

'THE BOATNIKS' ... A TRUE - G FILM



Stefanie Powers, Robert Morse and a sea-going friend in a scene from "The Boatniks."

'Pufnstuf' Also Praised by Religious Critics

Catholic Press Features

New York — Only two summer films with special appeal to children could be found for recommendation by the Catholic and Protestant national film offices: The Disney company's *The Boatniks*, and *Pufnstuf*, an offshoot of a Saturday morning TV series.

The two films were the only "G"-rated pictures made primarily with children in mind that were commented on favorably in recent issues of the *Catholic Film Newsletter*, published by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, and *Film Information*, a film newsletter produced by the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches, which is the Protestant equivalent of NCOMP.

The Protestant film newsletter predicted that *The Boatniks* would become the top money-making film of 1970, just as *The Love Bug* was the top money-making film of 1969, indicating that light family-type movies are much in demand.

"Even sophisticated viewers, surfeited by exploitation and problem films," said the Protestant newsletter review, "will find some laughs in this true-G, present-day comedy."

The Boatniks, made by Walt Disney Productions, is set in an overcrowded marina where a new Coast Guard ensign (Robert Morse) is assigned the task of keeping boat-happy civilians from killing themselves, gets involved in the capture of incompetent

jewel robbers (led by Phil Silvers), and falls in love with the only "see-worthy" character in the film, Stefanie Powers.

The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures categorized *The Boatniks* as "in the typical Disney mold, . . . a lively, wholesome and fun-filled romp." "There is also," added NCOMP, "a seasoning of innocuous adult humor to interest the parents who have to accompany the little ones to the show."

The Catholic film office also described *Pufnstuf*, made by Universal Pictures, as a movie that will entertain children and not bore parents who accompany them.

Pufnstuf stars Jack Wild (who played the Artful Dodger in the film *Oliver!*) as a human visitor to a magical land who helps the stuffed-animal citizens recover a talking flute. Said NCOMP:

"Kids will enjoy the antics, although the flute-napping Witchiepoo (Billie Hayes) makes up in decibels what she lacks in scariness, and grownups might enjoy themselves, too, especially those who like the idea of an absent-minded owl who sounds like Ed Wynn, a blind bat-messenger who keeps banging into walls, and a cheerful lion who does a pretty good turn at W. C. Fields."

NCOMP's Protestant counterpart, meanwhile, praised the Saturday morning television *Pufnstuf* (*Pufnstuf* is the name of the magic land's mayor) and commented: "This film feature extends the TV pleasure."

Is Draft Resistance Morally Justifiable?

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