



Non-professionals play all the roles in "The Gospel According to St. Matthew," opening May 11 at Rochester's Stoneridge Theatre. Christ is played by Enrique Irazoqui, a student from Barcelona, shown with a group of the Apostles.

Atheist's 'Gospel' Praised

A Marxist-atheist's film on the life of Christ has been described by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures as "an extraordinary translation of the Gospel to the screen."

The film office's first official commentary on Pier Paolo Pasolini's "The Gospel According to St. Matthew" appears in the current issue of its film newsletter and coincides with the American premiere of the film.

In addition, the NCMP is preparing an extensive "study guide" on the film, which has been approved by the office for general audiences. The guide is expected to be ready within the month, in time for the picture's opening throughout the country.

"This is a film that may be a scandal to some because it was made by a dedicated Marxist whose previous films have sketched the degradation in certain areas of society," the film office observed in its newsletter. "Those who see the film and experience its intensely-felt religious atmosphere will be grateful that the film was made at all. The fact that its director is not a Christian proves the power of the Word to speak to all men."

The NCMP went on to single out a number of the film's features dwelling at length on the director's characterization of Christ. Noting that Pasolini has made a literal account of the Gospel as recorded by St. Matthew ("the film's most impressive aspect"), the office commented:

"Pasolini's characterization of Christ as a divine rebel came to do away with the corrupt materialism of the establishment and to institute a new, spiritual order is one that speaks directly to our own troubled age."

Agreeing that Pasolini's revolutionary social views helped to attract him to the "social aspect" found in Matthew's gospel, the NCMP praised him for his objectivity in making the film.

"Pasolini must be congratulated in presenting his film without any attempt to tailor it to his own ideology," the office stated. "He does not slight or obscure the divinity of Christ. If anything, he underplays the human nature of Christ, whose miracles and resurrection are presented with out equivocation."

But the commentary — the longest ever given by the film

office in its newsletter — praises Pasolini just as much for his decision to avoid the "grandiose" approach that has been typical in filming the life of Christ.

Cited are such details as Pasolini's use of locale. "It is astonishing how closely the twentieth-century southern Italian countryside resembles the land of ancient biblical times" and his casting of non-professionals in all the roles; an economics student from Barcelona plays Christ; Judas is a Roman truck driver; Joseph is a lawyer; John the Baptist is a poet; Pasolini's own mother plays Mary in the Passion sequence.

"The film constantly makes the viewer feel that what he sees is the way it must have been," the film office comments. "The presentation of Christ and his message in such a realistic manner is much more difficult to bring off than to make of them a grandiose epic. The latter concentrates on achieving large-scale effects, whereas the former is limited to finding ways to convey events in a believable fashion."

"One example among many is the way in which numerous directors have conjured up magnificent palaces for Herod and sensational dances for Salome. Pasolini places him in a modest but large dwelling and has him enticed by teenage shyness rather than voluptuousness. Whatever Pasolini may lose in the way of easy drama by scaling down his proportions, he gains in credibility and substance."

There is even praise for the film's unusual musical sound track, a combination of the African Missa Luba, Bach, Prokofiev, and a Negro spiritual ("Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child") sung by Odetta. "The sound track must be acknowledged as one of the most creative in years," is the comment. "It might not seem very exciting as a record album but it definitely succeeds on conjunction with its visuals."

Viewers of the film are advised to read the Gospel according to Matthew before they see the Pasolini film in order to "refresh the memory."

"If you don't," the film office comments, "the chances are that you will read it soon afterward. However that may be, the Sunday Gospels will be full of new insights and meanings for all who have seen the film."

The film, it is also noted, won the International Catholic Film Office's grand prize in 1964. (Catholic Press Features).



Shaw Play Opens Tonight

BLACKFRIARS PRODUCTION of George Bernard Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra" opens tonight, Friday, April 29, at Nazareth College auditorium. Performances are planned for Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. Shown above are Bea Petix in the role of Cleopatra, Michael Arve as "Apollodorus" and Sylvia Brunner as "Flotacteta."



Academy Bills 'Joan of Arc'

Terry King, Sally Robinson, Jane Daly, Christine Lodato and Anne Meng are shown in a scene from play, "Joan of Arc." The Dramatic Club of the Academy of the Sacred Heart will present this play Saturday, April 30, at 7:45 p.m. Tickets available at the door.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, April 29, 1966

'Patch of Blue' Recommended

Paris—MGM's "A Patch of Blue" will be given the full support of the International Catholic Office of Motion Pictures following a special screening for the Selection Committee, it was announced by Emmanuel Filpo, S.J., Service Promotion de l'O.C.I.C.

International Catholic offices will receive the official recommendation of the O.C.I.C. to cooperate in launching and promoting the Sandro S. Berman-Guy Green Production in their countries.

The picture, starring Sidney Poitier, Shelley Waters, who won an Academy Award for her performance, and Elizabeth Hartman, has been one of MGM's top boxoffice hits in the United States and Canada. Overseas release of "A Patch of Blue" is scheduled in May.

Organ Concert Listed May 9

Pierre Cochereau, organist of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, will give a concert of organ music at Lake Ave. Baptist Church on Monday, May 9 at 8:15 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Rochester Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and the Lake Avenue Baptist Church.

M. Cochereau has been organist at Notre Dame since 1955. This is his eighth American concert tour. He recently became the Director of the Municipal Conservatory of Music and Art in Nice.

Seminary Lists Beckett Play

Saint Andrew's Seminary Dramatics Club will present their production of Samuel Beckett's avant-garde tragi-comedy, "Waiting for Godot," on Friday and Saturday evenings, Apr. 29 and 30, at 8 p.m. in the seminary auditorium. Following the performance there will be a coffee hour discussion with Father Thomas Hektor as guest speaker and moderator. Tickets will be available at the door.

DEADLINE FOR NEWS MONDAY NOON

FILMS ABOUT TOWN

A MENTION OF MOTION PICTURES OF MORE THAN ROUTINE INTEREST

A Patch of Blue. "The basic plot of this picture comes straight out of the radio serials of the past. But the plot is not what makes this film worth anyone's time. It has two very authentic characterizations that rise well above the melodramatic contrivances of the story. Elizabeth Hartman does extraordinary things with the role of the blind girl who is victimized by her mother. She is sweetness and pathos and her surprise at anyone being interested in her tugs at the heart. Sidney Poitier is the stranger who befriends her and with whom she inevitably falls in love. He is especially good in this role which must come close to the actual feelings and position of the middle-class Negro in American society today."—Catholic Film Newsletter. (Cinema Theatre—Clinton Ave. S. at Goodman, weekdays 7:20, 9:25, Sat. and Sun. 1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:40, 9:50)

Bambi. Based on the now classic Felix Salten novel, this life story of a deer and his many forest friends is considered by many Disney's greatest achievement in the cartoon medium.

Its technical perfection is matched only by its emotional content and the life cycle of every being — birth, growth, romance, anguish, triumph — are all reflected through the endearing Disney forest creatures as they live out one of the great love stories of all time. (Lyell Theatre, Lyell at Mt. Read Blvd. Mon-Fri. 7, 9; Sat. and Sun. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)

The Ghost and Mr. Chicken. A teeth-chattering, funny-bone shattering hunt for a spook-killer in a haunted house led by Don Knotts, the winner of three consecutive Emmy awards for his portrayal of Deputy Barney Fife on the Andy Griffith TV show. (Lyell Theatre, Lyell at Mt. Read Blvd.; Waring Theatre, Waring Rd. Plaza, Mon-Fri. 7:00 and 10; Wild Wild Winter 8:30; Sat. and Sun.: Ghost 7:00 and 10:00; Wild: 2:20, 5:10, 8:30)

Harper. "As a gum-chewing gumshoe named Harper, Paul Newman is hellbent for Bogart country: the raw, rich 'Big Sleep' milieu, and this Warner Brothers revival of a grand old tradition gets him there in style. Based on Ross Macdonald's "The Moving Target," and accelerated at a slick '60s pace by Director Jack Smight, Harper gives Newman his feistiest role since HUD."—Time

Regent Theatre, 63 East Ave. Mon-Thurs. 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15; Fri-Sat, Sun. 12:40, 3:00, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45.

Moment to Moment. Artistic filmmaker Mervyn Leroy weaves shock and suspense in this deeply poignant, beautifully told, tragic love story. With Jean Seberg, Honor Blackman and Sean Connery. (Little Theatre, 240 East Ave.—1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35, 9:35 daily.)

The Sound of Music. "With the opening sequence the audience is made aware that something special is in store for them. An aerial camera moves downward through swirling clouds that cover the mountain tops, coming closer and closer to the floor of a valley. There is the sound of rushing wind, a bird twittering, theme music, and suddenly a girl comes running across a hill and begins to sing. With that cinematic introduction, Robert Wise has made the hills come alive with the sound of music."—National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (Monroe Theatre, 583 Monroe Ave., Matinees 2 p.m., Wed. and Sat., Evenings 8 p.m.)

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 aspirations. (Fine Arts, South Ave. at Gregory, Daily 7:10, 9:45, except Sunday, 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45)

Greatest Story Ever Told. Stevens' vision of Christ will satisfy the feelings of the greatest number of its viewers. It presents a consistent, traditional view of Christ as the God incarnate. In achieving this, Stevens has acted effectively. The compelling features of the Swedish actor Max von Sydow. His believable portrayal of Christ is the most essential element in the film's success. Probably no other actor could have held the viewer's attention for almost four hours.—National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures.

(Towne Theatre, Jefferson Rd. opposite Southtown Plaza; Matinees Wed., Sat. and Sun. at 2 p.m. Evenings at 8:15 except Sunday, 7:45)

Trouble With Angels. Rosalind Russell, who, despite her many other brilliant performances, seems to be tabbed as Auntie Mame, that preposterous utterer of bon mots and high priestess of the ultra-drawling room set, makes a brilliant departure from that characterization in this heart-warming comedy. With Hayley Mills. (Paramount Theatre, 33 Clinton Ave. N. Mon-Thurs. 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30; Fri., Sat. and Sun. 12:10, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00)

The famous frosty bottle pours instant martinis.

Gilbey's on the rocks tastes great as is. \$4.35 Fifth

—Hogie Jamison

SOFT AS A KISS

INVER HOUSE
IMPORTED RARE SCOTCH

Japan! Hong Kong! Bangkok!

Grinnell's Orient Tour Leaves Oct. 9

Tour of a lifetime! Oct. 9 to Nov. 5 you'll jet into another world! Japan with its timeless treasures, temples, shrines, gardens. Hong Kong where you'll shop for the world's greatest bargain! Observe Chinese traditions, enjoy Chinese food. Bangkok, a tropical jewel with floating markets, Thai dancers. This is the tour of tours.

Personally Escorted from Rochester by Walter L. Schmidt

GRINNELL TRAVEL

Agency, Inc. . . . formerly Kalbfleisch Travel
Phone 454-3200
233 MIDTOWN PLAZA TERRACE

ROSELAND PARK
ON CANANDAIGUA LAKE

Children's Costume Party

SATURDAY APRIL 30
STARTING AT 1 P. M.

FREE RIDE TICKETS
for all children in costume

PRIZES for most unusual costumes

Ber's CASH SOCIETY
Cor. Main St. E. at Hillson St.
YOUR BEST BET
for Downtown Dining and Dancing
Ample Parking 325-8334

Manhattan Restaurant
Entrances at 25 East Ave. and Euclid St. opp. Midtown Plaza
Famous for Fine Food and Pastries

SELLITTO'S RESTAURANT
WE CATER TO WEDDINGS AND BANQUETS
SERVING FINE FOODS AND LEGAL BEVERAGES
164 Driving Pl. Ave. CL 4-9769

THE Coachman RESTAURANT MOTOR INN
1525 Ridge Rd. W.
Opposite Stone-Ridge Theatre

Pilgrims Landing
3400 MONROE AVE.
PHONE: DU 1-7678
Stop In After Church Sunday 10:30 A.M. For A Delightful Buffet Next to Louie's Theatre

Eagle Tavern
2322-1780
The warmth of Early American atmosphere, the hospitality of SHERATON HOTEL and MOTOR INN
111 EAST AVENUE

IGGLESTON RESTAURANT
11 CHRYSLER ST.
Around the corner from the Regent Theatre
Good eating served in an Early American atmosphere.
454-6726

THE Spring House
"Monroe County's Oldest Family Restaurant"
SINCE 1822
3001 MONROE AVE.

SOUTH PACIFIC
PITTSFORD PLAZA MONROE AVE.
Featuring Polynesian Food and tropical drinks. Also tasty sandwiches.
DU 1-2870

The Manger Hotel Health and Embers
26 CLINTON AVE. S.
231-4500
Special food served in pleasant surroundings.

RED DEVIL RESTAURANT
14 STATE ST.
A favorite gathering place in downtown Rochester specializing Italian Cuisine.
325-9523

COUNTRY HILL
Treadway Inn
East Avenue at Alexander Street
John B. Coff, Innkeeper 225-3616

Rund's "Home of Good Food"
DANCING 7 NITES A WEEK
281 W. HENRIETTA RD.
GR 1-3811

Jack Bayliss' THE VIKING
2485 MT. READ BLVD.
MA 1-2128
FEATURING TRIMME RIBS, SURF & TURF, LOBSTER TAILS, EVERY DAY