

City Festival Slates Yugoslav Animated Films

Samples of the offbeat, prize-winning work of Yugoslavia's Zagreb Film Studio will be presented this fall by the Rochester International Film Festival.

The productions, acclaimed worldwide as some of the most original and entertaining works in the field of animation, will be presented and discussed by Zelimir Matko, director of the Zagreb Studio.

According to Fred Mintz, festival director, the Yugoslav offerings will be among 100 productions from around the world that will be screened during the festival, Oct. 17-25. Some 150 productions have already been offered to Murray Grigor, program director of the Rochester event and director of Scotland's Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Grigor's organization in Edinburgh will make preliminary selections for the Rochester festival. But final selections will be made by a committee consisting of Beaumont Newhall, director of Rochester's Eastman House; Joseph Baranowski, director of the Nazareth Arts Center, Nazareth College, Rochester; Ira C. McLennan, executive director of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, and Mintz.

The Zagreb Film presentation is one of a number that will combine screenings of trend-setting cinema artistry with explanatory talks by their producers or directors. About a third of the offerings, ranging from short features to epic productions, will be seen in the United States for the first time during the festival showing.

Book Sale Law Erased in Mass.

Boston — (RNS) — The Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional a 14-year-old law prohibiting the sale of books and magazines dealing with sexual perversions to children under 18.

It acted in a case involving Roger A. Girard and nine other New Bedford, Mass., dealers and store clerks for firms where the controversial materials were sold.

The law made it a crime to sell or display for sale to children under 18 fictional material depicting sadism, masochism, sexual perversion, bestiality or torture.

Judge John V. Spalding, who wrote the opinion, said that under the law even a father of a child would be guilty if he gave a 16-year-old a novel which unknown to him contained a brief description of human torture.

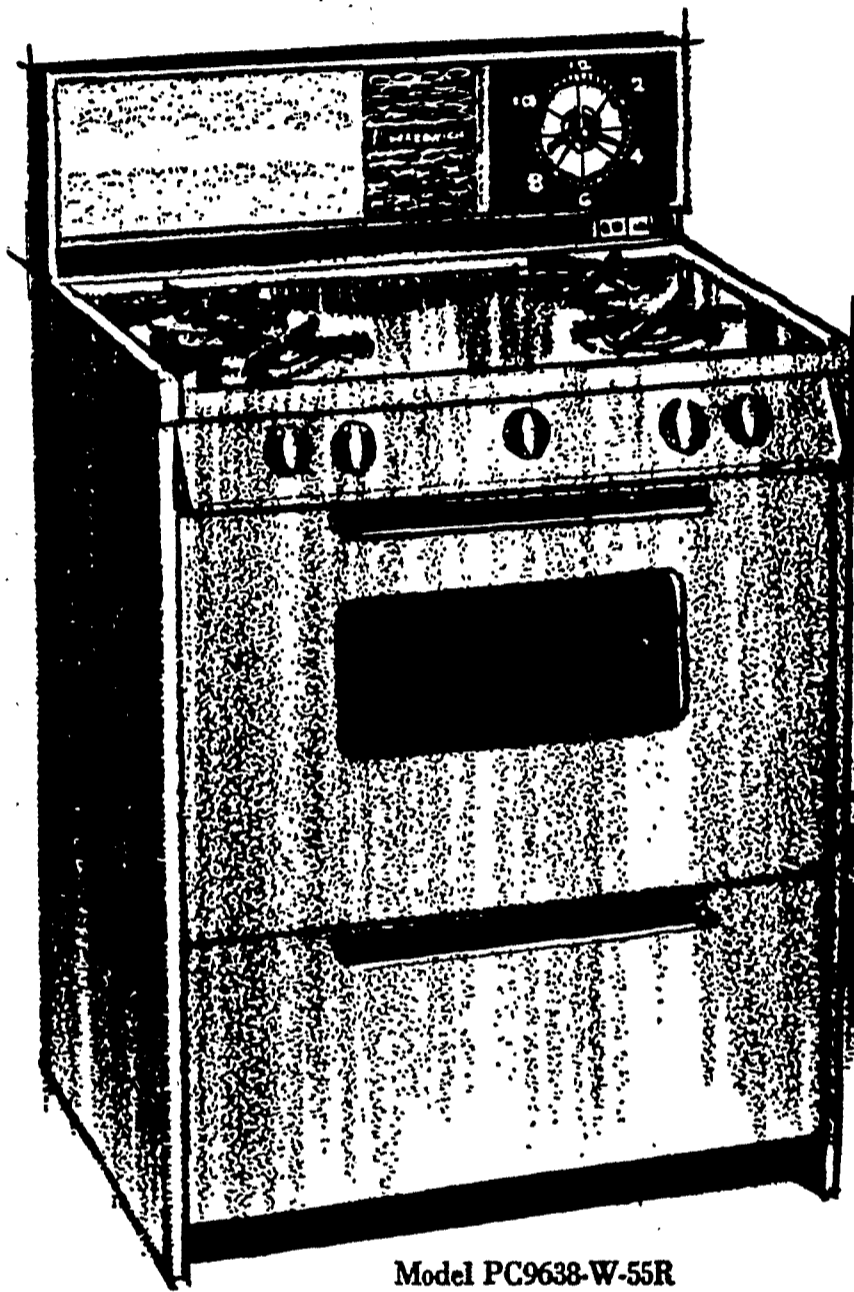
He noted that the law, in effect, would require a bookseller to examine minutely every novel he displayed for "sale" to children under 18.

"Such a restriction would obstruct the flow of clearly protected expression to children under 18 and is an impermissible exercise of legislative power," Judge Spalding stated.

"Booksellers unable to familiarize themselves with all the material on their shelves," he added, "would tend to restrict sales to minors to the relatively few books of which they had some knowledge of the contents or character."

The state court's ruling does not affect another Massachusetts statute which prohibits the sale of "obscene material" to minors. Under that statute a defendant would not be guilty if he was unaware of the nature of the material.

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