

Paulists, Jesuits Produce 'Filmviewer's Handbook'

By J. D. NICOLA

An important milestone in the Church's efforts to promote film education was reached this month with the publication of "The Filmviewer's Handbook," an inexpensive paperback designed to teach its readers just how to gain an understanding of films.

The handbook, written by two Jesuit priests from St. Mary's College, Kansas, has been published here by the Paulist Press (208 pp., 95 cents).

"We want to encourage a creative interest in film viewing and film making by our younger people," commented the Rev. Kevin Lynch, O.S.P., editor of Paulist Press books. "We're often in the role of criticizing films as materialistic. But Christians must acquire a creative ability in this medium, and this means having an understanding of films from the time they are young."

THE HANDBOOK was prepared to meet the growing needs of film study groups in Catholic high schools, colleges and parishes and has already received praise from "The Catholic Film Newsletter," published by the Legion of Decency. "Hopefully, this is the American beginning of a large number of Catholic publications dealing with film culture," the Newsletter commented. In addition to aiding film study groups, it said, "this volume will have a great deal of usefulness for teachers and parents who want to make a beginning in film appreciation."

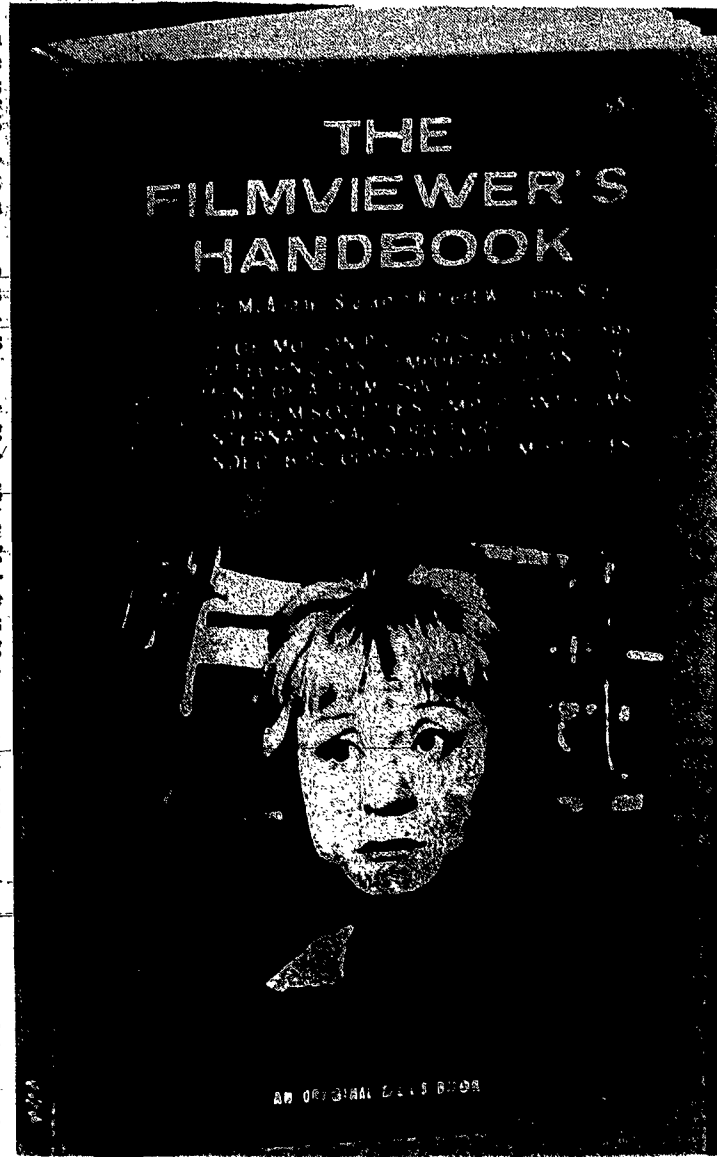
Featuring a cover photo of actress Giulietta Masina in a scene from Federico Fellini's "La Strada," the handbook is a how-to guide rather than a theoretical work about the importance of film education.

"One finds a great deal of exhortation to form 'proper' critical judgment, yet little information is given to show him how he is to go about this operation," claim the authors, the Rev. Emile McAnany, S.J., and the Rev. Robert Williams, S.J.

After a brief introduction to the history of motion pictures and a short description of how films are constructed, the authors give specific examples of how films should be studied and analyzed.

The authors even offer their own "Sample Series of Films" as a starter for film study groups that have never done it before. The series includes: "High Noon," "La Strada," "On the Waterfront," "Ikiru," "The Set-Up" and "The Diary of a Country Priest."

With each of the films in this series, Fathers McAnany and Williams provide the necessities for an intelligent discussion and understanding of each picture: who the director is, when it was made, who wrote it; placing the film in context (in the case of "High Noon," a short treatise on the development of the Western is supplied); important points about the film itself ("One thinks of many images in 'Waterfront': the bare little park in front of



the grim turn-of-the-century Catholic church, the narrowness of the Doyle's apartment, the gray overcast of New York harbor in November, the jumble of lines, chimneys and ledges on the rooftops of the apartments. These visual images give the film an important strength that no other weakness can entirely dissipate."

IN ADDITION, the would-be film-discussion leader is given information on how to present each film, with helpful hints for discussion and analysis on each of the films ("What significance does the final sequence of the priest's death at the house of his former companion have for the rest of the story in 'Diary of a Country Priest?'").

The handbook includes hints on the organization of a film society, complete with details on how and where to get films and how to finance them. The writers strongly favor formation of film clubs or societies because this is the only practical way to see films more than

once. "No one can possibly grasp the full implications of a great work of art at one time," they wrote. "In the art of film, repeated viewings are necessary."

Much of the handbook's practicality is owed to Father Williams, a 35-year-old native of Denver who at one time planned a career as a motion picture director. He attended Colorado State Teachers College where he set up a film society before the Korean War interrupted his studies. After serving as a communications sergeant in Korea, he entered the Jesuit order, where he pursued his interest in films.

At St. Louis University his master's thesis was on the documentary film, and he has taken part in several film-study conferences sponsored by Catholic high schools and colleges throughout the country. He is currently in New York researching for a book on the psychological-physiological efforts of motion pictures. (Catholic Entertainment Fellowship to see films more than twice)



Comedy, History in Air Race

A spectacular comedy that provides A-1 Legion of Decency entertainment for the whole family is the colorful motion picture "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines" now showing at Rochester's Riviera Theatre in Rochester. The film's producers had to recreate primitive airplanes to stage a 1910 race from London to Paris. Shows are at 2 and 8 p.m. daily.



At Our House

I Love a Parade

By MARY TINLEY DALY

On Friday summer evenings in Washington, D.C., visitors to the nation's capital and its residents have awaiting them an unforgettable thrill.

This is the Friday evening parade at Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye Sts., S.E., proud tradition of the oldest post of the United States Marine Corps.

Unlike attending an ordinary performance such as a theater or concert, where you buy a ticket and find a seat, every single person who enters the Barracks is made to feel like an honored guest. A handsome Marine in the well-known Dress Blues greets you cordially at the gate, then a trim and smiling Lady Marine give you a program and you are turned over to another handsome Marine who finds a seat for you, takes you by the arm, if you're a lady, and helps you ascend the steps to the visitors' viewing stand.

With that kind of gallant treatment, with the stirring music of the 50-man Marine Band in your ears, and in a setting of a luxuriant garden, you are quite in the mood to enjoy a patriotic experience and wondrous entertainment.

At "Two Bells," 9 p.m. (two light, Cheryll III, the Barracks Mascot, is led across the parade grounds, obviously proud of being a canine Marine.

From then on, you are not conscious of the passing of time — just intrigued with the sights and sounds on that parade ground. In the visitors' stands are men and women of all races, children of all ages, from babies on up, but nobody ever seems bored or restless and seldom do even the babies cry.

In the kaleidoscopic panorama passing before you, you see well-trained, strictly disciplined men, proud of being members of the United States Marine Corps.

At one stage, the parade ground becomes alive with nearly 200 blue-coated Marines standing at attention, six platoons of 30 men each. Each uniform is impeccable, shoes shined to a patent-leather polish, white trousers with razor-sharp creases, guns on shoulders at exactly the same angle, white gloves making a uniform line all the way down the field, hats forming an absolutely straight line. You wonder, are these men all exactly the same height? Common sense tells you they couldn't be, but so perfectly aligned are they that they seem so.

At another stage, lights are lowered, spotlights directed across the arcade to the roof of the barracks where you see six scarlet-coated buglers blowing a fanfare.

'Forum' Musical Stated at T&C

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" will be the season's final production at Town and Country Playhouse, Aug. 24-29, at East High Theatre, Main at Culver.

Danny Dayton will star as Pseudolus. Dayton has worked extensively in the three major branches of show business. He has been associated with "A Funny Thing" since its inception and played the lead on Broadway last year.

Among his other Broadway credits are: "High Button Shoes," "Detective Story" and, more recently, "I Had A Ball."

Movie appearances include: "REQUIEM FOR A HEAVYWEIGHT GUY" and "DOLLS AND THE TURNING POINT." He has guest-starred on most of the major TV shows and was seen in the starring role of "THE REPORTER" series.

The show's music is by Stephen Sondheim, brilliant lyricist of "West Side Story" and "GYPSY."

Town and Country Playhouse tickets are on sale at the theatre box office and all Sears and McCurdy's stores.

KC Home Unit Elects Five

Geneva — Five new members were elected to the Board of Directors Home Corporation Council 272, Knights of Columbus at July 28 meeting.

Named were: Francis McCann, John Campbell, John Gleason, Thomas Gallagher, William Leonard.

Officers elected were: John F. Peck, president; Joseph LaVois, treasurer; and Thomas Gallagher, past grand knight, secretary.

The newly elected officers, president Peck said, are looking forward to "a progressive and prosperous furtherance of the religious, business and social welfare of the organization for the coming year."

New Rectory In Mt. Morris

Mt. Morris — A large number of parishioners and townspeople inspected the new rectory of St. Patrick's parish held Sunday afternoon.

The rectory is the former Russell home at 48 Stanley St., purchased by the parish and remodeled and enlarged. The century-old rectory on Chapel St. was razed to make way for a driveway for the parish parking lot.

The pastor, the Rev. Dominic J. Grasso, and assistant pastor Charles Langworthy were on hand to give the guided tour. Ladies of the parish served refreshments.

SILENT DRILL

After this, utter silence of the audience, mentioned above, is broken by "Oh" and "Ahs" and now and then an "Oh, No!" during performance of the Silent Drill Platoon. "Intricate maneuvers and variations of the manual of arms without command" as the program modestly puts it.

The "intricate maneuvers" with those heavy rifles must be seen to be believed. No wonder this platoon is known as "a paragon of military excellence" and invited for cross-country and overseas appearances, often in conjunction with the Drum and Bugle Corps.

When they all pass in review then march off and the sound of "Taps" fades into the distance, visitors know they have had a patriotic experience — making much of today's "sick" entertainment sick-unto-death.

Though there is no charge for these Friday evening parades, their popularity has grown so that reservations must be made well ahead. To reserve tickets for some future Friday, write Friday Evening Parade, Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye Sts., S. E., Washington, D.C., or call LI 3-1601.

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