancelot. Julie Andrews of "My Fair Lady" fame portrays "Jenny" while Robert Goulet dons the coat of mail of Sir Lancelot. England's Richard Burton is the king himself. Also in the cast are Roddy McDowall, Robert Coote and Mel Dowd.

"Camelot" is not based on the sentimental Tennyson version of the tale, but on the witty

Parochial School Pupils

Cast In "King and I"

When Rochester Music Theatre presents "The King and I" Dec. 30 and 31 at the Auditorium Theatre, several parochial school children will be numbered among the royal princes and princesses.

Alternating in the role of Prince Chulalongkorn, heir to his father's throne, will be Patrick Burns and Gregory Bagel, with Peter Doell and Jay Whitney appearing as the English schoolteacher's son, Louis.

ALL FOUR boys are from the Blessed Sacrament Children's Choir, and were seen in the annual musical production of the school.

Other Blessed Sacrament students include: Patricia Carey, Andrea Costantabile, Teresa Esterheld, Susan Verzillo.

Linda Delgati and Joseph Riccio, from St. Andrew's, and William Hogan, from St. Monica's are also numbered among the King's children.

The New Year's production produced and directed by Suzanne Wigg and Norton Carey, stars Ruth Koyal as Anna, and Ronald Pedroni as the King.

The staff includes Carl Zollo, scenic designer, Earl Karp.

Movie Measure

In Legislature

Albany — (NC) — A bill under which films deemed objectionable for children would be labeled as such in New York state has been preferred for the second consecutive year in the state legislature.

The bill's sponsor, Assemblyman Joseph J. Weiser of New York City, will formally introduce the measure after the legislature convenes Jan. 4.

The bill would permit the director of the motion picture division of the State Education Department to designate films unsuitable for children when so authorized by the Board of Regents.

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