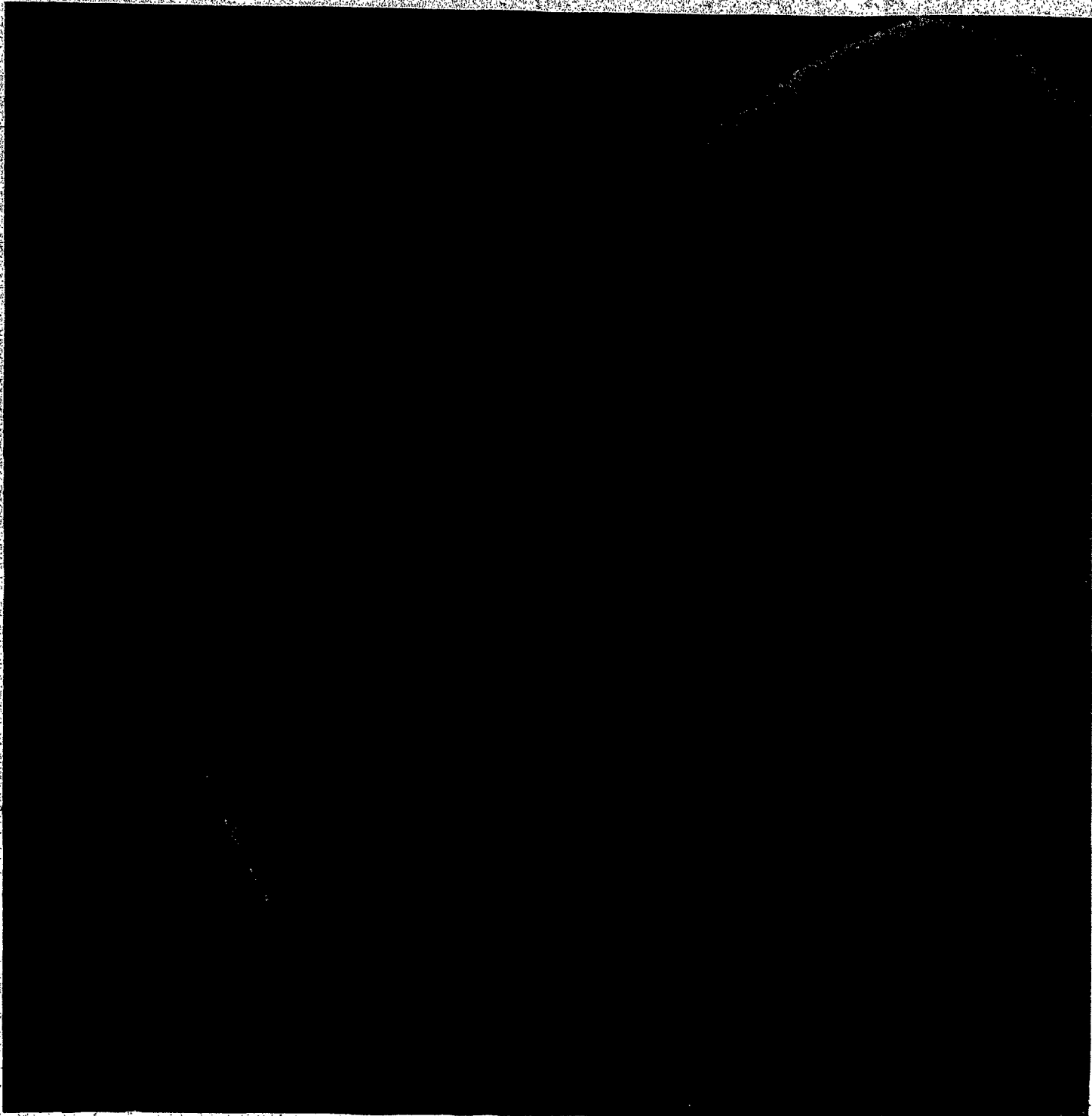


Praises Wyler's Film, 'The Collector'



Terence Stamp and Samantha Eggar in scene from "The Collector."

By J. D. NICOLA

(A Catholic Entertainment Feature)

"The Collector," a motion picture that was recently cited by the Legion of Decency as an example of how potentially sensational material can be handled with artistic restraint and tastefulness, was selected as the "best of the new films" in the June

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letter attempts to perform a function assigned to it by the Legion: to assist viewers in understanding current films and seeing what they might otherwise miss.

For example, one paragraph states: "Freddie, the collector, displays all the proper symptoms of the mentally disturbed, including naive cunning, unshakable pre-conceived ideas, and incapacity for normal feelings toward others."

"At one point, he destroys a Picasso and rips a book apart in an anti-intellectual fury. Whether or not the hair coming down on his forehead in so distinctively a style was intentionally evocative of Hitler, the parody is nevertheless a clear and deliberate opportunity, destroys what he cannot have or understand."

"The social implications arising from the shocking credibility of the situation will make the viewer much more responsive to the problems of mental health."

The newsletter's comment on "The Collector" takes note of the "consistently high caliber" of the production and concludes: "Although the film's subject is not going to appeal to all adults, especially those who are looking for simple entertainment, it is much more than a chilling nineteenth century Gothic tale laced with modern psychology and sex. It is a well-done study of the disturbed individual without society."

Singing out of "The Collector" for the newsletter's "best of the films" department is in keeping with a statement made recently by the Bishops' Committee for Motion Pictures, on the occasion of the Legion's 30th anniversary. The statement declared that the Church did not "share the viewpoint of those who would insist that every motion picture, to be acceptable, must be suitable to

the youngest and most immature member of the audience." Rather, the bishops agency said, "there is a legitimate place in the film medium for the presentation of mature material."

In rating the film A-4 (morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations) the Legion cautioned that it might prove emotionally disturbing "even for some sensitive adults," but nevertheless praised it for treating "potentially sensational material with artistic restraint and tastefulness."

The Catholic Film Newsletter is published by the Legion of Decency. Since December, when it first appeared, the newsletter has been an aid to the Legion in encouraging film study and in providing cooperation to films of merit. In this month's commentary on "The Collector."

Kerr Comedy Listed at T&C

"Mary, Mary," starring Barry Nelson and Phyllis Kirk, will be presented by Town and Country Playhouse, July 6-11, in the air-conditioned East High Theatre, Main at Culver, in Rochester.

"Mary, Mary" is listed among a select handful of plays of American stage history that had more than 1,000 continuous performances on Broadway. At its opening in 1931, the show captivated all of Broadway's critics, except for the redoubtable Walter Kerr, who refrained from reviewing the work of his wife, Jean (Please Don't Eat The Daisies) Kerr. The other New York critics paid "Mary, Mary" the extreme compliment of saying, "Even Walter Kerr would have liked this one."

Phone reservations for Town and Country Playhouse productions may be made by calling: DUDEY 1-1001 or 1-1002. The theater box office is at East High.

Theater News

Love's Labour Lost

by EUPHENA WYATT

LOVE'S LABOUR LOST—I wonder if Mr. Shakespeare after he had retired to New Place in Stratford ever read over any of his earlier plays? If he did I am sure that there was one play he would have been the first to discard, "Love's Labour Lost," which is not only his dullest comedy but the type in which the actors laugh more often than the audience.

Mr. Papp, however, has included "Love's Labour Lost" in his Shakespearean cycle in Central Park where an attractive company do their best to infuse it with an airy grace but are baffled by its long-windedness.

John Lyly had published "Euphues" in 1579 and most unhappily set the fashion for the exaggerated style that misled some authors in England and more on the Continent.

Shakespeare's hero is a mythical King of Navarre who induces three friends to sign a three year's pact during which period they will devote their time to study and eschew all women. Then the Princess of France arrives with three enchanting ladies-in-waiting and Love wins out.

Two traditional characters, supposedly comic, are also introduced: Don Armado, a Spanish Pedant and Holofernes, a schoolteacher, who do nothing much except to slow up the trickle of action.

The liveliest scene is when the King and his lords, dress up as Muscovites and perform a very Russian dance in which no words are spoken.

"Love's Labour Lost" has not been popular on the stage but it did have a performance here in 1953 at City Centre, directed by Albert Marre, when it had a Victorian setting with a gazebo in the garden. The less sophisticated period reduced the artificiality and a lavish use of the red pencil curtailed the speeches so that it cut a livelier caper than the present production directed by Gerald Freedman whose actors "ha-ha's" simulate merriment.

Ming Cho Lee has contrived an indication of baroque in his background through whose railings at the back is seen the moonlight on the lake; so has Theodor V. Aldredge in her completely delightful costumes which Mr. Freedman has used in a triumphant series of stage compositions.

Visually "Love's Labour Lost" is close to perfection. Excellence is also the attribute of the entire cast. Shakespeare is the one at fault for which he would seem to make apology at the finish for his literary flourishes with two songs of a real Merrie England. After a salute to Spring with his "Daisies pled and violets blue and lads' smocks all silver white" he turns to Winter, thumping his nose at French elegance with the Winter Song.

When nightly sings the stiring Owl, tu-whit, tu-who, a merry note while greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

LIVE LIKE PIGS—This rather startling title is a study of housing problems by a young British playwright, John Arden, who shows what happens when a group of Gypsy nomads who after centuries of roaming through the English countryside are suddenly shoved into an un-to-date development.

Sullen and nostalgic for their temporary lodgings in a windowless old street car and without any standards of sanitation or decency, the Sawneys disrupt their own plumbing and their neighbors' lives with swift efficiency.

They do, however, show compassion for their more destitute relations and are frankly amoral where as their seemingly respectable neighbors are thoroughgoing hypocrites.

One unusual character is an old crone called The Croaker who watches over a dissolute daughter. Also unusual is the extremely high standard of acting by the Theatre Company of Boston. But a glimpse of "Live Like Pigs" is enough.

THE MUSIC MAN—Last in the series of musical revivals presented by Jean Dalrymple at City Centre, "The Music Man" by Meredith Willson, while not in the class with "South Pacific," has an amiable and gusty humor all its own beginning with the careful of travelling salesmen who, without help from the orchestra, get the train moving to River City, Iowa, by the rhythm of their own speech and jiggling.

Gary, Indiana, also has its song-sung-by-redheaded Master Dennis Scott which as usual delighted the audience. Gaylea Byrne has a melodious voice for "Goodnight, My Someone" and is appealing as the Librarian who redeems Harold Hill from his racketeering with instruments and uniforms for the Boys' Band he never meant to train. But lead it he does in "76 Trombones" in the uniform that Bert Parks took over very smartly from Robert Preston. Doro Merande added her unique touch to Mrs. Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn and blonde headed Liza Redfields was a spirited conductor or conductress.

Dorothy Hill Wed In Hawaii

Miss Dorothy Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Barton Hill of Spencerport, and Lieutenant Steven E. Wales, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin M. Wales of Chicago, were married on June 15 in Makalapa Chapel, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Miss Judy Franz of Honolulu was maid of honor. Lieutenant Timothy Simoni was best man.

Radio Program

Family Rosary

The Family Rosary for Peace is broadcast nightly at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAJ, Auburn's WMBD-FM and through the facilities of the TV cable companies in the following cities: Elmira (Channel 5), Hornell (Channel 5) and Corning at 88.75 M.C.

Rosary leaders for the coming week will be:

Friday, July 2 — Charles Faust, St. Michael's, with the Kolping Society.

Saturday, July 3 (Mass will be celebrated) — Charles Di-penza Jr., St. Monica's.

Sunday, July 4 — Edward Nassar, St. Patrick's.

Monday, July 5 — Joseph Huck, St. Helen's.

Tuesday, July 6 — Jerry Mens, St. Ambrose, with the St. Thomas More Club.

Wednesday, July 7 — Victor Lootens, St. Anne's.

Thursday, July 8 — Fred Benson, St. Margaret Mary's, with Laymen's Retreat League members.

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, July 2, 1965

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