

At Home with the Movies

PAT COSTA
As I
See It



We had a taste of what the new season on television will bring this fall when ABC previewed one of its new series with a two-hour prologue.

Anthony Quinn is the mayor of a Southwestern city. Both he and the metropolis have a lot of problems. Number one problem as far as the mayor is concerned is that somebody's trying to wipe him out.

After that is the lineup of secondary concerns, i.e. threat of a campus riot, an argument between bishop and pastor which shakes up some of his Mexican constituents, plus a young graduate student who thinks he's incapable of changing with the times but goes on the make for him anyway.

On top of all that, the mayor has been in office for 16 years and he's up for re-election against a handsome young dogooder who already has eight points on him, according to the latest poll.

Two hours of this kind of stuff despite the talents of such respected supporting actors as Pat Hingle, E. G. Marshall and Robert Reed probably sent

those viewers who stuck with it off to bed with a jaundiced eye, to say the least.

At least a good portion of the blame must lie with the casting of Skye Aubrey as the very attractive young graduate student who in this effort couldn't act her way out of the fur-trimmed coat she was wearing.

On the other hand, the premise is exciting—a mayor with his hands full. If the writers would merely see to it that the crises come a little less frequently, the series might wind up more credible than this overlong pilot.

Anthony Quinn is exciting, too, enough to carry "The City" all by himself with only a modicum of help from the creators of this new show.

Looks from here as if ABC could well have another "Marcus Welby" on its hands if everybody pulls together.

THURSDAY DEADLINE

Remember that the news and photo deadline for the Courier-Journal is Thursday noon for the following week's newspaper.

WARNING SHOT (1967)

Thursday, May 27 (CBS)

David Janssen stars as a detective who kills, apparently in self-defense, a man who turns out to be a highly respected doctor known for his philanthropy and aid to Mexicans in California's Baja country.

Janssen is suspended and spends the rest of the film trying to clear his name before being brought up on manslaughter charges.

Most critics found it a very well made detective thriller, helped by performances from Ed Begley, Keenan Wynn, Lillian Gish, Eleanor Parker, Walter Pidgeon and Steve Allen, and for its treatment of police brutality and sensationalism of press and TV in reporting scandal.

NCOMP gave it an A-2 rating, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents, commenting that much of the film "turns into a routine detective thriller with little suspense and a lot of violence."

LIFE WITH FATHER (1947)

Friday, May 28 (CBS)

Adapted from the longest-running Broadway production ever, this film stars William Powell and Irene Dunne as the Dad and Mom of Clarence Day, played by Jimmy Lydon.

Set in 1880 New York City, the story is about an eccentric father, a love affair that develops between Clarence and a 17-year-old visitor (Elizabeth

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.

Taylor, in her first romantic role), and baptism. It seems Father Day was never baptized and his wife, fearful he cannot enter heaven, tries to rectify things before it's too late.

At the time, while rating it A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents, the Catholic film office felt obliged to observe that "this film presents certain concepts of the Sacrament of Baptism which are contrary to Catholic teaching and practice."

LADY L (1966)

Saturday, May 29 (NBC)

A "droll," very adult comedy, Lady L is Sophia Loren who, as an 80-year-old pillar of English society, tells in flashbacks how she rose from a bordello in Paris to her present position.

David Niven plays her husband, a duke, whom she married for money and position even though he was impotent. Paul Newman plays a French anarchist whom she met in a brothel, who fathered all her children and who—we learn as the film ends—became the family chauffeur and still, with the duke's consent and knowledge, Lady L's lover.

Although some critics found

it an interestingly macabre comedy, other were disappointed with it, blaming miscasting all around, except for a cameo appearance by Peter Ustinov as an intended assassination victim.

NCOMP gave it a B rating, objectionable in part for all, and said "suggestive treatment and low moral tone permeate this tasteless comedy."

BLAST OFF (1966)

Sunday, May 30 (ABC)

A light, comical adventure

yarn about flight, starring Troy Donahue, Burl Ives and Hermione Gingold, along the lines of Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines. Heroism, romance and that kind of thing.

The Catholic film office rated it A-1, unobjectionable for all.

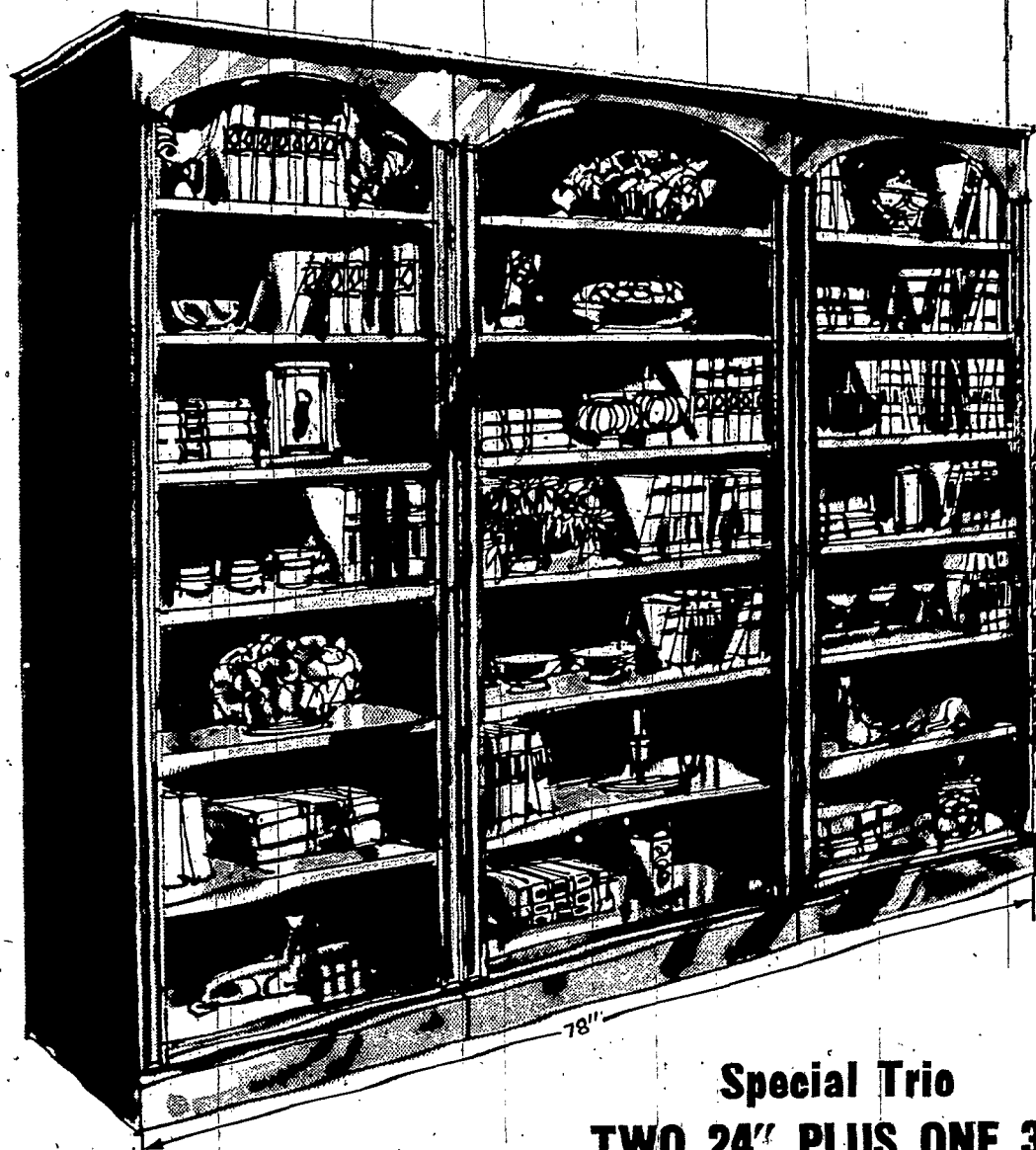
SERGEANT DEADHEAD (1965)

Monday, May 31 (ABC)

This is a comedy starring Frankie Avalon, former teen-singing idol, who plays a serviceman on duty at a missile base while pursuing redhead Deborah Walley. He's accidentally shot into space and a double impersonates him—at the base and with Miss Walley, all the way up to the altar.

There are some good character sketches, particularly by Fred Clark, Gale Gordon, Buster Keaton and Eve Arden.

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



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