

'Darling' Receives Award As Best Mature Film

The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures recently rewarded the movie, "Darling," playing currently in the Rochester area, as last year's "Best Film for Mature Audiences."

A British-made film directed by John Schlesinger, "Darling" is the story of a top-flight model (played by Julie Christie) who in a frustrating search for happiness leaves one husband for another (a TV commentator played by Dirk Bogarde), then tires of him for a pleasure-loving ad executive (Laurence Harvey).

New Sheen Movie Ready

New York—(NC)—"The 30th Parallel," Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's new movie, is ready for national release.

Written and narrated by the bishop, "The 30th Parallel" is in black and white, runs 26 minutes and is available through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith here, of which the bishop is national director.

The great schism of the 20th century, Bishop Sheen narrates in the movie, is the divorce between the Hayes and the Kennedys of the world. For all practical purposes, the 30th parallel is the geographical cut-off between the two, he says.

Finally, as in a fairy-tale, she marries an Italian prince, only to discover that for someone with her values, palace walls can prove a gray and flat prison.

"In shot after shot," it continued, "the bored faces of millionaires at a charity gambling party, the unrelated and irrelevant statements of the man on the street during a TV interview, the antiseptic walls of modern office buildings, the often overly brilliant lighting, and especially the still shots of the 'Happiness Girl' herself (Miss Christie), these and every picture Schlesinger puts on the screen devastatingly project a way of life that is no deeper than the emulsion of the celluloid."

It was rated A-4 (morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations) with the notation that the rating applied only to prints shown in the U.S.



Julie Christie and Dirk Bogarde in "Darling," best film for mature audiences.

'A Patch of Blue' Thought-Provoking

Occasionally a motion picture of the Field," and Elizabeth Hartman overawe their potential mawkish material.

Our heroine in this poignant drama is a friendless, illiterate blind girl, abused and deprived of human dignity by a callous mother and a drunken grandfather. She is forced to while away her time in their squalid tenement flat in which she drudges at menial chores and strings beads.

On a rare visit to a public park, she is befriended by a young middle-class Negro. Her surprise at anyone being interested in her turns his initial indifference into compassion. The childlike happiness she radiates as he introduces her to such banal items as the telephone and pineapple juice is particularly touching.

Superb direction and brilliant acting make this a memorable motion picture. Its obvious theme—that love is not a selfishly quick overpowered by an underlying philosophy of man which emphasizes his humanity and individuality in the end a "Patch of Blue" is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

This film carries an A-III rating from the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures—Mogile Jameson.

'A Patch of Blue' Thought-Provoking

Director Guy Green has deftly adapted Elizabeth Kata's novel "Be Ready With Bells and Drums" to the screen with a rare sensitivity. His brilliant lyrical style together with extraordinary characterizations by Sidney Poitier, who won an Academy Award as best actor for his performance in "Lilies"

Each main character is identified by a particular melody on a particular instrument. Instruments to be used are the soprano recorder, the alto recorder, drums, cymbals, and the harp.

The musicians include Mary Hayes, Anne Hayes, Sue Van Bell, Francine Glassic, Peggy Proesus, Sue Murray, Peggy Robinson and Chris Smith.

Another unusual feature in the play will be the use of grotesque masks by King Creon and members of the chorus, in accordance with the customs of the ancient Greek theater.

In supporting roles are Marilyn Schwartz, Margaret Martone, Mary John Boylan, Ruth Garvey, Kathy Keating, Daryl Farabee, Ellen McGee, Mary Jo Mayer, Liz O'Keefe, Molly McGee, Jackie Shales, Dianne Mitchell, Margaret Schepp and Marysue Wiedemer.

FILMS ABOUT TOWN

FILMS OF MORE THAN ROUTINE INTEREST ARE DESCRIBED ON THIS PAGE

The Agony and the Ecstasy—This historical epic, in color and Todd-AO depicts the struggle of Michaelangelo (Charlton Heston) to create the Sistine Chapel ceiling frescoes while being badgered by Pope Julius II (Rex Harrison). The dramatic climax of the film is the exchanges between these two strong-willed individuals (Riviera, 1461 Lake Ave., Matinees 2 p.m. Wed. & Sat. Evenings 8 p.m.)

A Patch of Blue—Is a moving, tender and at moments heart-breaking drama which stars Sidney Poitier, who won an Academy Award as best actor for his performance in "Lilies of the Field," and Elizabeth Hartman who gives a brilliant performance as a young blind girl who knows only tolerance for in her world all men are black (Cinema Theatre—Clinton Ave. S. at Goodman—weekdays 7:20, 9:25 Sat. & Sun. 1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:40, 9:50).

Darling—Julie Christie proves to be a very talented young actress in this sharply realistic examination of the emptiness that characterizes the lives of the pleasure-seekers in contemporary society. Directed by John Schlesinger with unrelenting honesty, this episode film captures the hopeless frustration of life devoid of a worthy purpose. With Dick Bogard and Laurence Harvey. (Coronet Theatre, 555 Thurston Rd., Daily 7:20, 9:35 except Sunday, 2, 4:20, 6:40, 9.)

Othello—An unconventional but highly praised portrayal of the Moor of Venice by Laurence Olivier. The film presents Shakespeare's work, described by Olivier as the Band's "most exciting piece of pure theatre," exactly as it is being presented on the stage by the National Theatre of Great Britain (Waring—Waring Rd. Plaza—weekdays 8 p.m. except Friday 8:15

Greek Play 'Antigone' Scheduled at Mercy High

Musical sound effects will play a significant part in the presentation of the Greek tragedy, "Antigone," at Our Lady of Mercy High School on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 20 and 21. Show time is at 8:30 p.m. and tickets are \$1.00.

The backstage crew includes Alice Tallmadge as assistant director; Peggy Robinson, stage manager; Joan Van Graafeiland, lights; Ellen McGee and Marilyn Schwartz, prompters; Debbie Leach, makeup; Joy Gerhardt, wardrobe; Carol Ann Yaeger, set and props; and Kathy Conte, masks.



SUE DAVIS as Antigone is surrounded by masked members of the chorus in the Greek tragedy, "Antigone" to be presented at Our Lady of Mercy High School on Feb. 20 and 21.

Winterset

by EUPHEMIA WYATT

WINTERSSET — "Endurance, though it may be a fallible test, is the only test of excellence."

This is a quotation from the preface to "Winterset" written by Maxwell Anderson in 1935. Thus this first revival in New York is rather a crucial test of Anderson's experiment in combining a contemporary drama, and a gangster one at that, with poetry.

Since then T. S. Eliot has used verse in three modern plays and this season Professor Alfred has clothed Brooklyn ward politics in pentameters in "Hogan's Goat."

I remember very well the ripples of excitement caused by "Winterset" which swelled from a September opening until the Spring brought Anderson the First Annual Award of the New York Drama Critics' Circle.

But in '35, "Winterset" had three important features missing in the revival. It maintained the injustice of the recently notorious Sacco-Vanzetti trial, it had a very strong cast and dramatic set ever created by Jo Knott's latest thriller is that dominated by a gigantic span of Brooklyn Bridge which seemed to arch off over the audience.

Everything in "Winterset" is on a large almost universal scale precluding intimacy. It is not designed for Little Theatres, particularly one like the present Jan Hus Playhouse whose ceiling excludes any bridge span, which Anderson evidently thought of as symbolic.

World War II cancelled excitement over the Sacco-Vanzetti case and the gangster side of the drama is now played so much better than the love story that it dims Anderson's idealism and poetry.

Mio is the boy who has dedicated his life to proving his father's innocence of the murder for which he was executed. He lives only for revenge until Miriamne teaches him to try to forget how to hate. The con-

cluding speech of the Rabbi in which he says:

This is the glory of earth born men and women. Not to cringe, never to yield, but standing.

Take defeat implacable— is unfortunately spoken with such a strong accent that it is practically unintelligible.

The audience at "Winterset" was the youngest I have seen all season. They giggled when the Bing-Bing in the wings took toll of Mio and Miriamne. It tore our hearts in '35 but we hadn't lived through thirty years of gangsterism plus a World War.

Lester Rawlins as the gang leader and Warren Wade as the demented judge stand out in the cast. This revival may be a very fallible test but it is negative.

WAIT TILL DARK — One "blind" girl pitted against three gangsters seems enough suspense in itself for an evening dramatic set ever created by Jo Knott's latest thriller is that the only real thrills come in Act III.

Personally I was rent with anxiety for Lee Remick as Susy through Acts I and II. Susy's husband had been teaching her to be independent which was not designed for him as just another day's business trip, Susy discovers that he has been tricked into being an involuntary accomplice in a marocite smuggling plot and she determines to keep him safely out of the hands of both the gang and the police.

Her only assistance must come from a pugacious and treacherous "little" girl named Gloria who reveals in excitement how Susy does manage to work on a sense of decency in the young member of the gang.

How to keep in the secret hiding place of a doll stuffed with heroin is the crux of the drama. How Susy devises her strategy and accomplishes it provides some moments of breathless excitement.

Susy herself is a devious character extremely well played by Miss Remick. Robert Duell is the sinister gang leader. Major Knott was also the author of Dial M for Murder. Arthur Penn is the director.

Dean's List

Miss Margaret E. Beuerlein of Mt. Morris has been named on the Dean's List at D'Youville College for the fall term according to Sister Mary Kathleen GNSH, Dean of Students. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Beuerlein and is a junior.

Powers Novels On Sunday TV

J. F. Powers' "The Darkness and The Grace" will be the third of a four-part television series dealing with contemporary Catholic authors, presented on Directions '66 by the Public Affairs Department of the American Broadcasting Company in association with the National Council of Catholic Men. The program will be telecast over the ABC-TV network on Sunday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m.

The focus of the program will be dramatic readings from Mr. Powers' novel, "Mortel Urban," which won the National Book Award in 1963, and from his two collections of short stories, "The Prince of Darkness," and "The Presence of Grace."

Musical Set At Nazareth

"Jo," a Broadway musical comedy based on the classic "Little Women," will be presented by Nazareth Academy Perosian Choir and Men's Chorus in Nazareth Academy Auditorium, 1001 Lake Ave., on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 18, 19 and 20 at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets are available at the school or at the door on the evenings of performance.

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