

As I See It

Dinah Shore Now a Talker

By Pat Costa



There's a new show on morning TV and from the looks of it, "Dinah's Place," was conceived as a triple-barrel threat. Triple, did I say? Make that quintuple. At least.

Dinah Shore, known primarily as a singer not so very long ago, has returned to the tube via NBC in a half-hour show seen here on Channel 8 at 10 a.m.

The first show, quite literally took away the viewer's breath, so fast the pace, so numerous the subjects covered.

The set, itself, was enough to make any homemaker drool. If memory serves correctly, there was a lovely living room featuring needlepoint pillows Dinah had made and paintings she had executed.

There is a kitchen so magnificent as to boast three ovens and Dinah's very own cook, a lady who has worked for her for 20 years, to staff it.

As if that weren't enough, a den is loaded with books and pictures. A fourth room, a greenhouse, is all set up for visiting horticulturists and has an herb garden for the edification of viewers and the convenience of the cook.

On her first show, curvy Miss Shore introduced her children, showed her hobby work, introduced friends who modeled some fashions, cooked some shrimp, spoke about watching the scale and sang a song about mothers who let their children grow up without playing with them.

On her second show she welcomed Carol Burnett to her living room who proceeded to tell her how to do the exercises that keep the comedienne in such fine shape.

It was then that the viewer realized the effectiveness of the set. If it was not entirely possible to think of Miss Burnett and her hostess as just sitting around chatting in the latter's home, it was at least possible to forget that the whole thing had been written and rehearsed. There was a natural feel to the conversation and the moments sped by.

Dinah plans other guests, some of whom will discuss child rearing, among other things.

A welcome addition to the morning agenda which is primarily composed of comedy reruns, game shows and soap operas.

Race and the Church To Be Aired Sunday

A black priest and a black nun discuss their feelings about the Church in a broadcast of "Race and the Church", on "Guidelines", Sunday, Aug. 16, at 1:30 p.m. on WROC, Channel 10, Rochester.

Sister Joyce Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, tells of her experience being barred from the Catholic Church in Greenwood, Miss., and Father George Clements of Chicago relates his story of being thrown out of an all-white congregation.

"I look to the church for

some kind of leadership in our current social problems," Sister Joyce says, "and this has been lacking . . . up to now the church has tended to perpetuate the racist attitude."

"The hierarchy isn't addressing itself to the fact that we are not in control of the edifices that are in our own neighborhoods," Father Clements points out. "And today, we are saying that if these parishes are going to function, they are going to have to be under black control."

TV Said Breeding Place for Racism

Psychiatrist Charges:

Washington — (NC) — Network television has been portrayed as a ghetto monster breeding frustration and mistrust among the poor in its pursuit of profits from complacent, white middle America.

Television "does things routinely and habitually to permit, encourage and even demand that in all situations any black is inferior to any white," said Dr. Chester Pierce, a Harvard University psychiatrist.

He was one of a trio of educational TV officials who told a Senate subcommittee that while television has its evils, it is also a potential "savior of our society" that could — and should — turn its mind-molding powers to providing all children everywhere equal education opportunity.

To do this, however, it would

take a massive television effort to eradicate racism. The three-some put a \$500-million-to-\$1 billion price tag on this proposal.

Pierce, adviser to the children's show, "Sesame Street," said "the lesson to both the black and the white child must be that our society is pro-racist."

The witnesses—all connected with the same show—blasted commercial broadcasters for fostering racism by white-dominated programming.

Michael Mann, a vice president of the Children's Television Workshop (CTW), which produces "Sesame Street," agreed with Pierce that network programming glorifies the image of the comfortable, white America to minority groups who despair of ever sharing it.



Interesting Subject

Actor Howard Davis applying his makeup fascinates a youngster visiting backstage at the Bay Area School Theater in San Francisco. Since 1936 the theater has been staging literary classics for Bay children. (RNS)

Church Film Offices:

Many 'GP' Movies Should Be 'R'

New York — (CPF) — The movie industry does not know where to draw the line between its "GP" and "R" ratings, according to the Catholic and Protestant film offices.

As a result, say the two church agencies, too many films that should be rated "R" — meaning "Restricted"; persons under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian — are being rated "GP," which means, "All ages admitted. Parental Guidance suggested."

The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures and its Protestant counterpart, the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches, have let their concern be known in a joint statement, in reviews published in

their respective film newsletters, and in interviews.

Their main complaint is that the "GP" rating applied by the movie industry to some films is exposing too many youngsters to films they should not be seeing, a problem complicated by the fact that too many parents are under the misconception that "GP" means "General Patronage" rather than what it does mean.

In a joint statement evaluating the rating program adopted by the Motion Picture Association of America, the two church film agencies said of the "GP" and "R" categories:

"Films are being rated more in terms of their language and visuals than their over-all treatment and theme. There is in-

sufficient regard for the basic values a film proposes and their effect upon the viewer. This is especially the case in the 'GP' category.

"Even if no overt adult visual material or profane language is present in a film, its manner of treatment may be such as to require its placement in the 'R' category rather than the 'GP.'

"It is apparent that many films have received the 'GP' rating because they avoid—or edit out—brief moments of profanity or nudity. Rating such films 'GP' may serve the short-term goal of bringing children to the box office, but it destroys the long-term credibility of the rating system in the eyes of parents and civic leaders."

At the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, assistant director Richard H. Hirsch cited several recent "GP" films that, in NCOMP's view ought to have been rated "R" by the movie industry.

Hirsch described as "just extraordinary" the industry rating board's awarding of a "GP" to Kiss Me, Stupid, a film about to be re-released and which the Catholic film office condemned five years ago, saying, among other things: "Crude and suggestive dialogue, a leering treatment of marital and extramarital sex, a prurient preoccupation with lechery compound the film's bald condonation of immorality."

Both film offices gave laudatory reviews to Rene Clement's French suspense film, Rider on the Rain, but both reviews drew attention to the "P" part of the "GP" rating.

"The rape scene calls for parental discretion" as the rating indicates," concluded the Protestant newsletter review. "A key to the plot, the scene is frightening, but tastefully handled by director Rene Clement, as indication that adult material need not be exploited for raw sensationalism."

TV Executive Responds:

Responding to the charge, Gordon Auchincloss, vice-president of WOKR, Channel 13, Rochester, said "Sounds like he's yelling to get the headlines."

Auchincloss told the Courier/Journal the claim "is absolutely not valid."

A frequent contributor to the oftentimes controversial One Man's Opinion, an editorial feature of Channel 13, Auchincloss took pains to describe himself as a man with no special loyalty to the television industry per se. "I have no great love for the moguls of television," he said. Now that sounds strange for a man who is in television management himself."

Auchincloss said his feelings about television even pushed him to leave the industry for eight years.

But Auchincloss, while lashing "liberals" for paying "lip-

service" to causes rather than engaging in direct action to meet social needs, insisted that television "tokenism is certainly on the downgrade." He even hopes for an end to it in the next two years.

He acknowledged, however, that "television's been guilty of an awful lot of prototypism"; but such "bias has been modified by a lot of people in the arts," in the past five years.

"The industry is in a reversal," he said. "It's really earning its keep. And this is not some Pollyanna attitude."

"And I am vastly concerned about this," he said. "One of the first things I did when I returned to television was to get rid of the term 'inner-city,' which is sort of a euphemism for 'black ghetto.' I did it to keep the walls down."