

At Home with the Movies

THE SHUTTERED ROOM (1968)

Thursday, Nov. 5 (CBS)

"What horrible, dark secret is hidden in that room?" This is a question that has been the basis of many chiller-type movies, and this film is one of them, although based on a novel by one of the best horror writers, H. P. Lovecraft.

Carol Lynley and Gig Young star as husband and wife who want to convert a millhouse on the New England coast into a

summer house, but who run into opposition from townsfolk who have various "reasons".

Critics found that the basic eeriness of the tale is blunted with an emphasis on brutality and sex (the villain is a Hells Angel's-type lecher) and haunted-house shocks.

The Catholic film office rated it B, objectionable in part for all, because of "suggestive situations, and murder and suicide in plot solution."

ONE-EYED JACKS (1961)

Friday, Nov. 6 (CBS)

Directed by Marlon Brando, who stars with Karl Malden, this is a vengeance-theme Western. Brando seeks revenge on Malden, who is now a respected sheriff but who five years earlier was Brando's bank-robbing partner who doublecrossed his pal and made off with the gold while Brando was sent to prison.

In a film filled with violence and brutality (Malden at one point has Brando flogged and his gun hand smashed), Brando seduces Malden's stepdaughter, and she helps him in a tense prison break during which Brando guns down Malden.

It was greeted, generally, as an extremely interesting Western with some of the finest landscape cinematography ever seen, especially so if you have a good color set. The characterizations are unusual, too.

NCOMP rated this film A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

TRIPLE CROSS (1966)

Saturday, Nov. 7 (NBC)

This is a "truth-is-stranger-than-fiction" film about an English safecracker (Eddie Chapman, played by Christopher Plummer). Serving time on the Isle of Jersey at the start of World War II, when the Germans invade the isle, he hires himself out to Nazi Intelligence, then turns around and also works for British Intelligence in exchange for a pardon from his prison sentence.

The film was criticized for not making up its mind as to whether it wanted to be a spy thriller or a mini-Bond film, since Plummer comes on as a two-fisted lover type. One critic thought the film could be best enjoyed if looked at as a spoof of spy films, especially because of the many stereotyped roles (the evil German baron, a seductive countess, etc.).

NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

THE SONS OF KATIE ELDER (1965)

Sunday, Nov. 8 (ABC)

John Wayne again, this time as the eldest of four brothers who set out to discover who killed their Pa and dispossessed their Ma of the family farm.

It was greeted by critics as a very entertaining Western: a lot of action, bright dialogue, suspense, and good acting, all directed by one of the best directors of Western films, Henry Hathaway. Of added interest is the knowledge that this was the first film made by Wayne right after his big operation for cancer, showing that John can "lick 'em all" whether they be Indians, bad guys, enemy soldiers or "the big C."

NCOMP rated this A-1, unobjectionable for all.

SERGEANTS 3 (1962)

Monday, Nov. 9 (NBC)

Another Frank Sinatra "Clan" film, this is a spoof of Gunga Din, with Sinatra, Dean Martin and Peter Lawford in for Cary Grant, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Victor McLaglen.

The setting is the American Old West, with the trio playing U.S. cavalry officers out to put an end to a cult of Indians who have pledged death to all Whites.

And who plays the part of Gunga Din, the loyal water boy who in the original climbed a minaret to sound a warning bugle call to the troops about to be ambushed? Sammy Davis Jr., that's who.

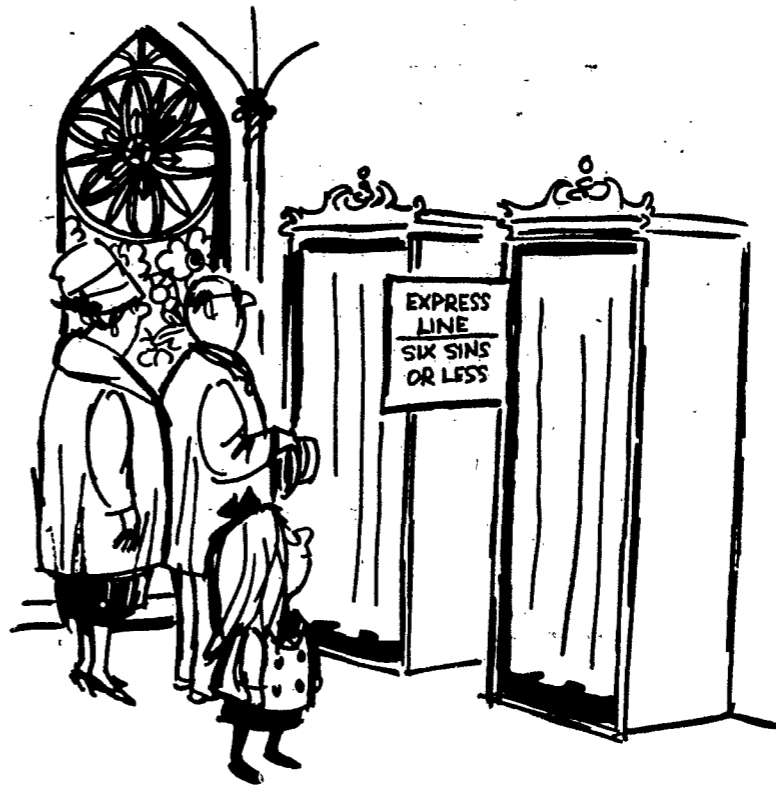
You either like Clan films, or you don't. NCOMP's rating: A-1.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

There are two new "made for TV" movies on tonight. NBC has *The Intruders*, a Western about the fear that grips a town of frontiersmen when they learn that the Jesse James gang is

coming their way. ABC has *Tribes*, about a Marine drill instructor who tries to "convert" a flower-child recruit. These films have not been seen before.

(Catholic Press Features)



In Cincinnati, an eight-year-old girl who had to wait in line to confess had a bright idea. She told mother, "This church should have a special line for people with six sins or less." (From — Faith, Hope and Hilarity. Cartoon by Phil Interlandi)

God Chose David to Be King 'Because He Drank His Milk'

New York — (OPF) — After the teacher read the story of the Prodigal Son to her class of eight-year-olds, a boy asked, "What does it mean to 'Waste your substance on riotous living'?"

Before she could answer, another boy put the idea on a level his buddy could understand, saying: "It means to spend all your money on bubblegum."

Comic Dick Van Dyke has been collecting "Child's Eye View of Religion" stories like that for years (he's been a Sunday School teacher and a Presbyterian Church elder) and has put hundreds of them into a new testament to children's natural ability as comedy writers, especially when the subject is religion.

Titling his collection, Faith, Hope and Hilarity, Van Dyke gives a brief introduction about the need for humor in religion and the long-standing importance of religion in the Van Dyke household, then reels off a wide assortment of anecdotes and one-liners he's collected from clergymen, friends and children.

Like the response a New York City lad gave when his Sunday School teacher asked, "Who defeated the Philistines?" The boy answered, "If they don't play the Mets, I don't keep track of them."

Mangled prayers and Bible stories have always been a source of humor, and scattered throughout the book — published by Doubleday and illustrated with drawings by Phil Interlandi — are some gems:

Christ "suffered under a bunch of violets"; outside Bethlehem, "shepherds washed their socks by night"; at dinner, the Lord is thanked for "these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bunny"; people are baptized "in the name of the Father, and the Son, and in the hole you go"; a child's favorite Old Testament story is the one about "Shadrach, Meshack and a Petticoat," and another child's favorite Biblical truth is "Do one to others as others do one to you."

Ask a child what he's learned

from a religion lesson, Van Dyke discovered, and you're likely to get some disconcerting answers, like the one from the five-year-old who was asked what he got out of the parable about the Good Samaritan:

"It teaches me that when I am in trouble, somebody should help me."

But Van Dyke believes that some of the humorous anecdotes he included "say with laughter what many a minister has also tried to say — at far greater length."

"How would you explain the difference in the roles of God, the Creator, and Jesus, the Saviour?" Van Dyke asks. "One boy did it with breathtaking brevity: 'God puts you down and Jesus takes you up.'"

Another boy explained how God creates people: "He draws us first, then cuts us out."

A third-grade girl answered the question of what God created first by saying, "Light." When told she was wrong, she reasoned, "I thought He'd have to create light first so He could see what He was doing."

One of the more thought-provoking anecdotes in Faith Hope and Hilarity is about a girl who returned home from Sunday School quite disappointed:

"We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," she said, "but we just sat."

The influence of television advertising is evident in anecdotes like the one about the girl who was asked to suggest a prayer for her class. "I think we should pray," she said, "for all the people with the blahs."

Ecology has also become a factor in children's relations with God, Van Dyke discovered. Asked, "Why do you suppose we no longer offer burnt offerings to God?" one boy answered, "Air pollution."

Similarly, one boy reasoned that if the body was the temple of the Holy Spirit, it made sense not to smoke: "Gee, if we smoke we'd be making smog for God."

As I See It

Sesame Street's New Format

By Pat Costa



The second season of "Sesame Street" covering 145 new hour-long programs is due to start Monday, Nov. 9.

The "Sesame Street" format followed so successfully last year will be substantially the same in this new group of programs with a few new elements to be introduced.

Among them is further preparation for reading with emphasis on letter sounds and more advanced numerical skills. Kids will learn to count to 20 this year and there will be some simple addition and subtraction.

The regular residents will be back, excluding only Buddy (Brandon Maggart) and Jim (James Catusi). And there'll be lots of guests turning up including members of the New York Knicks and New York Mets. Some other widely known names who will turn up are Alan Arkin, Lucille Ball, Flip Wilson, Carol Burnett, Diahann Carroll, Jim Nabors and the whole 'bloomin' Bonanza family.

Vince Edwards as "Matt Lincoln" the psychiatrist is not such a far cry from Vince Edwards as Ben Casey the neurosurgeon. True, there was no doctor's jacket unbuttoned at

the neck visible the night I tuned in.

But the story lines are similar (a young pretty girl adjusts to permanent blindness) and the doctor's bedside manner has not altered noticeably.

But there are some changes. Back in the early 1960's, volatile, forceful Ben Casey as personified by Edwards, seemed right for the times. Now, the same personality comes on too strong and somewhat hackneyed.

The first of the series of six suspense dramas titled "San Francisco International Airport," starring Lloyd Bridges as the airport manager was altogether predictable and something of a drag.

The premiere show in this portion of NBC's "Four-in One" program had an antiwar scientist registering his protest against the arms race by planning on releasing poisonous gas.

It was up to Bridges to avert disaster — that is the disaster within the disaster — but then maybe that's too strong a word for a series premiere when all three networks are inundated with sustained mediocrity.

'I Can't Begin to Describe Some Films We Have Seen'

London—(RNS)—The world is getting sicker, at least in the realm of movies, the London Baptist Men's Club was told here by Sir John Trevelyan, secretary of the official British Board of Film Censors.

"I could not begin to describe some of the films we have to see," he said. "And I am not thinking of those which find their way into the theaters specializing in X (for adults) films, but of those which are being shown in private cinema clubs.

"I find myself depressed at the situation. In the words of an eminent film producer I spoke with recently, 'The world is getting sicker and sicker.'"

Sir John told the Baptists they have not yet realized or understood what is happening. The trends in the movie industry are symptoms of disease, he held.

For many years, he said, the United States had a form of movie censorship. In addition, the Roman Catholic Church's influence, especially towards sex films, was strong.

"They posted lists of prohibited films in Catholic churches or even read out from

the pulpit the films which Catholics should ban," he said. And, he added, this perhaps explained why American film producers turned to violence instead.

But now that the censorship of films in the United States has largely been declared illegal the U.S. has turned to sex and obscenity as well as violence, Sir John said.

Where only a short time ago there were but 30 private cinema clubs showing obscene films in all of America, he claimed, in the last few years this has grown into a \$60 million a year industry.

"Much of it is frightful muck," Sir John added. He added that with many of the big, film companies in real financial difficulties the temptation comes when producers look at the sex and obscene films and conclude that that is where the money is.

"Already we are getting some of these films over here," he added. "If the cinema clubs spread and take away the money from companies producing and showing better films, then the industry could well die."