



Top honors in NCOMP's third annual film awards went to "Bonnie and Clyde" (left) and "The Whisperers" (far right). The Catholic film office joined with the Protestant film office in honoring "In the Heat of the Night" (center).

'Bonnie and Clyde' Rated Top 'Mature' Film

New York — "Bonnie and Clyde," 1967's most controversial movie, has been chosen by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures as the year's "best film for mature audiences."

The selection highlighted NCOMP's third annual film awards, in which NCOMP also cited "The Whisperers" — a drama about loneliness in old age — as the "best film of educational value," and "Elvira Madigan," a tragic love story

from Sweden, as the year's "best foreign-language film."

In addition, the Catholic film office joined with the Protestant film office — the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America — in co-honoring two other films: "In the Heat of the Night," a murder mystery with an interracial theme, and "The Battle of Algiers," a re-creation of incidents during the Al-

gerian struggle for independence in the mid-1950's.

Separately, the Protestant film office honored "Up the Down Staircase," about a new teacher's first year in a slum-area high school, and "The War Game," a documentary showing what might happen to people in a nuclear attack.

The Catholic film office awards, the Protestant awards and the joint awards were all presented at a joint reception attended by film-industry leaders, official representatives from the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths, and film critics from both the religious and general press.

Biggest Surprise

The biggest surprise in this year's NCOMP awards is its selection of "Bonnie and Clyde," a violence-filled folk-drama about Depression-era gangsters Bonnie Parker (played by Faye Dunaway) and Clyde Barrow (Warren Beatty) who went on a murderous bank-robbing spree before being slain.

Expecting the same kind of furor that greeted NCOMP prizes to "Georgy Girl" last year and "Darling" the year before, the Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J., NCOMP executive secretary, said that rather than making "heroes" of the two criminals, "Bonnie and Clyde" "challenges each individual to recognize within himself the seeds of meaningless violence which are just below the surface of an easy conscience."

Earlier, in a "Catholic Film Newsletter" review, NCOMP said of "Bonnie and Clyde": "If one believes that films, regardless of whether they influence the actions of an audience, do at least reflect the actions and attitudes of the day, then this film says much about the violence of the Sixties. At the very least it says that we are a violent people, who — as the recent civil disturbances show — do very little on the rational or human level until we are forced to it by violence and disorder. If nothing else, the film shows us the violence underlying our world, a standard both criminal and law-enforcing elements accept."

"The Whisperers," NCOMP's best-educational-film pick, earlier won the International Catholic Film Office prize at the Berlin Film Festival and stars Dame Edith Evans as a lonely old woman living on pension. "It shows," said the international film office, "that even good social assistance is not good enough to fulfill the need

of love of the human heart." It was directed by Bryan Forbes of England and distributed by United Artists.

"Elvira Madigan" is a lushly photographed film that "Newsweek" said "may well be the most beautiful movie ever made." The story is of a young Swedish army officer who deserts his regiment and runs off to Denmark with a lovely tight-rope dancer only to discover that their love is doomed. With theme music from Mozart's 21st Piano Concerto, the film is described by NCOMP as "a feast for the senses in telling of the conflict between romantic illusion and the realistic demands of life."

The joint Protestant-Catholic awards to "In the Heat of the Night" and "The Battle of Algiers" (these carried no categories) mark the second time that the two film offices have given an ecumenical award. Last year they co-honored "A Man for All Seasons," the drama about St. Thomas More's battle of conscience with King Henry VIII.

'A Sensitive Portrayal'

"In the Heat of the Night," directed by Norman Jewison and released by United Artists, stars Rod Steiger as a Southern police chief who must rely on the professional-skill of a Negro detective (Sidney Poitier) in solving a murder.

"The Battle of Algiers," the other film co-honored by the two film offices, was directed by Gillo Pontecorvo and released by Allied Artists. Although entirely re-created, the incidents in the French-Algerian struggle are so realistically presented that many viewers come away from the film with the impression that they have been watching newsreel footage.

In citing "Up the Down Staircase," in which Sandy Dennis starred as the novice teacher, the Protestant film office said "this is a film which is both entertaining and informative, utilizing its appeal to a wide audience to remind an affluent society that inadequate physical structures place an additional burden upon those who would teach and learn in the midst of our urban ghettos." It was directed by Robert Mulligan and distributed by Warner Bros. Artists.

"The War Game," the other film honored by the Protestant office, was directed by Peter Watkins, distributed by Pathe Contemporary and won the Academy Award last year as best documentary.

ENTERTAINMENT

COURIER Journal

Guide for TV Movie Ratings

Friday, March 8 - Thursday, March 14

Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally objectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally objectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally objectionable for adults; A-4: morally objectionable for adults, with reservations; B: morally objectionable in part for all; C: condemned. No Rating: film has not been reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (formerly the Legion of Decency). N.B. Before A-3 classification was established, A-2 indicated morally objectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
Friday, March 8			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Jolson Story	A-1
8:30 p.m.	8	Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	B
8:30 p.m.	10	King of Kings	A-4
11:30 p.m.	13	The Spiral Road	A-2
12:00 a.m.	10	All About Eve	B
Saturday, March 9			
2:00 p.m.	10	Cartouche	A-2
2:00 p.m.	13	The H-Man	B
5:30 p.m.	10	Away All Boats	A-1
9:00 p.m.	8	Moment to Moment	A-3
11:00 p.m.	10	Armored Attack	No Rating Available
11:15 p.m.	13	On the Beach	A-3
11:30 p.m.	8	The View from Pompey's Head	B
Sunday, March 10			
2:00 p.m.	8	The Tanks Are Coming	A-1
5:35 p.m.	10	All At Sea	A-1
8:00 p.m.	13	The Bridge on the River Kwai	A-1
11:15 p.m.	10	West of Zanzibar	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	The Story of Louis Pasteur	A-1
Monday, March 11			
4:00 p.m.	8	The McConnell Story	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Come September	No Rating Available
12:00 a.m.	13	The Nun and the Sergeant	A-3
Tuesday, March 12			
4:00 p.m.	8	Untamed	B
9:00 p.m.	8	Invitation to a Gunfighter	A-3
11:30 p.m.	13	Ironsides	No Rating Available
Wednesday, March 13			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Sea Chase	B
8:30 p.m.	13	Hans Christian Anderson	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Carry on Spying	No Rating Available
Thursday, March 14			
4:00 p.m.	8	Strange Lady in Town	A-2
9:00 p.m.	10	The Thin Red Line	A-3
11:30 p.m.	13	The Lady Takes a Flyer	A-3

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