

PAT COSTA  
**As I  
See It**



We don't watch "Captain Kangaroo" at our house much anymore. For one thing it coincides with the 9 a.m. screening of "Sesame Street" and both the three-year-old and the baby seem to enjoy the psychedelic effect of flashing numbers and the strong beat that marks the public education network program.

But now during vacation "Sesame Street" is not seen during the morning and the 6-year-old will sometimes turn on "Captain" to help her start the day slowly.

I had forgotten just how good "Captain Kangaroo" is but at the eldest child's insistence, her father and I and the other kids sat down to watch a portion of what turned out to be a two-part Independence Celebration screened July 5 and 6.

We turned in as the show was half over the first day but I saw the entire second day's program. And a good celebration it was.

We just returned recently from a vacation trip to Williamsburg and Yorktown, Virginia where we had tried to explain history of 200 years ago to our oldest, and Captain's animated story of the 13 colonies' fight against Britain and

struggle for independence was a splendid followup.

The writing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were covered, plus background on the men instrumental in accomplishing the job.

The program brought us up to date with a visit to modern Washington which included a look at the Supreme Court justices.

There were visits to other institutions in the capital including the Smithsonian.

For a sentimental, nostalgic touch to the Fourth Celebration there was a segment on steamships. To help the festivities along an old-fashioned band played such bits of American classics as "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "After the Ball."

Even though it was a special theme program, there was still time for the ever popular animal segments and something new since I last watched — chemistry experiments. Foam rubber and polyurethane were the two synthetics whipped up for the day.

The only dismal notes in the show were the commercials, particularly at the half way point, with one following the other in rapid succession.

## Once Over Briefly

Ratings from the Catholic Office for Motion Pictures on the moral suitability of current movies:—

**ANDROMEDA STRAIN**—Adults and adolescents—Chilling science thriller from a best-seller about a killer microbe.

**BANANAS**—Condemned—Woody Allen comedy, "tasteless insult and irreverence," offensive because it deals with lowest moral and artistic ideas.

**BAREFOOT EXECUTIVE**—Family—A TV executive discovers a chimp who's a champ at promoting video shows.

**BEGUILLED**—Adults, with reservations—Lust and violence in Civil War setting; called a comedy, if you consider nymphomania and murder funny.

**CARNAL KNOWLEDGE**—Objectionable for everyone—

**CAT O' NINE TAILS**—Objectionable for everyone—Gross, murders in a story about a behavioral-research lab.

**CLAIRE'S KNEE**—Adults—A Frenchman romances mentally with a girl's knee; amusing but not sexual theme. Highly praised by Catholic film office and critics for "wit and intellectual stimulation."

**DERBY**—Adults—A story of roller-derbies and the people who share them; their "moralities, aspirations and thrills."

**DESERTER, THE**—Adults—A foreign-made, rough-tough Western.

**ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES**—Family—Latest adventure of super-apes Roddy McDowell and Kim Hunter has them coming to the present-day earth. Plot details amazement of U.S. to learn that apes know what will happen 2,000 years from now.

**FIVE EASY PIECES**—Adults, with reservations—Excellent acting and pace in haunting story of a man running away from his roots and responsibilities.

**GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES**—Condemned—A bawdy paraphrase of the old stories.

**GUN FIGHT**—Adults—Violent and bloody, hard-boiled character study.

**HOUSE THAT DRIPPED BLOOD**—Adults and adolescents—Four British horror tales, non-gorey, excellently acted.

**IN COLD BLOOD**—Adults—Retelling of true story of farm-family murders and how the killer was caught.

**LAWRENCE OF ARABIA**—Adults and adolescents—Return of David Lean classic of exciting desert warfare. Drastic cutting of original version makes plot somewhat disjointed. Great acting and photography.

**LE MANS**—For family—Cars and drivers provide the excitement at the 24-hour road race in France. Great sport scenes as Steve McQueen drives his own car.

**LITTLE BIG MAN**—Adults—Dustin Hoffman in autobiography of white boy raised by Indians, who becomes sole survivor of Custer's massacre.

**LITTLE MURDERS**—Adults, with reservations—Angry and funny commentary on human relationships and the brides ("murders") which hit us everyday.

**LOVE STORY**—Adults—Many-Kleenex story of a Harvard-Radcliffe romance which never wins.

**LOVERS AND OTHER STRANGERS**—Adults, with reservations—Funniest movie of year, showing complex other side of married love in several families sharing a new marriage.

**\$1 MILLION DUCK**—For family—A duck who lays real gold eggs.

**PATTON**—Adults and adolescents—Oscar-winning biography of tough general whose professional dedication to excellence is his downfall.

**PLAZA SUITE**—Adults—Three playlets set in the same suite in the Plaza Hotel; Walter Matthau shows three men with emotional problems. Humorous but tiring, unless you are a Neil Simon fan.

**RYAN'S DAUGHTER**—Adults—Beautiful to the eye, long and moving story of adultery in an Irish town.

**SEVEN MINUTES**—Condemned

**SHAFT**—Adults—Detective story in Harlem; intimate slice of Black America.

**SONG OF NORWAY**—For family—Music and scenery in soupy story.

**SUMMER OF '42**—Adults, with reservations—How a teenage boy in '42 discovers life and sex from an "older woman."

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GUN-FIGHTER**—Adults and adolescents—A spoof on westerns, with clever satire about cowboys who carry guns and need to use them.

**SWEET SWEETBACK**—Condemned.

**TAKING OFF**—Adults with Reservations—Funny story about the generation gap, a fugitive child and suburbia.

**20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA**—Family—Exciting retelling of Jules Verne classic.

**WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HELEN?**—Adults only—Two mothers harassed by law convictions against their sons run away and open a junior dance school. A campy movie, with horror and music (impaginel)

**WILD ROVERS**—Adults—A new-type Western starring William Holden and Ryan ("Love Story") O'Neal. The idealized comradeship of two bank-robbers: low comedy, adventure and myth.

**WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY**—For family—A kids' film, but reviewers agree that adults will like the clever fantasy.

# At Home with the Movies

**BRAINSTORM (1965)**  
Thursday, July 15 (CBS)  
A drama of infidelity and murder. This stars Jeff Hunter as a research analyst who is having an affair with his employer's wife (Anne Francis). The boss (Dana Andrews) refuses to give his wife a divorce and instead plots to have Hunter accused of insanity. Hunter in turn sees this as an opportunity to literally get away with murder, by killing Andrews and, after a period of mental treatment, being released to marry the woman.  
The key question the film raises: is he really insane?  
The national Catholic film office rated this A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

**BATTLE OF THE VILLA FLORITA (1965)**  
Friday, July 16 (CBS)  
That's a misleading title for what is essentially a schmaltzy melodrama set on the Italian Riviera and starring Maureen O'Hara, who seems to abandon her two children for a fling with handsome, debonair Rossano Brazzi. The film is very loosely adapted from a novel by Rumer Godden; the scenery is stunning, especially in color, and get out your handkerchiefs, ladies.  
...NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

**HELLFIGHTERS (1969)**  
Saturday, July 17 (NBC)  
This is about men who travel the globe fighting oil-well fires, and about the women who worry.  
John Wayne is the chief hellfighter, Jim Hutton is his son-in-law and Katharine Ross is Wayne's daughter—all of whom wind up in Venezuela fighting a fire started by guerillas.  
NCOMP rated this A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

**JACK OF DIAMONDS (1967)**  
Sunday, July 18 (CBS)  
George Hamilton, plays a dashing cat-burglar jewel thief who travels in the best of circles in Paris, New York, etc., and becomes involved in a "big beast" caper with Joseph Cotten and Maurice Evans.  
The film is nothing more than a low-grade Topkapl. The clothes Hamilton wears steal the picture. NCOMP's rating was A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

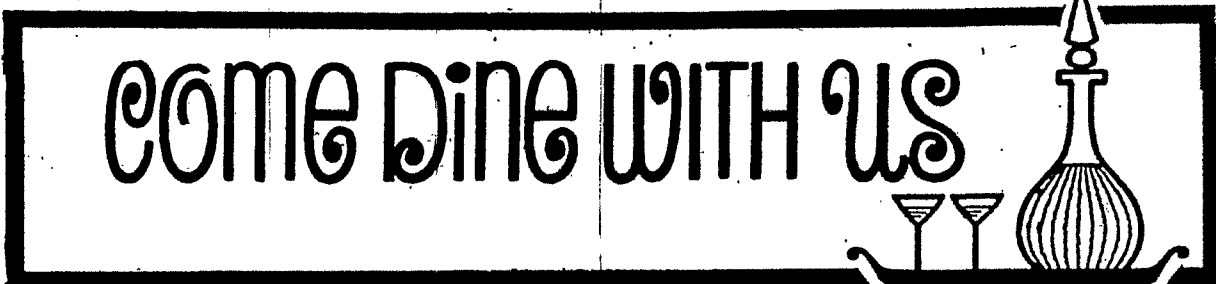
**TWO FOR THE ROAD (1967)**  
Sunday, July 18 (ABC)  
A sophisticated, sometimes difficult to follow "biography" of a marriage, from courtship through adultery. Audrey Hepburn and Albert Finney are the couple, and France provides some marvelous scenery along the "road."  
NCOMP said of the film: "It is possible to construe this subtle film as artful pagan propaganda for the primrose path, but that would be missing the point, namely, that the affair, with all of its attractive exuberance and irresponsibility, was actually poor preparation for the mature requirements of marriage, which the film affirms in its paradoxical way."  
The rating was A-3, for adults.

**EYE OF THE CAT (1969)**  
Monday, July 19 (NBC)  
A shock-suspense film, with undertones of an aunt-nephew unnatural relationship, this is not for kids—or for lovers of cats which take on ominous meanings in this rather complex story.  
The hero, (Michael Sarrazin) has been talked into returning to the mansion of his wealthy aunt (Eleanor Parker) by her hairdresser (Gayle Hun-

nicy) so the aunt may be induced to put Sarrazin back into her will, after which the old hag can be done in. But there are all those cats with all those suspicious eyes who roam around the mansion causing trouble.  
NCOMP rated this A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

**WHO'S MINDING THE MINT? (1967)**  
Monday, July 19 (ABC)  
A delightful little comedy about a clerk (Jim Hutton) in the U.S. Bureau of Engraving who accidentally destroys \$50,000 and conceals a plan to sneak into the building one night and print up a new batch before it's missed, aided by a crew of slaphappy characters, including Dorothy Provine, Milton Berle, Joey Bishop, Bob Denver and Walter Brennan.  
Highlight of the film is the break into the Mint, via the Washington sewer system, not to mention the hectic getaway in a car belonging to a religious cult.  
NCOMP rated this film A-2 unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

**BOY, DID I GET A WRONG NUMBER! (1968)**  
Tuesday, July 20 (NBC)  
Bob Hope stars as a real-estate salesman who becomes accidentally involved with sexpot Elke Sommer's attempts to get away from making movies that feature her getting in and out of baths. Marjorie Lord is Hope's suspicious wife and Phyllis Diller is their zany (what else?) maid.  
Lots of typical Hope one-liners (many of them double-entendres), a murder accusation and a wild auto chase fill up the time.  
NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.  
(Catholic Press Features)



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