

As I See It

Even in Failure, CBS Playhouse Worth It

By PAT COSTA

Any presentation of the CBS Playhouse is an event. It is so for several reasons, not the least of which is the fact that its offerings constitute a goodly portion of the total drama made available by the three major networks.

The importance of the series is also delineated by the realization that no matter what the plot of the story, or the final impact it has on its television audience, CBS Playhouse brings together in dramatic form some of the most formidable talent available to TV today. That includes playwrights, actors, directors and other lesser known artisans.

Each presentation has been an experience, a deviation from the ever present variety shows, the situation comedies, the violence vehicles,

the game stunts. Thus even when a drama disappoints by not delivering in content what it has in promotion promised, it cannot be written off as a lost cause. For even in failure, CBS Playhouse manages to entertain and captivate, perhaps only in spurts, but the work and skill of so many people can never be completely obliterated by a story with little or no sustaining interest.

I am talking principally of the series in effort, "Shadow Game," seen last week. It reflects, however, what on the whole has been a disappointing season for an idea that began gloriously last year and has with one exception proved dull and unexciting this year.

The most recent presentation, written by Loring Mandel, who last year gave us the magnificent "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night," dealt with office workers trapped in a skyscraper when a massive power failure shuts down the entire East Coast.

Starring Daniel Massey (son of Raymond), William Shatner (formerly of "Star Trek") and William Windom ("The Farmer's Daughter"), the play sought to show what happens to co-workers forced together in a tense, unnatural situation.

With few exceptions, the characters lost their public facades and reverted to mean, petty, fearful, greedy and generally unlikeable creatures.

That they were unpleasant people, persons you could hardly wish to know, was not the major fault of the play. True, it always helps if you can like some of the characters a little, want them to solve their problems. The central error of this play seems to lie in the fact that it was difficult to get up any emotion for any of the people, one way or the other.

What was needed was just one character who would act as a human being would and not as a playwright would have him act.

Mandel can only gather that Mandel liked the story line no better than the audience did and treated his characters accordingly.

Catholic Press Features Pittsburgh — a minister who has received the Pulitzer Prize — broadcasting the Peabody Award — for his television programs for children says there is a dearth of good programming for children because few broadcasters understand what small viewers really want.

What youngsters are looking for, according to the Rev. Fred Rogers, the Presbyterian minister who created, writes, produces, directs and stars in "Misterogers' Neighborhood," is "real drama."

"The real drama for children is their own growth, phase by phase," he said in accepting the Peabody Award. "Their very real concerns are about being small, and dogs that bite, and water that goes down drains, and brothers and sisters, and whether anybody thinks a little child is worthwhile."

The 40-year-old minister suggested there would be less emphasis on violence in children's programming for television if the broadcasters knew even a little about child psychology.

The Rev. Mr. Rogers, who prepares his weekday series in close consultation with child psychologists at the University of Pittsburgh, received the Peabody Award from a group called the "Broadcast Pioneers," which annually cites radio and TV programs for distinguished achievement and meritorious public service.

"Misterogers' Neighborhood," seen on more than 120 National Educational Television affiliates (including Channel 21) around the country, was described by the Peabody judges as "an informal composite of songs, puppets, people, lessons and ideas for children from 3 to 8. The programs combine the fantasy of the Neighborhood of Make Believe with the realities of childhood needs and experiences. The creator and the star of the show summarizes his role as that of 'creating an atmosphere in which a child is accepted and allowed to grow.' This award is made in recognition of success in filling that role."

The Rev. Mr. Rogers, who believes that children should be "accepted as they are" in planning TV programs for them, is a strong opponent of violence in children's programming.

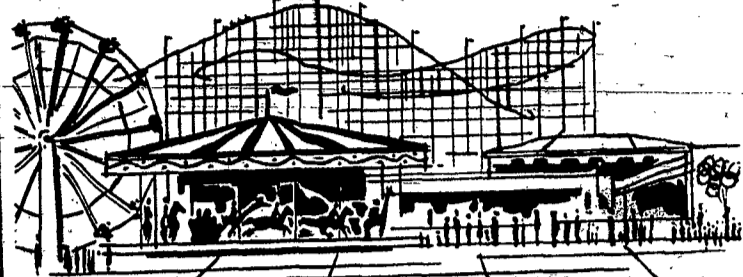
"Popularity at the expense of a young mind is a hollow thing," Mr. Rogers holds. "An excess of violence stifles the imagination, repeatedly forces the child into the role of spectator, captive and

fearful. Or, even more damaging, it encourages a child to seek relief from his own problems by withdrawing in passivity and watching another human being obliterated.

"I'd rather teach a child to cope with what he disagrees with, instead of exciting him to destroy it, or manipulate its destructors."

TELEVISION MASS The Mass for Shut-Ins, broadcast on WHEC-TV, Channel 10, 8:30-9:00 A.M. Sunday, May 18, 1969, will have as its celebrant Father John Burke, C.S.B., of the Aquinas faculty. The lay commentator will be Alfred E. Boylan, Aquinas Class of 1955.

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Priest Sees 'Genesis' in Beatle Film

Catholic Press Features New York — Followers of the Beatles will probably be surprised to learn there was a lot of theology beneath the surface in "The Yellow Submarine."

Not only did the animated cartoon-style musical just win an "Award of Special Merit" from the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches, but a priest-columnist for a Catholic newspaper

is certain that the film is a retelling of the story of Genesis.

The National Council of Churches award citation described "The Yellow Submarine" as a film "which reaches new dimensions of creativity in the art of animation to proclaim a multi-level message that love overcomes evil and that man is at his best when he celebrates the joys of being alive."

But in "The Delmarva Dia-

log," of the Wilmington, Del. diocese, Father Stephen Breen said the message of the film was straight out of the Biblical account of Paradise, the temptation of Adam and Eve, and Original Sin.

The film is about a mythical, peaceful, music-loving land called "Pepperland," whose happy inhabitants are suddenly beset by the "Blue Meanies," an army of beauty-hating characters who deprive the Pepperland people of their music—literally turning them into stone. The four Beatles arrive in a yellow submarine to fight off such Blue Meanie weapons as flying fists, mainly by singing about love.

above in their mythical submarine, playing the role of evening angels. They descend slowly from the heavens in their aerial ark, into the very center of Pepperland.

"The bandstand with all the sweetness and charm of music is the tree that grows in the midst of Paradise—Pepperland; the giant gloved fist is the devil himself in another form; the Meanies with their apples are obvious."

"About all that is missing," he said, was Original Sin and the cross, "but they are not entirely absent, however."

Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Catholic Office of Motion Pictures:

With the Catholic Office ratings, we include the ratings of the Motion Picture Association: G, general; M, mature audiences; R, restricted (persons under 16 admitted only when accompanied by parents or adult guardian); X, persons under 16 not admitted.

Paramount—"The Big Cube" (Objectable), M.

Cinema—"Buona Sera Mrs. Campbell" (Adults), M.

Waring—"The Lion in Winter" (Adults), G.

Monroe—"Funny Girl" (Adults and Adolescents), G.

Rivers—"The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" (Adults), G.

Regent—"The Sea Gull" (Adults), G.

Studio 2—"Joanna" (Objectable), R.

Loew's—"Charly" (Adults), G.

Stoneridge—"The Love Bug" (General), G.

Panorama—"Oliver!" (General), G.

Towne I—"Romeo and Juliet" (Adults, with reservations), G.

Towne II—"Where Eagles Dare" (Adults), M.

Stutson—"Where It's At" (No Rating), R.

Fine Arts—"You Can't Cheat an Honest Man" (General), G.; "My Little Chickadee" (Objectable), G.

Little—"Mayerling" (Adults), M.

Lyle—"Michael and Helga" (Adults with reservations), R.

Rock 'n' Roll Hurt By Miami Incident

Catholic Press Features New York — That Miami Beach obscenity incident involving Jim Morrison and "The Doors" not only set off a series of decency rallies by young people, but it has also done considerable harm to the entire rock 'n' roll business, according to "Variety," the entertainment industry newspaper.

"The damage to the rock 'n' roll movement... is only beginning to be felt in the industry," the paper reported. "Feeling is that no major rock 'n' roll group has been left unaffected by the Morrison incident, which he allegedly used some obscene gestures in front of an audience of some 12,000 kids."

The show-business paper reported that "The Doors," which had been one of the hottest boxoffice properties, had lost "a considerable number" of bookings because of the incident, and other groups are also suffering loss of engagements in the aftermath.

"The Fort Lauderdale Music Festival, comprising more than a dozen rock 'n' roll outfits had to be cancelled because of civic pressures and

objections from parents of students coming down for the holidays," the paper reported.

"What's more, major auditoriums and arenas in the country have become more wary of booking the rockers. Most of the large-seaters are municipally owned, and these showshops have not booked 'The Doors' and many are turning down dates by promoters who want to bring in other rock groups. Even in the case of privately run, but non-profit auditoriums, dates are not as easy to come by for many rock groups."

The paper said an attempt was being made to book "The Doors" into the Hollywood Bowl for a concert in the Fall, when the incident might be forgotten, "but it's not thought a good prospect by many."

"Variety" said it was "significant to note that the case against Morrison and 'The Doors' comes at a time when films and legit are going far beyond that which Morrison is alleged to have done."

"However, that is not likely to help him since the major argument is that the other fields can be restricted to mature audiences, while Morrison worked largely for kids."

"The Yellow Submarine," according to Father Breen, "is not just a delightful surrealistic cartoon in psychedelic colors, set to the voices of rock and guitar as everyone seems to think. Nor does it tell any particular story except the oldest one in the world."

"This is the one begun in Genesis," he explained, "of the joys of a primitive Paradise, the invitation of evil from some dark, sinister force outside, the conflict between good and evil that results, with all its ferocity and savagery, and finally the victory over all these evils, and redemption through help from Goodness outside."

For those who think Father Breen might be seeing things, he spelled out his thesis with parallels between Genesis and "The Yellow Submarine":

"There were even the surrealistic equivalents of death and resurrection in Paradise—Pepperland—as the meemies bopped the beautiful good people over the head with green apples and turned them into stone."

"They even used apples to kill them," he emphasized, referring to the traditional image of the Forbidden Fruit in the Garden of Eden. "The people were brought back to life and happiness (eternal happiness—ever after?) by the Beatles, who came from

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TV Movie Ratings

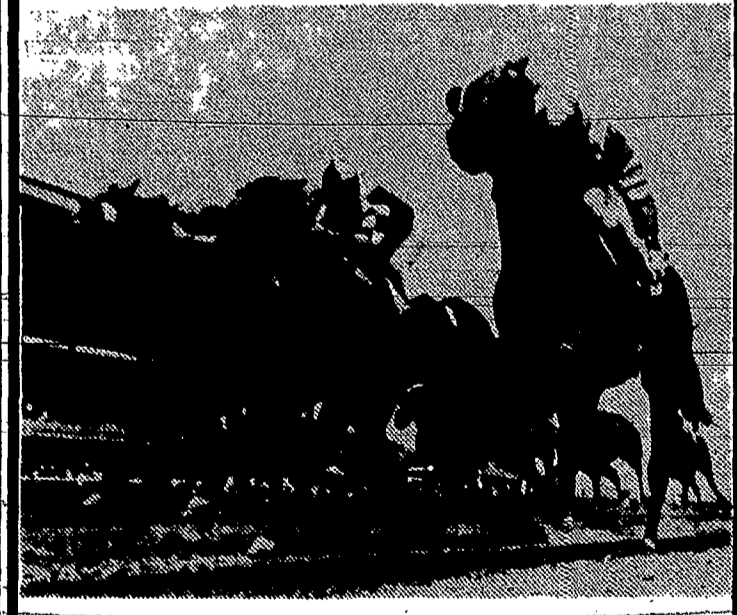
Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable 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 unobjectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Week of Friday May 16 - Thurs., May 22

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
Friday, May 16			
4:00 p.m.	8	Tomorrow is Another Day	A-2
7:30 p.m.	13	The Spiral Road	A-2
9:00 p.m.	A	A Life of Her Own	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	Written on the Wind	A-2
11:40 p.m.	10	Iron Man	A-2
Saturday, May 17			
2:30 p.m.	10	Weekend with Father	Not Listed
3:00 p.m.	13	The Girl in the Kremlin	B
6:00 p.m.	10	I Love Melvin	A-1
11:05 p.m.	10	The Appaloosa	Not Listed
11:15 p.m.	13	The Price of Fear	A-2
11:20 p.m.	8	The Return of Frank James	A-2
Sunday, May 18			
2:00 p.m.	10	The Far Horizons	A-1
2:00 p.m.	13	Flying Tigers	A-1
5:00 p.m.	8	No Love for Johnnie	B
9:00 p.m.	13	Alvarez Kelly	A-3
11:20 p.m.	10	Confidentially Connie	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	High Sierra	B
Monday, May 19			
4:00 p.m.	8	Guadalcanal Diary	A-1
9:00 p.m.	8	Come Back, Little Sheba	B
Tuesday, May 20			
4:00 p.m.	8	Man on a Tightrope	A-2
9:00 p.m.	B	Escape to Mindanao	Not Listed
11:30 p.m.	13	Babette Goes to War	A-2
Wednesday, May 21			
4:00 p.m.	8	Holiday	A-1
8:00 p.m.	13	The King and I	A-1
11:35 p.m.	13	The Deadly Mantils	A-1
Thursday, May 22			
4:00 p.m.	8	Five Gates to Hell	B
9:00 p.m.	10	In the Cool of the Day	B
11:30 p.m.	13	Battle Hymn	A-1

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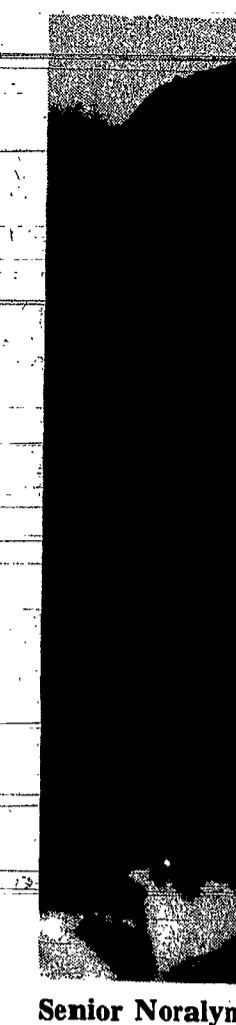
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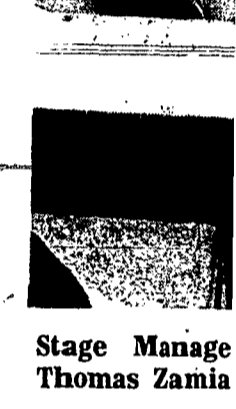
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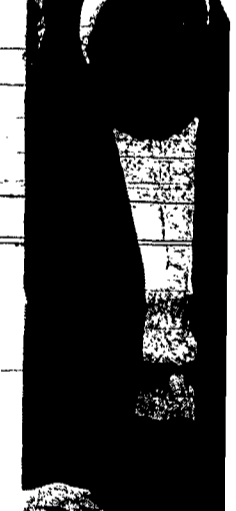
High Don't



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Stage Manager Thomas Zamia



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Hand From

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All buildings at are now easily acc handicapped exce building, which in several classrooms fetoria. It will be few small colleges to have all buildin particularly for w tients.

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"We are deeply the Class of 1969 to the college. At the spotlight of the rected to campus t most heartening t dents demonstratr ine interest in oth

"When the colle 1948, very little; paid to the handic we have many han dents, and their; are considered in tion of all buildin difficult to make c older buildings, at tention and assis senior students t problem will have tive influence."

The drive to e the northeast secti fetoria has been-1 C. Dzuba, a junic Mr. and Mrs. Stanl May-St., Rocheste Several hours of and counsel was g ect by Miss Barb