

Poitier Shows Teachers What Films Can Do

New York — Sidney Poitier, the Academy Award-winning Negro actor who admits to only one-and-a-half years of formal education, dramatically testified to the teaching power of films before an audience of teaching nuns, priests and lay people.

In a talk that was the highlight of Fordham University's fifth annual film-study conference, Poitier ranged from how movies had taught him to use the telephone to how movies can give members of his race more dignity.

"I only saw Westerns because that's all that was available when I was young," Poitier recalled of his childhood in the Bahamas, where he had to leave school to help support the family. "But I was able to learn things from films. For example, I was able to learn geography from them. Films taught me there were places like Texas and California."

"That was when I was about 10. Films came into my life again in New York, when I was 16. I was alone and I went to a theater in Harlem as often as I could and I learned so many things that helped me to get along. I learned how to dial a telephone by watching movies. These were ordinary commercial films, which gives you some idea of the great educational value of films if they're used for education."

The purpose of the Fordham film conference, directed by the Rev. John M. Cullin, S.J., is to aid educators in adapting commercial films to classroom use. Prior to Poitier's talk, the audience had viewed his "Raisin

in the Sun," which—it was revealed by a show of hands—most had shown to their students.

He said the film, now being shown frequently on television, is one of the few that gives the White community "an insight into Negro life. It's important for people not familiar with Negro family life to see a Negro family involved with problems familiar to everyone" rather than with problems exclusive to Negroes.

And the Negro, he added, must be able to see films that give him "a more positive image of himself."

"This is especially important for the young Negro people," Poitier noted. "I remember sliding down in my theater seat, feeling ashamed of some of the things I saw that had stereotyped Negroes in them."

"I have tried to use films as an educational medium to help in developing a positive imagery about the Negro and to pick those films that would make Negroes more positive about being a Negro."

Poitier confessed that he made one film that "I was not fond of" but which he agreed to make solely because he would have a role as a Negro cowboy: apparently "Duel at Diablo," although he did not mention it by name. "But no one knows the Negro contribution to the building of the West, although there is a fascinating book called 'The Negro Cowboy.' I also did the film because it gave me an opportunity to give a hero imagery to Negro

children who love Westerns."

During his appearance before the more than 500 assembled educators, Poitier commented on two education-theme films he has made: the 1955 and then controversial "Blackboard Jungle" in which he played a tough young punk who helped make classroom life miserable for teacher Glenn Ford—and the just-released "To Sir, With Love," in which he plays a teacher who wins over an unruly class in a London slum school by resorting to psychology instead of discipline.

"I didn't care too much for 'Blackboard Jungle,'" he said, but not for the reasons it was attacked: namely, presenting a bad image of U.S. education. "That film tends to make us excuse schools which have slighter problems than the ghetto school in 'Blackboard Jungle.' In other words, the film made it appear that as long as the students don't beat up a teacher's pregnant wife—as they did in that film—everything's all right."

He said he took the "To Sir" role—in a film that is bouncy and upbeat despite its slum setting and the ill-mannered students he must face—"because I think that when you come



Sidney Poitier as a teacher in "To Sir, With Love."

out of seeing this, you feel somehow that mankind is pretty marvelous. I am tired of coming out of movies feeling yecchi!"

This comment drew one of the loudest rounds of applause from the audience, considered to be fairly tolerant of the adult-type downbeat films now in vogue. Despite the seemingly easy manner in which Poitier wins over the students in "To

Sir" (based on an autobiographical novel by E. R. Braithwaite, now U.N. ambassador from Guiana) it has been described by film critic Judith Crist on TV's "Today" show as "a movie that reminds you of what really warm good movies are like."

In the film, Poitier decides to put aside the usual book lessons and gets through to the Cockney students by treating them as the adults they erroneously think they are—stressing their needs for adult manners, adult dress and adult "survival training," ranging from cooking to culture.

Commented Bonnie Brennan, executive director of the National Catholic Communications Centre in Toronto, writing in "The Canadian Register":

"'To Sir, With Love' is not a great work of film art, but it is an important film in that it is an attempt to give some answer to the lack of communication between the adult and teenage world."

"On a deeper level this film has much to say to use about the Christian virtue of true love and respect for the individual. It doesn't hit the audience over the head with a cudgel on this point. It simply states it."

"If the audience leaves the film with a feeling of complacency because the film seems to say that all the teenagers needed was to conform to adult society, then perhaps we can say it is the audience that is lacking in perception and not necessarily—the film." (Catholic Press Features)

Musical, Film Program For Summer Students

A program of special events for students attending the summer session at Nazareth College began the past weekend with a film, "The Prisoner," starring Alec Guinness, presented Friday evening in the new Arts Center.

This was the first in a film series which will include "Yankee Doodle Dandy" on the Fourth of July; "On the Waterfront" on Friday, July 14; "The Mozart Story" on July 21, and "Shadows Over Chinatown" on July 28.

The first of four summer concerts was presented Sunday evening—a Beethoven program by Wilber Schnitker, pianist, who has been studying at the Eastman School of Music this year.

Schnitker, who holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan, is on sabbatical leave from Muskingum College in Ohio, where he is a full professor of music. He and his wife, Katherine, will give a duo-piano concert on Sunday, July 9, and on July 23, Mrs. Schnitker, who has her Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, will present a harpsichord concert.

Mrs. Schnitker, who also is on the music faculty at Muskingum, has been teaching at Nazareth College during the past year.

On Sunday, July 16, Robert Hobstetter, pianist and instructor at Nazareth College, will give a concert.

On July 18, 19, and 20 Timothy Sullivan will present a series of lectures on "Modern Techniques in Music." Sullivan received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of New York at Buffalo, and a Masters in Music from Yale University.

Summer school students are also invited to attend the Summer Festival to be held on the Motherhouse grounds July 6 and 7.

Simon Comedy Slated at T&C

Neil Simon's comedy hit "Barefoot in the Park" opens July 18 at Town Country Playhouse with Vivian Blaine and Brian Kelly starred.

Vivian Blaine, the TV and film star whose reputation was established by her portrayal of "Adelaide" in the original Broadway and film versions of "Guys and Dolls," heads the Town & Country cast as the girl's mother. Her co-star will be Brian Kelly, the Hollywood-based TV star familiar to NBC-TV audiences from "Flipper."

Barry Tuttle will direct the Town & Country production which will run through July 23. As an added attraction to local audiences, the production boasts Marvin Hunter, local TV personality, in the supporting role of a telephone repair man.

Tickets for "Barefoot in the Park" may be reserved by phoning 381-1001 and day from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tickets for the upcoming two-week run of the smash musical "Funny Girl" (July 25-August 6) are also on sale.



David Vassallo and Father Walter Cushing put the finishing touches on the church in Dorfil, setting for summer production of "Heidi."



Mary Sue Scardotta as the Scarecrow speaks with Dorothy, played by Vickijo Campanaro in Storytellers' "Wizard of Oz."

Work Underway On 'Oz' Musical

With their production of "Heidi" well under way now, Storytellers Summer Playhouse has begun work on the "Wizard of Oz," to be presented July 27, 28 at St. Agnes High School Auditorium.

The daily schedule of rehearsals in dance, dramatics and chorus is constantly accompanied by the work of backstage and scenery crews, under the direction of Father Walter Cushing and Tony DeCroce. Original sets have been constructed with the help of cast members, who have added scenery painting to their daily schedule.

Tickets for the last performance of "Heidi," tonight, may be obtained at the door. Those for the "Wizard of Oz" may be obtained in advance. General admission is \$1 and reserved seats are \$1.50. All performances will take place at St. Agnes High School Auditorium, 300 East River Rd. Curtain is at 8:15 p.m.



Tony DeCroce is set designer for Storytellers Summer Playhouse.

VIGOROUS, OCCASIONALLY ACTIVE, thoughtful, Full DISCIPLINED

Five words that tell the story of the contemporary Franciscan Action Army

the capuchins

Let us tell you how you can serve. Write for FREE literature at no obligation.

FATHER MARSHALL, O.M.C.A.P.
110 SHONARD PLACE, YONKERS, NY 10593

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Reunion Slated For Class of '18

The graduates of the 1918 Class of St. Bridge's School on Hand St. will have a 49th reunion dinner July 29, 6:30 p.m., at the Crescent Beach Hotel. Any member not contacted may call Irene Beckman Schlueter at 482-4531.

INSTANT WATER HEATER SERVICE!
Motogor & Bryner Co.
Phone 1000 482-2000

Drive In Service
BEER - ALE - SOFT DRINKS
FITZGERALD • SIMON PURE
PITTSFORD BEVERAGE'S BRANCH
SHELFORD RD. at EMPIRE BLVD.
Open Tues. Thru Sat 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Closed Mon.

What are you going to do in your Avis car this weekend?

Please check one:

- Drive home for money.
- Take in the wonders of nature.
- Visit the nearest girls' (boys') school.
- All of the above.
- None of the above.
- None of your business.

No matter what you're planning... include Avis.

Avis Rents All Makes of Cars... Features Plymouth.

AVIS RENT A CAR

MAIN OFFICE 325-4120
69 Clinton Ave. S.
Opposite Midtown Plaza

AIRPORT OFFICE 328-6600
755 Brook Ave.
Adjoining the Airport

MARINE MIDLAND TRUST COMPANY OF SOUTHERN NEW YORK

Statement of Condition
June 30, 1967

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 19,364,610.79	Deposits:	
U. S. Government securities	35,875,174.80	Demand	\$ 89,576,347.79
State and municipal obligations	29,972,947.78	Time	104,025,199.75
Other bonds and securities	326,503.00		\$193,601,547.54
Loans	108,503,416.40	Taxes and other liabilities	1,915,810.84
Mortgages	24,627,122.54	Unearned discount	6,285,159.02
Bank premises and equipment	1,301,877.90	Reserve for possible loan losses	2,846,921.66
Interest receivable	965,913.12	Capital	\$3,300,000.00
Other assets	1,908,816.36	Surplus	6,700,000.00
		Undivided profits	7,926,943.63
			17,926,943.63
	\$222,576,382.69		\$222,576,382.69

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Porter K. Bennett Robert E. Minthorn
Robert M. Best Hartwell P. Morse, Jr.
John C. Clark William I. Myers
C. A. Cleveland, Jr. Charles W. Perry
Leslie D. Clute Geo. G. Raymond, Jr.
Edgar Denton S. Roberts Rose
John H. Fassett Josef Stein
Charles F. Kennedy Thomas A. Wilson
J. Lawrence Kolb Charles A. Winding
William A. Lyons Marcus J. Winfield

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Bruce L. Babcock James Forrestal
Merle D. Thompson

ADVISORY BOARD

ELMIRA AREA

Homer H. Chapman Thomas P. Lynch
Howard A. Hanlon J. R. Shoemaker
Dr. R. Scott Howland Vinton S. Stevens
Howard H. Kimball, Jr. Merle D. Thompson
J. Lawrence Kolb Arthur S. Welliver
N. Jackson Learned, Jr. Don J. Wickham
Charles A. Winding

19 Banking Offices Serving The Southern Tier

MARINE MIDLAND TRUST COMPANY OF SOUTHERN NEW YORK
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Ave Maria Studio - RELIGIOUS ART CENTER

JULY Sale Daily noon 'til 9. Saturday 'til 5 p.m. Phone 244-4290. CLOSED month of AUGUST.

near Canterbury **410 Westminster**

PLAN YOUR NEXT PARTY HERE!
We Cater To
BANQUETS
WEDDINGS - CHURCH GROUPS - CLUBS
Dinners & Luncheons
Reservations
328-4160
American Express DINERS CLUB AAA Approved
Your Hosts KAY and EMMETT DAILEY
The Wishing Well
- For The Finest Food -
1190 Chili Ave. AT THE OUTER LOOP Rochester, N.Y.

Break out the frosty bottle, boys, and keep your tonies dry!

Gilbey's London Dry Gin

BOTTLED LONDON DRY GIN, 50 PROOF, 100% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS, W.A.S. GILBEY, LTD. DISTA. BY NATIONAL DISTILLERS PRODUCTS CO., N.Y.C.