

As I See It

Virginia Graham Missing Point

By Pat Costa



If the four "Virginia Graham Show" programs I have seen are representative of her best foot forward, Miss Graham might do well to forget the whole talk show genre and enter the field of soap opera.

Replacing what was once Virginia's show "Girl Talk" (more recently hosted by Betsy Palmer) with the new Graham effort, WROC-TV appears to have acquired mere filler for its "Dialing for Dollars".

On the first two shows, Miss Graham was hostess to actress Patty Duke. Miss Duke, no longer a child actress, is obviously immature in many respects.

In a discussion of how she heard of the death of her "good friend" Sharon Tate, she came across as if she were acting a certain part, not a virtue in this particular medium.

She appeared confused in other matters, notably that there is a distinction between doctors of philosophy and doctors of medicine. Prefacing every other statement with "In my estimation" did not add to her charms.

Some other guests of Miss Graham included actress Ann Margaret and singer John Gary (in an archery outfit). The former brought scenes of her latest movie in which she plays a no-clothes scene with football celebrity Joe Namath. Gee, how much excitement can a television viewing housewife take in an afternoon?

Other guests included parents of quadruplets and their offspring and the first interracial couple to marry in the state of Mississippi.

The latter group were noticeably more interesting than the first, celebrities all.

Thought Virginia might have learned that fact by now.

After tuning in first "Matt Lincoln" and then "Dan August" (starring Bert Reynolds), I can understand why ABC is talking of major rescheduling come January. Reynolds plays at being silent and enigmatic in this cops-and-killers series but comes off as deadly and indifferent.

Opera Theater Sets 'Carmen'

Opera Theatre of Rochester will present Bizet's Carmen on Dec. 2, at 8:15, at the Eastman Theatre with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The opera will be sung in English with spoken dialogue.

In the title role of Carmen will be Gloria Beniades. Singing Don Jose, the infatuated corporal, will be Allen Cathcart, a young New Yorker who has just completed an engagement with the Seattle Opera Company.

Ruth Bent will sing the role of Micaela, Patricia Fleming will appear as Frasquita, Dr. Robert Zajkowski as Zuniga and Joseph Barone of Good Shepherd parish as Lillas Pastia, the Innkeeper. Other supporting roles will be sung by Kenneth Follette, Jan Hopkins, and Steve Skura, of Holy Redeemer parish.

The choristers include Valerie Fucile of Sacred Heart parish, Kay Lauricella of St. Philip's, Richard Hommel of Holy Family, Carol and Joseph Barone of Good Shepherd and Arlene Kilpatrick of St. Margaret Mary.

NUN TO STUDY ART IN EUROPE

Sister Mary Blaise Flynn, OP., an art major at Siena College in Memphis, Tenn., will go to Europe with the college's "floating art semester abroad," from January through May.

Sister Mary Blaise, daughter of Mrs. William J. Flynn of Rochester, is a 1963 graduate of Mercy High School.

'Five Easy Pieces' A Film Triumph

By JOHN DASH

The movie "Five Easy Pieces" opened in the diocese last week, raising an extraordinary banner of technical and artistic excellence, and signaling that a new generation of film makers have come into their own.

The story is how a boy-man named Bobby muddles about the business of staying alive in the company of acquaintances and kin whom he neither will nor can love. It's a subtle exploration of the Peter Pan theme, done as deftly and classically as Laurence Durrell's "Alexandria Quartet". The screen play by Adrien Joyce is carefully wrought and painstakingly follows a cinematic rather than literary development.

Jack Nicholson, last seen as the satisfying belch in the narcissistic orgy of "Easy Rider", plays the role of Bobby. He is an exacting craftsman. His performance is near-perfect as the troubled and troublesome protagonist.

Bobby's sometime girl, Rayette, is played by Karen Black. She wears white lipstick and large gobs of brown stuff on her eyelids. She emerges from her role an actress of enormous stature.

The editing is, however, the most impressive item in this splendid work. Credited to two men named Holmes and Shephard, there isn't a frame that doesn't contribute. It is the most closely honed movie I've ever seen.

Director Bob Rafelson, I suspect, is a reader of William Carlos Williams, and an admirer of his notorious rage over ambiguous imagery.

His selection of sites for the action is uncanny in its perfection as is his aim to understate moments of high tension which occur in the film. In one scene Bobby begs forgiveness from his blind, paralyzed and dumb father. Bobby hangs on the verge of tears, spills over once and chokes back. It's an



JACK NICHOLSON

incredible moment for American cinema.

This film is classic in both conception and execution.

MPAA Rating: R. NCOMP Rating: A IV (for adults with reservations).

At Home with the Movies

A PLACE IN THE SUN (1951) Thursday, Nov. 19 (CBS)

Now a classic, this is the film version of Theodore Dreiser's novel, "An American Tragedy." It is the story of a factory worker (Montgomery Clift) who falls in love with a wealthy girl (Elizabeth Taylor) and in order to be "free," kills the homely working girl he has had an affair with (Shelley Winters).

This was one of the films that built George Stevens' reputation as one of America's leading directors, and was widely acclaimed. It was a strong social document for its day, and still has relevance.

The Catholic film office rated it A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

NIGHT CHASE

Friday, Nov. 20 (CBS)

Another new "made for TV" movie, this stars David Janssen — running again. This time he's a wealthy Eastern businessman fleeing from the police, who want him in connection with a shooting.

Forced to land in Los Angeles, he hires a surly black cabdriver (Yaphet Kotto) to take him the rest of the way to Mexico.

The film has not yet been seen.

RETURN OF THE SEVEN (1966)

Saturday, Nov. 21 (NBC)

A remake of a remake, this is a sequel to "The Magnificent Seven" (1960), which was a Western version of the 1954 Japanese classic by Akira Kurosawa, "The Seven Samurai."

Although "The Magnificent Seven" — about seven gunmen who help rid a Mexican town of a marauding bandit — was fairly well-received, this sequel wasn't, probably because Yul Brynner was the only one of the original seven (which included Steve McQueen and Robert Vaughn) they could get to return. The plot involves a plan to rescue a Mexican town's male population, forced into slave labor. There is a lot of killing, and a lot of talk about why there's a lot of killing.

Wednesday, November 18, 1970

This is a summary and evaluation of prime-time films offered by the network to its affiliate stations. Check your local listings to ascertain if your channel is scheduling the network offering.

NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

ROUGH NIGHT IN JERICHO Sunday, Nov. 22 (ABC)

"As bloody and violent a Western as has played the screen" is how one review summed up this film, which stars Dean Martin as the villain — an ex-lawman who demands 51% of every profit-making activity in his area and who hires vicious henchmen to see that he gets it.

Jean Simmons plays a stagecoach owner and former girl friend who chooses to fight him, and George Peppard is the handsome stranger who comes to help her.

It's fast-moving, but very brutal. NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

COOGAN'S BLUFF (1968)

Monday, Nov. 23 (NBC)

Clint Eastwood plays a hard-nosed Arizona deputy sheriff who travels to Manhattan to extradite an escaped killer, and in the process mixes it up with hippies, hoods, girls, a "bureaucratic" police department and,

German Choruses Schedule Concert

The combined choruses of Teutonia Liedertafel will sing at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, in the German House, 315 Gregory. Dr. David Fetter is the conductor.

ROYAL HUNT OF THE SUN

McQuaid Jesuit High School will present The Royal Hunt of the Sun in the Mercy High School auditorium at 8 p.m. Nov. 19, 20 and 21.

George Kelly and Stephen Kennedy will play the leading roles, under the direction of Father William J. O'Malley, SJ.

finally, the killer himself after a Western-style chase — not on horseback but on motorcycles.

Critics generally disliked the film for allowing excessive sex and violence to get in the way of what might have been a film of strong contemporary value: a look at primitive law enforcement vs. modern methods.

NCOMP condemned this film largely because of nude scenes that will be cut on TV, but the film office also complained: "This film's repulsive protagonist, a promiscuous, cynical police officer, is presented to the audience as an admirable hero."

"The film is based on the questionable premise that the police are immobilized by legal restraints and that justice can only triumph when the individual disregards such 'bureaucratic' nuisances," NCOMP added. "In the contemporary scene all of this seems dangerously irresponsible because it reinforces the anti-social attitudes already loose in our land."

CROWHAVEN FARM (ABC)

Tuesday, Nov. 24

A "made for TV" movie, this stars Hope Lange and Paul Burke in a witchcraft story set on a small New England farm. It has not been seen yet.

(Catholic Press Features)

'Miracle Worker' Set at Nazareth

Nazareth Academy students have entered the homestretch of their rehearsals for the forthcoming production of "The Miracle Worker", scheduled Friday and Saturday in the Nazareth auditorium.

Director Angela DiLuca says this is one of the most exciting plays they ever attempted.

"The Miracle Worker" recounts the inspirational true life story of the child Helen Keller and of her compassionate young tutor, Anne Sullivan.

Members of the cast include Dianne Lazeski as Anne; Elaine Furioso as young Helen; Cornetta Thompson as Mrs. Keller, and Joseph Fischera as Captain Keller.

Tickets may be purchased from any Nazareth student. They will also be sold at the door. The presentations will begin at 8:15 p.m.

Star Spangled Girl

Richard Wilson, Richard Au-berger and Joan Bach take the leads in "Star Spangled Girl", the comedy hit by Neil Simon, in the Performing Arts Club of Aquinas Institute first production of the season, slated for Nov. 21-22 and 27-28, 8 p.m., in the Aquinas Auditorium. The cast is drawn from Aquinas and Nazareth Academy.