

New Loew's Theatre Opens With Lancaster in 'Train'

The first unit in a group of approximately 30 new theatres to be added to the Loew's

Theatre circuit during the next twenty-four months was opened July 15 in Rochester. A circuit total of 100 houses is the target set by Loew officials.

The new 1,200-seat Loew's Theatre is located on Monroe Ave. opposite the Pittsford Plaza Shopping Center, ten minutes from downtown Rochester. A 1,100-car free parking area surrounds the theatre.

The premier audience included a cross-section of Greater Rochester's civic, political, social, industrial, religious, and communication leaders. Inaugural attraction is U.A.'s "The Train" exclusive first-run Rochester showing.

Prior to the tape-cutting by Loew officials and Mayor Frank T. Lamb of Rochester, Mayor Norman E. Lauterbach of Pittsford, and F. Ross Zarnow, supervisor of the Town of Pittsford, a parade of 22 vintage cars, owned by members of the Genesee Valley Antique Car Club, delivered the Rochester Democrat-Chronicle's Harvest Queens, who acted as hostesses.

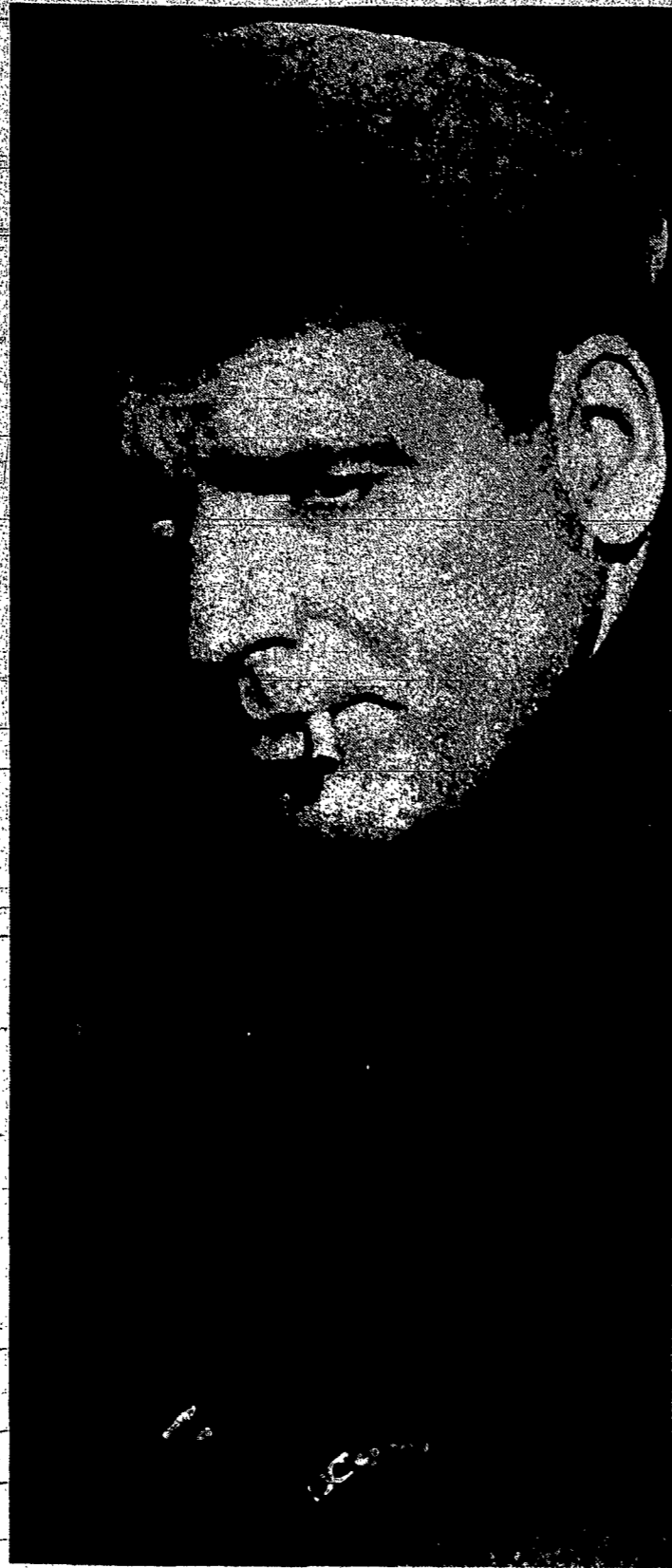
The Emerald Cadets Marching Band performed in the vast parking area. A quintet of violins provided background music in the foyer.

TV stars Allen and Rossi made a personal appearance.

The one-floor auditorium, which features a wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling, all-purpose screen and "rocking-chair" type seats, is decorated in tones of royal blue, green and black. The house is equipped to project 70mm, Cinemascope, and all of the wide-screen processes.

A focal point in the foyer area, provides an art gallery in which the works of local artists are displayed. The showing will be changed with each screen attraction. A 60-foot mural—a montage of motion picture memorabilia—sweeps across the spacious foyer.

Unlike many shopping center theatres, Loew's will schedule matinees, running continuously daily from 2 p.m.



Burt Lancaster stars in "The Train."

B'nai B'rith Defended Against Right Wing Group

New York — (RNS) — A noted Catholic priest-columnist and social action leader has come to the defense of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish service organization under attack by an extreme right-wing group.

Writing in his weekly column, which appears in several Catholic papers, Msgr. George G. Higgins of Washington, D.C., asserted that Edgar Bundy, executive director of the Church League of America, has been mailing to Catholic priests and laymen a "grossly distorted and misleading version of the activities of the ADL."

Msgr. Higgins, director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference's Social Action Department, said that Mr. Bundy is "seriously mistaken . . . if he honestly believes he can disrupt close ties and the cooperative

working relationship which Catholic priests and lay leaders have enjoyed and, hopefully, will continue to enjoy with the Anti-Defamation League."

The priest wrote that the Church League's campaign against the ADL was apparently prompted by the Jewish agency's exposure of Mr. Bundy's group as a far right organization. He was referring to "Danger on the Right," a study of ultra conservatism by Benjamin Epstein and Arnold Forster, executive director and general counsel, respectively, of the ADL.

Msgr. Higgins said that Catholic clergy and laymen "know the truth about the ADL because, over the years, they have worked closely with it in building better interfaith and intergroup relations." He cited as an example the many Catholic-Jewish dialogues held on campuses under co-sponsorship of the ADL and Catholic colleges.

Opposition Getting to be 'Automatic'

St. Louis — (RNS) — The St. Louis Review, official newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, editorially criticized Jewish groups who reject "almost automatically" all the factors involved in government aid to private schools.

Praising the action of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for affirming its stand regarding the separation of church and state but "nevertheless approving of government attempts to aid education as long as the aid goes to the child and not to the school," the Review said that "too many Jewish groups react almost automatically to pleas for a reexamination of all the factors involved in government aid to those in private schools as a threat to religious freedom."

The newspaper said a number of other Protestant groups and "a few segments of the Jewish community" have taken the same position held by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

In refuting the Church League charge that there is a lack of ADL concern over the political far left, Msgr. Higgins wrote that this "completely ignores the excellent anti-Communist materials which have been published in recent years by the ADL."

The charge, he said, "also ignores the fact that in his book, Masters of Deceit, J. Edgar Hoover paid tribute to the ADL and B'nai B'rith for their effective anti-communism."

T&C Stages Wouk Comedy

Herman Wouk's smash comedy, "Nature's Way" will be staged at Town and Country Playhouse, East High Theatre, Main and Culver, July 20-25.

Written by the Pulitzer prize-winning author of "The Caine Mutiny" "Nature's Way" is a fast-paced comedy. The plot revolves around a young couple having their first taste of success. He has just written the score for a hit Broadway musical.

Tickets for Town and Country Playhouse may be purchased at the theatre box office at East High, Sears or McCurdy's stores. Reservations may be made by calling: Dudley 1-100 or 1-1002.

Currently running at Town and Country Playhouse through July 18, is "Stop The World—I Want To Get Off" with Jackie Warner. On July 22, at 2 p.m., there will be a children's theatre presentation of "The Hobbit" by the adult professional company, Peter Piper Players.

Legion Condemns 'Fidelity' Movie

New York — (NC) — The National Legion of Decency found that the Italian-made movie "High in Fidelity" isn't.

Labeling the Magna Pictures release "frequently crude and suggestive," the legion classified the film in its condemned (Class C) category.

"This four-part film about various forms of perversion not only fails to develop character because of the brevity of its parts, but also is frequently crude and suggestive in treatment," the legion stated.

"Thus lacking any moral sense which would give balance to its choice of subject matter, this attempt at ironic comedy succeeds only in being an exploitation of sordid stories," the legion added.

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Theater News

Mardi Gras

by EUPHEMIA WYATT

New York offers two alluring refugees from hot weather—

MARDI GRAS—The annual summer show at Jones Beach can guarantee moonshine and sea breeze as well as the usual profusion of spectacular musicals. This year was especially created for Guy Lombardo's Marine Theatre. The story is built up around the notorious buccaners of New Orleans, Jean Lafitte, whose pirate ship flying the Skull and Bones sails in with the haughty French beauty he has captured.

We follow the romance with his son, Lucky Lafitte, the gambler and then John Lafitte, director of the current Mardi Gras.

The recession in Time is brought about by John Lafitte's visit to Katie's Voodoo Shack which introduces Juanita Hall who makes a Jungle Voodoo Ritual with enough drums and tingling dancers to make even the adults creep.

All in all from the opening glimpses of New Orleans with street vendors, wash women, gay walking couples in flame color to the pirates' polka with their captured French ballet dancers; to the dancers in Lucky Lafitte's Gambling House with its original jazz band which is wrecked by Carrie Nation's followers with hatchets to the final Mardi Gras procession, there is no let up in tuneful action.

David Atkinson brings his rich baritone to Lafitte-Lafitte and Karen Shepard lends her beauty to romance. The sets are George Jenkins'; the most enjoyable costumes by Winn Morton. Mr. Lombardo has taken

no short cuts to make his public happy.

KISMET—Way back in 1911 a playwright named Edward Knoblock wrote a romantic fantasy about a poet in Baghdad which became a show piece for Otis Skinner. In 1944 Ronald Coleman and Marjorie Dietrich were seen in a musical version on the screen. In 1953, with a musical score adapted from Borodin it was a triumphant vehicle for Alfred Drake.

Richard Rodgers has now persuaded Drake to relieve Haji, the Poet, a most fortunate decision for Mr. Drake's fine voice is still a willing instrument and the grace of his flamboyance is more richly mature.

The story covers only twenty-four hours in the life of Haji but it would have taken most men a lifetime to even score. Haji by devious means acquires a fortune; is hired to kill the Caliph; escapes from death by a squeak; strangles a wicked sheik; drowns a wicked Wazir; rescues his own daughter from the Wazir's harem and finally sees her wedded to her true love, the Caliph. Then Haji falls asleep again outside the same Mosque.

Besides Mr. Drake there are two actors who played the villain in the original cast—Henry Calvin and T. C. McMan. Henry Calvin and T. C. McMan. Like Doretta Morrow in 1953, Lee Venora as Haji's daughter, also sang Tuptim in "The King and I." Richard Banke is the ideal romantic as the king of sinuous sophistication as the Caliph. Anne Jeffreys is full had Wazir's beautiful wife.

For the fourth time, Jack

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