



Rex Harrison, as "Doctor Doolittle," gives an appropriate eye test to a horse — one of his numerous animal patients.

Kids' Film Fare Making Comeback

After you've convinced your youngsters that the movie, "Valley of the Dolls," is not exactly a sequel to "Babes in Toyland," what is there that you can send them — or bring them — to?

Local movie houses are still offering more bedrooms than playrooms unfortunately, but films for children may just be on the verge of a small comeback.

Twentieth Century-Fox has prepared a major promotion for "Doctor Doolittle," a musical film based on the popular children's books written by Hugh J. Lofting about a doctor who learns how to talk with more than 400 kinds of animals.

Already greeted by the national Catholic film office as a motion picture that will "capture family audiences," "Doctor Doolittle" features more than 1200 animals in a fantasy story that is expected to be of particular appeal to children, but with a cast (Rex Harrison is Doctor Doolittle, who discovers he can communicate more easily with animals than he can with his fellow men) and production that will attract their parents also, as did "Mary Poppins," another film that was based on a series of children's books.

Being released at almost the same time is "The Jungle," a length cartoon which was the last film supervised by the late Walt Disney and based on the "Mowgli" stories by Rudyard Kipling, about a young boy who is lost in a jungle and brought up by animals.

The Disney studio reportedly plans to continue making both animated and real-life films (on the boards next: a feature-length cartoon titled "The Aristocats," about a cat and her kittens who inherit an eccentric old lady's fortune and are in danger of being killed by her relatives), but ironically, the death of Disney could mean more films for children, rather than less, as has been feared.

This view is held by, among others, Robert Radnitz and Ivan Tors, two film-makers who have

specialized in movies for children but who have been well aware of the shadow Disney cast on that area of film-making.

Radnitz, who has made such critically acclaimed children's films as "Dog of Flanders," "And Now Miguel" and who is now at work on "My Side of the Mountain" about a 12-year-old latter-day Thoreau, has on several occasions in the past remarked that it was difficult getting started because the major film studios would tell him that "Disney had that field locked up."

Tors, who made a children's film called "Africa — Texas Style" and who is responsible for "Paktari," "Flipper" and "Gentle Ben" on TV, agrees, "His name was such a myth," Tors said.

"Children are the most violent, brutal creatures of the world until they are shown how not to be," Tors remarked. "Give a dollar to a 9-year-old and he'll go see James Bond. You have to take him to a movie for children. Then he might like it."

(Catholic Press Features)

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Family Rosary Radio Leaders

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAY, WMBO-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 5 in Hornell, Channel 6 in Auburn, Channel 8 in Elmira and 88.75 mc. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week will be:

- Friday, Jan. 19 — Angelo DiNieri, St. Philip Neri.
- Saturday, Jan. 20—Mass will be celebrated.
- Sunday, Jan. 21 — Joseph Kelly, St. Thomas the Apostle, accompanied by Confraternity Christian Doctrine.
- Monday, Jan. 22—Victor Looens, St. Ann's.
- Tuesday, Jan. 23 — Louis Siraanni, St. Francis of Assisi.
- Wednesday, Jan. 24 — Raymond Clauss, St. Andrew's, and the Holy Name Society.

CMA Presents Film on Italy

"Florence and the Heart of Italy" will be presented by the Civic Music Association Jan. 30 at 8:15 p.m. at the Eastman Theatre

The film features a short history of Florence, the artistic masterpieces which the city houses and a visit with Count Emilio Pucci, one of Italy's most successful fashion designers.

Israel Film
The life of Israel including ancient and modern cities is the story of the color film "Israel: Middle East Neighbor" on the Family program at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences Sunday, Jan. 21.

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