

CBS Playhouse Makes You Want More

The television industry complains from time to time that while viewers are quick to criticize when the level of programming is poor, few persons take the time to write or call stations and networks when something of value has been offered.

It is a legitimate complaint. Human nature takes pleasure in finding fault and reporting same. The communicating of positive reactions is not in the same enjoyable category for those who revel in adverse feelings.

And although I may enjoy groaning as much as the next viewer, this column, in an effort to be fair, is a thank you to CBS for its series "CBS Playhouse" which recently presented its fourth show of the season.

I happen to be one of those who believes, perhaps erroneously, that television was never more creative, imaginative nor more entertaining than when the airwaves were filled with the weekly dramatic offerings of such shows as "Playhouse 90," "The Steel

As I See It

By PAT COSTA

Hour," "Climax," "Studio 1," "Schlitz Playhouse," "Armstrong Circle Theater" and at least a half dozen others.

Never mind that we would frequently watch the last fade out which left us hanging in mid air only to ask plaintively week after week, "Is that the end?"

Never mind that the stories were not always original, the presentations live and full of bloopers and the unknown actors and actresses far cries from the Grace Kellys, James Garners, and Steve McQueens they would later become.

It was television theater—written expressly for television—and it was as exciting, well almost as exciting, as going to New York to see a play once was.

When CBS first announced

its Playhouse series, I did not let my hopes rise. If memory serves correctly, there were other drama plans for TV, that fell through.

Then "Dear Friends" put in its appearance and Emmy-winner "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night," and "My Mother and My Father" and "Secrets."

After the first 10 minutes of the first show I put down the newspaper that I automatically pick up whenever the television goes on. I made no visits to the refrigerator and hoped the phone would not ring.

I breathed along with the likes of such actors as David Wayne, Anne Jackson and Eli Wallach. I cried a little with Melvyn Douglas (who won an Emmy for "Do Not Go Gentle

...") and pitied Gene Hackman as they drew their roles so completely about them that I forgot I was watching a world of a playwright's making.

Barbara Ed Geddes made me gasp a little as I identified so closely with the character she created. And I exulted in my good fortune at seeing her artistry in our living room remembering well that another time I had watched her and Barry Nelson work together — it had been on Broadway, paying \$8 for the privilege.

And I thanked who ever was responsible for drafting the talents of such dramatists as Tad Mosel, Reginald Rose and Loring Mandel, who had explored the problems of old age, the parent-child relationship, marital partnership and the right to privacy, not always satisfactorily but with zest and honest attack.

This, then, is thank you, CBS and Channel 10. May we have more of the same, a good deal more, if you please.

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'Misterogers' Is a Mother's Delight

Catholic Press Features

Pittsburgh — If you took a minister, a child psychologist and a Captain Kangaroo and wrapped them all into one person, you would get a Fred Rogers.

You would also get that very rare combination of an entertaining, pleasant and instructive TV program for young children, called "Misterogers' Neighborhood."

The show is on Channel 21, daily at 5 p.m.

"It is a mother's delight. It is, if anything, a few decibels softer than 'Captain Kangaroo' and is guaranteed to be the only television show on the air that can make a 4-year-old boy yearn to mop the kitchen."

That is a typical rave — from syndicated columnist Phyllis Battelle — for the half-hour weekday series created by Rogers, an ordained United Presbyterian Church minister who chose children as his special ministry.

Rogers, 39, and the father of two young boys, 8 and 6, writes, produces, directs and stars in "Misterogers' Neighborhood" which is now appearing or shortly will be appearing on 120 National Educational Television affiliates throughout the country.

Designed for children between 3 and 8, the program features puppets, songs and patter — each week's set of shows having one objective, such as helping the youngsters overcome fear of the dark, explaining why boys need haircuts, showing the importance of sharing things.

But what has earned "Misterogers' Neighborhood" its rapidly growing following is not its content, but its style



FRED ROGERS
'A need to communicate.'

— a style that Rogers, a consultant to the Child Study Center of the University of Pittsburgh, has carefully worked out each week with a team of fellow psychologists.

"I want to provide an atmosphere of reality which children can recognize and relate to their own lives," Rogers says. Frequently, the daily visit to his "apartment" is spent mostly in the kitchen: "What would a kid see more of in a day than cooking or cleaning up in a kitchen?"

"There's a need to communicate to children about childhood and to accept them as they are. I don't tell them to be good or anything like that at the end of the show."

The show's theme song, if

there is one, is "I Like You As You Are" ("... exactly and precisely. I think you turned out nicely"), one of the several songs Rogers wrote to emphasize his philosophy.

"Children need that, to be accepted for what they are rather than what they will be," Rogers says. "I'm not there to tell children, 'I want you to become an adult as quickly as possible so you can buy the stuff I sell.' I want them to mature at their own pace."

"My primary purpose is not to make children happy or to make them love me or to supervise their ideals or even to teach them. If they learn something it's proof that I'm creating this proper atmosphere for growth."

"Misterogers' Neighborhood," which is taped in a Pittsburgh ETV station, began in the 1966-67 season, was carried by only about a dozen TV stations, mostly in the East, and then ran out of funds.

But a \$150,000 grant from the Sears Roebuck Foundation, matched by an equal amount from National Educa-

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TV Movie Ratings

Friday, May 24 - Thursday, May 30

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
4:00 p.m.	8	Bombers B-52	No Rating Available
9:00 p.m.	10	Jungle Fighters	No Rating Available
11:30 p.m.	13	The Killers	No Rating Available
11:35 p.m.	10	Fire Down Below	B
Saturday, May 25			
2:00 p.m.	13	The 27th Day	A-2
2:00 p.m.	10	Hercules Unchained	A-1
3:30 p.m.	13	The Mole People	A-1
5:35 p.m.	10	Boots Malone	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	The List of Adrian Messenger	A-1
11:00 p.m.	10	Rogue's March	A-1
11:15 p.m.	8	Hellicats of the Navy	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Two Rode Together	A-2
Sunday, May 26			
2:00 p.m.	8	Storm over the Nile	A-1
3:00 p.m.	13	Overland Stage Raiders	A-1
5:35 p.m.	10	Forbidden	B
11:15 p.m.	10	Circle of Danger	A-1
11:15 p.m.	13	Green Light	A-2
Monday, May 27			
4:00 p.m.	8	Lucky Me	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Experiment in Terror	A-2
12:30 a.m.	13	The Lonely Trail	No Rating Available
Tuesday, May 28			
4:00 p.m.	8	Hannibal	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	Strange Bedfellows	A-3
12:00 a.m.	13	Kathy O'	A-3
Wednesday, May 29			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Command	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Harvey	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	Never Steal Anything Small	A-3
Thursday, May 30			
4:00 p.m.	8	The Three Worlds of Gulliver	N.R.A.
9:00 p.m.	10	Palm Springs Weekend	B
11:30 p.m.	13	My Musical Heaven	No Rating Available