

'Hawaii' Approved, but NCOMP Worries

New York — The acting head of the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures grimaced as he again looked at the headline in Variety:

Native Setting Gets Nudity Okay;

Catholic Reviewers Divided Over

Immodest Camera Used in 'Hawaii'

"They're really reaching on that one," commented the Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J. "He made up his mind that this is what we'd object to and then wrote his story that way," he said of the writer.

The writer was referring to several scenes in the new film, "Hawaii," in which bare-breasted Hawaiian "native" girls swim out to greet a ship.

Although the A-3 moral rating given the film by NCOMP is a slight backing-off from its once-rigid no-nudity policy, Fr. Sullivan said the film office's main concern regarding the film was the harmful impact the picture might have on Christian missionaries and their work.

For, of all the episodes and characters in James A. Michener's mammoth-sized novel, the film-makers have taken the story of Protestant minister Abner Hale — an over-zealous and fanatical caricature of stern 19th Century Calvinism — who attempts to rid the Hawaiians of their pagan beliefs and practices through nothing else but the sheer force of his "hell and damnation" tirades.

In the three-hour film, the minister is played by Max Von Sydow (who portrayed Christ in "The Greatest Story Ever Told") and his wife, Jerusha, is played by Julie Andrews. It is her warm, human approach to the islanders that is responsible for any success her husband has among the natives, and when — in his old age — the minister does soften and understands that he must preach

God's love rather than God's hate, his church is made to appear to be against his new work.

NCOMP has classified the film as morally unobjectionable for adults because most of its reviewers argued that they could not object to what one called "the historical truth" of the missionary approach employed by the Reverend Hale.

Too, some found "Hawaii" to be "a very strongly Christian film" — one that effectively illustrates the futility of a religion that is totally lacking in love.

"In truth, it is his buffoonery, much more than his religious fanaticism, that effectively neutralizes his impact as a representative figure," said one NCOMP consultant of the Reverend Hale.

"Failure to understand the culture and background of pagan peoples and failure to present the teachings of Christ in a manner accommodated to their backgrounds has been a defect in many of our missionaries, both Catholic and non-Catholic, over the centuries," reasoned another. "While we may not like the image presented, while it may distort the real teachings of Christ, can we say it is a complete distortion, or untruth?"

Others insisted that even if "Hawaii" does not present a "complete distortion," uninformed viewers are going to come away from it with not exactly the whole truth either. Said one consultant:

"The film tends to 'conclude' that Calvinism equals Christianity and it were better if Christianity had never come to the South Seas to demonize the untainted natives. The film makes no mention of the genetic evils of incest, nor the diseases and epidemics that must have been frequent occurrences in this primitive civilization.

"In fact, the director seems to want us to sympathize with the native marriage customs



An overzealous missionary (Max Von Sydow) berates a Hawaiian queen for her pagan beliefs while his wife (Julie Andrews) looks on.

which, even apart from moral considerations, are medically unsound. There is a similar negative attitude that there was no suffering or evil, moral or physical, on these islands before the advent of the white man and Christianity. If we are going to tell the truth about Calvinism in Hawaii, it seems to me that we are equally bound to admit the facts about the Hawaii civilization itself."

But as a side from NCOMP's moral evaluation of "Hawaii" for American audiences, Fr. Sullivan expressed concern about the overseas impact of the film. He referred to the comments made by one missionary priest who has spent 18 years in the Far East:

"Since 'Hawaii' will be shown to overseas audiences in Asia and Africa, to benevolent audiences it will be painful and em-

barrassing; to malevolent audiences it will be an all too vivid example of what they are trying to say the 'missionary' does.

"No mention is made, hinted at or even promised in a later movie of all the wonderful, understanding, kind, sympathetic and helpful missionaries—Catholic and Protestant—who have been laboring for centuries all over the world, or who came later to Hawaii (Damien among the lepers, for one) and my fear is that a movie portraying these as well will never be made — at least not of this magnitude."

(Catholic Press Features)

Music Unit Adds Five

Membership in the Diocesan Music Commission has been enlarged to a total of 16 members according to a recent announcement of the Commission's chairman, Father Benedict A. Ehmann.

THE FIVE NEW members of the Commission are: Sister M. Barbara, R.S.M., Our Lady of Mercy High School; Sister M. Claudia, S.S.J., St. Agnes High School; Donald S. Baber, organist and choirmaster, St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester; Herbert Huestis, organist and choirmaster, Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester; and Father John Phillips, St. Louis Church, Pittsford.

At its two Fall meetings, the Music Commission planned several programs for the coming year. The first of these, a Hymn Reading Session, will take place, Sunday, Nov. 13 in Holy Rosary Church, Rochester, at 7:45 p.m. The program will include demonstrations of hymns by the audience and a choir, as well as the presentation of techniques for accompanying, conducting and singing of hymns.

'Festa Italiana' At War Memorial

The highlights from Italy's tournaments and festivals including chariot races, gladiators, armored knights, costumed flag throwers, dancers and singers will be presented at Rochester War Memorial on Nov. 17 to 20.

Under Gino Landi, one of Italy's leading directors and choreographers, the local flavor of the world-renowned Italian festivals and tournaments has been compressed into a single spectacular, "Festa Italiana."

Alfredo Danesi, who was the chariot racer pitted against Charlton Heston in the movie "Ben Hur," will be one of the chariot racers and handle by himself four horses as the chariot race—in the tradition of the Roman Coliseum—opens the festivities.

Major fall production of the Nazareth-St. John Fisher College Drama Club will be "The Marriage," a Russian farce by Nikolai Gogol.

The play will be presented Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11, 12 and 13 in Kearney Auditorium, St. John Fisher College.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$2, student tickets, \$1. Curtain at 8:15 p.m.

Russian Farce Set at Fisher

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Lutherans Jazz Mass

New York — (RNS) — A Catholic Mass in modern music will be featured in a program of "church jazz" to be sponsored by the Lutheran Foundation for Religious Drama in the Broadway United Church of Christ here, Oct. 23.

The Mass will be the Missa Hodierna, composed by Eddie V. Bonnemere of New York, a music teacher and jazz pianist, who wrote it for a master's thesis at Hunter College. He heads a jazz-mambo quintet and has written and recorded a number of modern compositions.

Among various rhythms in-Bonnemere are a Gregorian chant in the Credo, bossa nova in the Sanctus, calypso in the Offertory, and a Gospel beat in the Communion hymns. Also interwoven are his versions of Ave Maria and the spiritual "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child."

The Mass will be preceded by jazz trumpetist and composer, Howard McGhee, who will play his "Bless You" theme used in a worship service at the 1966 Newport Jazz Festival. He directs the Howard McGhee Jazz Ministry Band and also plays the clarinet, piano and saxophone.

Family Rosary Radio Leaders

Friday, Oct. 28 — J. Edgar Schiefen of St. Ambrose parish.

Saturday, Oct. 29 — (Mass will be celebrated.) L. Chizek, St. Stanislaus parish, accompanied by employees of Buildings 23 and 153, machine chop, Eastman Kodak Co.

Sunday, Oct. 30 — Edward Herzog, St. Thomas the Apostle, with members of Plus X Council, Knights of Columbus.

Monday, Nov. 1 — Jerry Serafine, St. Joseph's, Penfield.

Tuesday, Nov. 2 — Representative of Court 10, Knights of Equity.

Wednesday, Nov. 3 — Louis Scarcioffa, Precious Blood.

Aquinas Bills Production Of 'Superman' in Spring

Aquinas' St. Genesius Club announced today that its dramatic season would embrace two musicals and a comedy. The comedy classic "The Admirable Crichton" written by Sir James M. Barrie is now in rehearsal for Dec. 2 and 3.

New York's longest running show in history, "The Fantasticks", will be presented on March 10 and 11. This musical will be the first of two presented this year.

On May 12 and 13, the St. Genesius Club under the musical direction of Mr. Sebastian Calabro of the Aquinas Music Dept. will present for the first time in Rochester, the recent Broadway hit, "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman."

Father Cullen, director of the St. Genesius Club is now taking applications from high school girls in the area who wish to join the casts of these plays. Interested girls should apply in person at the Aquinas stage on week-days from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, Oct. 28, 1966



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COLLEEN MAHER as Rosalie and Paul Camardo in the role of Marco the Magnificent are shown in a scene from "Carnival" to be presented at St. Agnes High School Nov. 3, 4 and 5. Musical is directed by Sister M. Claudia and choreographed by Tom Cahill.

'Carnival' to be Staged At St. Agnes, Nov. 3-5

Final week of preparation is underway at St. Agnes High School for the glee club production of "Carnival" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3, 4 and 5.

The musical's story centers around Lili, an orphaned French girl (Bonnie Meath), who seeks refuge in the gilded glamour of the carnival. Infatuated with Marco the Magnificent, the carnival's magician (Paul Camardo), Lili discovers she must vie for his affections with the worldly wise "Incomparable Rosalie" (Colleen Maher). When Paul, the lame and embittered puppeteer (Bill Cawley), falls secretly in love with Lili, he can bring himself to express this love only through the songs and antics of his puppets.

Costumes have been designed and made by home economics students and Glee Club members.

"Carnival" director is Sister M. Claudia, and choreographer is Tom Cahill. Lighting will be by Fred Woodard.

Tickets are available at \$2.00 and \$1.50, and all seats are reserved.

Curtain time for each of the Nov. 3, 4, and 5 performances is 8:15 p.m.

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