

# Father Culkin, Film Educator

There are about a dozen people who have led the Church's film education movement, but there is one person who stands head and shoulders over the rest, both figuratively and literally: a 65-year-old former basketball star who is now the Rev. John M. Culkin, S.J.

The 38-year-old Jesuit, who was introduced at the last convention of the National Catholic Educational Association as "the John the Baptist of film education," did his latest preaching here Jan. 25 during a week-long mid-term film program sponsored by St. Xavier High School. His audience: parents and teachers and administrators from public and parochial schools.

His gospel: "The schools have traditionally trained audience taste in literature, drama and the other arts. Film is the new art and it too should be included." He also believes this is the best way to bring about more great films: "My own feeling is that to get smart, intelligent, interesting movies, the best thing to do is work on the audience."

Father Culkin, who is director of Fordham University's Center for Communications, has found it necessary to first work on the teachers, then the school administrators, convincing them of the need for film education, then showing them how to go about it.

He scored a major breakthrough this Fall when the secondary school department of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) gave over the entire October issue of its quarterly "Bulletin" to Father Culkin and his message.

"We consider this issue of the 'Bulletin' to be a rather unusual contribution to the field of Catholic education," wrote the Rev. C. A. Koob, O. Pream, editor. "If at first the ideas presented in it do not seem to fit into the school set-up to which you are accustomed, we ask you not to cast it aside. Read the issue once again. Try what has been suggested."

Reaction has been so strong, Father Culkin said, that reprints are now being readied, with the "Encyclopedia Britannica" already having ordered 5,000 copies for distribution to educational leaders.

In the "Bulletin" issue, Father Culkin stressed the "how" and "what" of film education, providing lists of films. For showing, information on where to obtain them, and detailed instruction on how to go about the four key steps in studying films: (a) See Them, (b) Discuss Them, (c) Teach About Them, (d) Make Them.

The issue was based on practical thesis Father Culkin did in earning a doctorate in film education from Harvard University the year before last when for six weeks he taught a 30-hour course on films to 28 sophomores in a public high school near Boston.

He was invited to teach the course, at Newton South High School, by its principal, Donald K. Davidson, a non-Catholic. He

had heard of Father Culkin's work at Harvard and that the priest was looking for a high school in which to put his theories to practice.

At the high school, during normal class time, Father Culkin used five films: "High Noon" to teach the principles of film editing, particularly how suspense can be built by cutting from one scene to another; "Citizen Kane," to illustrate how positioning of the camera can make statements about the subject; "Grapes of Wrath" for lighting technique; "Odd Man Out" for visual symbolism, and "The Caine Mutiny" for the use of color and for what Father Culkin calls "one of my favorite games: cross-media comparison." He notes that each of the four versions of "Caine Mutiny"—book, play, movie, TV—had a different hero: Willie Keith, the lawyer Greenwood, the U.S. Navy and Captain Queeg, respectively.

"Remember that very little that happens in a movie is unintentional," he told them on his last day there. "The way a film is edited has a lot to do with what you get out of it."

Father Culkin himself got very little out of films during his high school years, when his prime interest was basketball. A star center for Manhattan's Xavier Preparatory School "Cadeys," he won a cage scholarship to Niagara University, but left there after a year to enter the Jesuit order.

In 1958, while a scholastic at Woodstock, Md., he and 60 other Jesuits were visited by the Rev. Jacques Cousineau, S.J., who was a member of the National Film Board of Canada. He showed Father Culkin's "La Strada" and ever since, Father Culkin has used that film for instant convert-making. He screens it, leads a discussion on it, then shows it again.

"After they have seen 'La Strada' for the second time after such a discussion, there is no need of reinforcing the lesson that they had missed much that was worth while—and that it was their lack of understanding that caused it, not the obscurantism of the director," he says. "From then on, they are with you." (Catholic Press Features)

## Mothers of Twins Club Active

The Greater Rochester Mother of Twins Club celebrates its fourth birthday on March 24. The club has grown from twenty members to about fifty members this year. Exchanging ideas and experience in raising twins, plus providing information and material regarding twins remains the purpose of the organization.

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Church of the Ascension, 2 Riverside Street. Information available from Ruth Brown, ID 6-8351.

## FILMS ABOUT TOWN

FILMS OF MORE THAN ROUTINE INTEREST ARE DESCRIBED ON THIS PAGE

**The Agony and the Ecstasy**—Southtown Plaza. Matinees Wed., Sat., and Sun. at 2 p.m. Evenings at 8:15 except Sunday, 7:45.

**Madam X**—This romantic drama stars Lana Turner as a young and wealthy woman who, out of loneliness, has an affair and suffers the loss of her husband's love and ultimately her own self respect as a result of it. (Regent Theatre, 65 East Ave. Daily, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.)

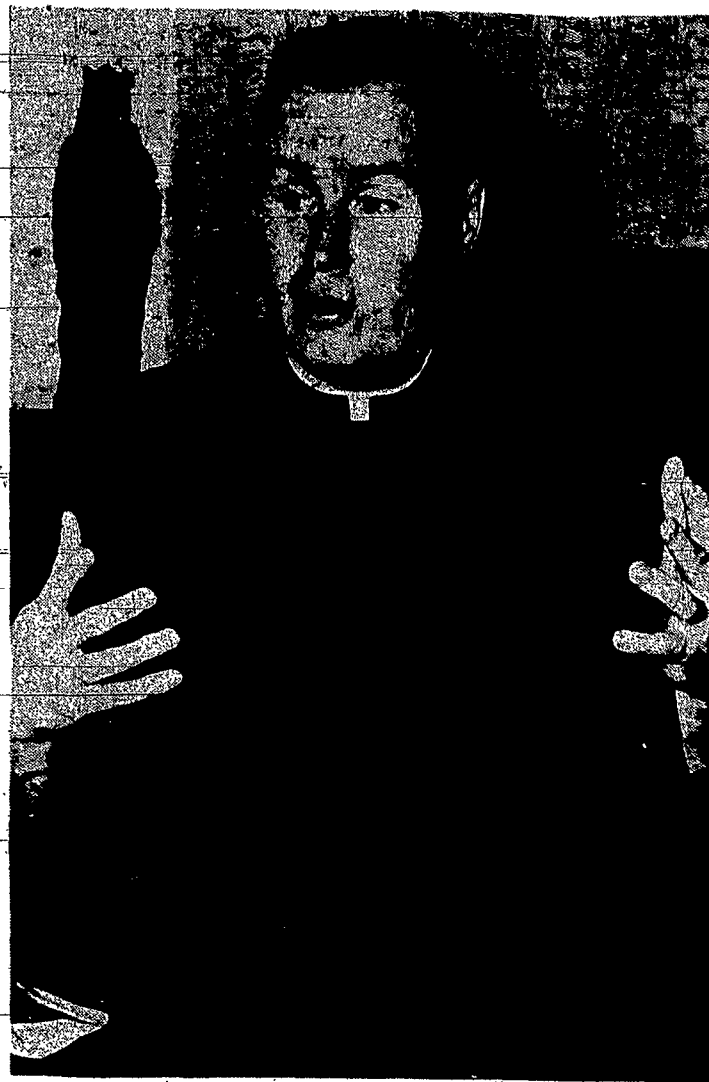
**Starred in "Ship of Fools"** is a superb group of players, many of whom have won Academy or comparable awards for their work in films or on the stages of the world. Brought together on a German passenger freighter moving between Mexico and Bremerhaven, in 1933, they portray characters who bring aboard their troubles and frustrations, their desires and desperations. (Fine Arts, South Ave. at Gregory, Daily 7:10, 9:45; except Sunday, 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45.)

**Sound of Music**—Julie Andrews plays the irrepressible Maria in this exultant Broadway Story of the Trapp Family Singers. The majestic peaks and deep blue lakes of the Australian Alps provide an atmosphere of beauty and tranquility for this entrancing musical. (Monroe Theatre, 583 Monroe Ave., Matinees 2 p.m. Wed., and Sat., Evenings 8 p.m.)

**Thunderball**—Saturday Review notes "Bond is, if anything more daring in his new film... he flies through the air with the greatest of ease, using a newly developed jet-powered contraption for the purpose, and is equally at home underwater, where he thwarts an atomic attack on a major American city. He's flipper than ever too with his double entendres. When he contrives it so that a pretty dancing partner, a SPECTRE employee, is shot in a table and explains his leaving her there with the remark: 'She's just dead.' (Stoneridge, Stone and Ridge Rds., Sat. and Sun. 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55; weekdays 7:20, 9:45.)—Hogie Jameson

**The Flight of the Phoenix**—"While the wreckage of a twin-engine transport sizzles in mid-Sahara, Director Robert Aldrich coolly studies a crew of survivors headed by James Stewart in their attempt to escape on a wing and a prayer."—TIME. (Paramount Theatre, 33 Clinton Ave. N. Daily 12:30, 3:25, 6:20, 9:15.)

**The Greatest Story Ever Told**—Bosley Crowther, N.Y. Times, has said: "There are things of supreme and solemn beauty in this almost four-hour-long color film. There are scenes in which the grandeur of nature is brilliantly used to suggest the surge of the human spirit in waves of exaltation and awe. (Towne Theatre, Jefferson Rd. opposite



FATHER JOHN M. CULKIN

## Family Rosary Radio Leaders

**The Family Rosary for Peace**—Rochester's radio station WSAJ, Auburn's WMBQ-FM, and through the facilities of the TV cable companies in the following cities: Elmira (Channel 8), Hornell (Channel 5) and Corning at 88.75 M.C.

**Sunday, March 27**—William Rossi, St. Patrick, Macedon, accompanied by Macedon Junior C.Y.O.

**Monday, March 28**—Anthony Annunziata, St. James.

**Tuesday, March 29**—Joseph Zimmer, St. Michael.

**Wednesday, March 30**—Joseph Zanic, Precious Blood.

**Thursday, March 31**—Representative of Girl Scout Troop No. 856.



**Greatest Story Now Playing**  
Jesus, as portrayed by Max Von Sydow, appears before Herod (Jose Ferrer) in scene from "The Greatest Story Ever Told," now playing at the Town Theatre, opposite Southtown Plaza in Rochester.



**Brother Timothy turns to the wine thief for an honest appraisal of whether The Christian Brothers Chateau La Salle is ready for your enjoyment.**

Brother Timothy's inheritance of the Christian Brothers' wine-making activities in California. The wine thief is the device you see him using here to draw a sample of The Christian Brothers Chateau La Salle. This rich wine has a naturally sweet flavor, and a pleasantly sunny character, that combine to make it a delightful refreshment any time.

## 'Flight of the Phoenix', Excitement and Suspense

Robert Aldrich has brought Elleston Trevor's novel "Flight of the Phoenix" (currently at the Paramount) to the screen with an extraordinary deftness. His directional tour de force turns a highly unlikely and at the same time banal situation into a high tension thriller.

Taut acting by Aldrich's international assemblage and sharp biting dialogue serve to heighten the excitement and suspense. James Stewart is exceptionally effective as the "Seat of the Pants" pilot of a plane downed hundreds of miles off course in the middle of the Sahara.

Aboard ship are an array of personalities each possessing their own weaknesses and fallibilities. Richard Altshuler plays a British navigator who drinks while he drives and is partially responsible for the disaster. There is Peter Finch, a British officer whose professional approach appears ludicrous under the circumstances. There is also Hardy Kruger, a cold, impersonal and highly scientific German airplane designer who believes a new plane can be formed from the wreckage.

The clashes between the strong willed personalities of Stewart and Hardy serve as the dramatic center of the film.

## Radio Program

New York—(NC)—The Catholic Hour on NBC radio will focus on ways of helping neuropeptides during its programs for the four Sundays of April.

Dr. Alfred Joyce, a psychiatrist and director of Iona College's graduate division of pastoral counseling, Father Adrian van Kaam, C.S.S., head of Duquesne University's religious psychology department, and Dr. E. Mark Stern, clinical psychologist and professor at Iona, will discuss "Hope and Help for the Neurotic" on April 3 and "Neurosis, Sin and Guilt" on April 10.

## Four Arrests For Smut

New Orleans—(NC)—Police vice squad officers arrested four persons at three downtown book stores and newsstands in an anti-pornography crackdown which could set the stage for new court tests.

Those arrested were charged with sale and possession of obscene literature. Warrants were issued for arrest of two other persons on the same charges.

Charles Ward, first assistant district attorney of Orleans parish (county), disclosed meanwhile that the district attorney's office is drafting a statute relating directly to the sale of obscene literature to minors. The proposed legislation, he said, will be introduced at the May session of the Louisiana legislature.

COURIER-JOURNAL  
Friday, Mar. 25, 1966 11

**PARAMOUNT**  
THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX  
COLOR  
Ship of Fools  
FINE ARTS  
South Ave. at Gregory  
BR 1-5800

**Tuesday Mar. 29 at 8:15!**  
Breathtaking New Color Film  
**CURTIS NAGEL & WM. MOORE'S SPAIN**  
Here's all the brilliance of Spain! Segovia's fabulous palace... Madrid... Seville... Andalusian... Seville during Holy Week.  
**SEATS NOW! \$1.50, \$1.25, \$1.00**  
**Eastman Theatre**

**now! Pepsi Half-Quarts**  
save money, serve 1/3 more

## 'Good Woman' Opens Tonight At College

The curtain will rise tonight (Friday) on "The Good Woman of Setzuan," Bert Brecht's hilarious spoof on society, human nature and the gods. The production, staged by the Nazareth St. John Fisher Drama Club, will be presented this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 25, 26, and 27. Curtain time is 8:15 in the Nazareth College auditorium. Tickets are available at the door.

The work, directed by Joseph Baranowski, is best described as "a serious, German Oriental musical comedy." Bright costumes, music and song frame the plight of The Good Woman of Setzuan—can a good-person survive in this world?

There are over 25 speaking roles, the leading ones being played by Sue Polcano as the good woman, Tom Hughes as Yang Sun her lover, Tom Dawber as Wong, the water seller, and three deceptible gobs portrayed by Ray Carpenter, Carl Dash and Wayne DeCessa.

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<p><b>EGGLESTON RESTAURANT</b> 35 CHESTNUT ST. Around the corner from the Regent Theatre Good eating served in a happy American atmosphere. 434-6726</p>	<p><b>RED DEVIL RESTAURANT</b> 14 STATE ST. A favorite gathering place in downtown Rochester specializing Italian Cuisine. 325-9523</p>	<p><b>SOUTH PACIFIC</b> PITTFORD PLAZA MONROE AVE. Featuring Polyfusion Food, and tropical drinks. Also tasty sandwiches. DU 1-2170</p>
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