

PAT COSTA
As I
See It



Watch Johnny Carson, Merv Griffin, Dick Cavett, Mike Douglas or David Frost. Playing host is as easy as falling off a log. Right?

There you are sitting behind a desk or presiding over a conversational grouping of chairs and anywhere from one to six luminaries are ushered in.

You ask bright penetrating questions and they give sparkling, revealing answers. Every once in a while you throw in a devastatingly witty aside and the whole studio audience spontaneously thunders approval while the folks at home turn up their sets in order not to miss a word.

The notion that that is all there is to emceeing a talk show is a common one.

In the hands of such masters as the above, the illusion of easiness is fostered and sustained. Probably nothing is further from the truth. Going before any camera is tough. Being yourself on camera is super tough as one Chad Everett demonstrated on a recent substitution for CBS' Merv Griffin.

Everett, of the startling blue eyes, is "Medical Center's" Dr. Joe Gannon. Each week on the very popular series as Dr. Gannon, Everett plays a man of great charm, persuasion, force and skill, defender of all that is good and noble.

As a substitute talk host, Everett was at best extraordinarily awkward and at worst embarrassing to watch.

Groping for words despite the aid of cue cards Everett showed that a man without a script can flounder indefinitely—unless—unless there is someone around to fish him out.

And, that is what Steve Allen, possibly the wittiest of talk show hosts past and present, did. With wife Jayne Meadows who plays a sometime role on "Medical Center" Allen carried on sometimes outrageously.

A singer named Milo told about a co-worker who was 6 ft. 6 in. and said he himself was 5 ft. 6 in.

"There was quite a difference in our height," he noted.

"A foot," deadpanned Allen.

When Everett directed a question at Allen and then stopped in mid-sentence looking for a word, leaving the audience ill at ease, Steve perpetrated a nonsense game of gobbledegook.

Comedian Stu Gilliam also helped his host enormously and then former MGM stars Katherine Grayson and June Allyson picked up the ball and kept it moving.

What might have been pure disaster turned out all right. But, Everett would be well advised to stick to his stethoscope and script.

Once Over Briefly

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

ABOMINABLE DR. PHIBES—Adults only—Vincent Price, the movies' most frequent horror-man brings terror to a surgical team responsible for his wife's death.

ANDERSON TAPES—Adults only—A coarse comic melodrama about a robbery of a New York apartment; unnecessary sex and violence.

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

BILLY JACK—Objectable for everyone—Conflict between runaway teenagers and people of an Arizona town. Sadistic violence and nudity, obscene dialogue.

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

BIG JAKE—Adults only—Routine but very bloody Western in which a mean and tough John Wayne invades a bandit lair to rescue his kidnapped grandson.

BLUE WATER, WHITE DEATH—Adults and adolescents—A terrorizing and fascinating documentary about hunting sharks. Great photography, slim plot.

BRAZEN WOMEN—Condemned.

CARNAL KNOWLEDGE—Objectable for everyone—A satiric reduction of human characters to sex-obsessed caricatures; crude language, explicit visuals.

CAT O' NINE TAILS—Objectable for everyone—Gruesome murders in a story about a behavioral-research lab.

DARLING LILI—Adults only—Julie Andrews is a spy against the British in World War I. Songs and comedy and fabulous wardrobe but frothy plot. Not innocent enough for kiddies.

DAUGHTERS OF DARKNESS—Objectable for all—A lesbian vampire gets attached to a young honeymoon couple. Gory, campy but pretty Belgian scenery.

DOC—for adults only—Marshall Wyatt Erp gets involved in a gunfight at O.K. corral. The old-time Western excitement is marred by making the plot a moralizing allegory about the Vietnam War.

EVEL KNEIVEL—Adults only—Fictionalized biography of modern stuntman on motorcycles. Shallow characterization does not solve question of what makes a man want to cycle-jump over 10 cars or how he faces constant injury for money and limited fame.

GRISSOM GANG—Objectable for all—A gruesome gang of thugs kidnap an heiress. Much shooting, crudity, implausibility.

HELLSTROM CHRONICLE—Adults and adolescents—Science-fiction film with various insects starring; the terrible potentialities of insect power.

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

HUNTING PARTY—Condemned—Brutal violence and sex.

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

KLUTE—Adults with reservations—Jane Fonda acts well as a New York call-girl in murder mystery with psychological study. Harsh morals and tough language.

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA—Adults and adolescents—Return of David Lean classic—Exciting desert warfare. Dramatic 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.

LIBERTINE—Condemned for all.

LITTLE BIG MAN—Adults—Dustin Hoffman in autobiography of white boy raised by Indians, who becomes sole survivor of Custer's massacre. Mentary on human relationships and the bruises ("murders"), which hit us avayrdy.

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

MCCABE AND MRS. MILLER—Objectable in part for all—Warren Beatty and Julie Christie in an unusual, moody Western; "an unmotivated and fragmentary story with excesses of crude language and scenes of nudity."

MURPHY'S WAR—For adults—Good exciting tale. Peter O'Toole is sole survivor of British merchant ship sunk by Nazi U-boat. His private vengeance on that sub and its crew is a war in itself.

OMEGA MAN—For adults—A futuristic look at how the last humans on earth may survive.

ON ANY SUNDAY—Family—Thrilling documentary of motorcycle racing in five countries by producer of popular "Endless Summer" about surfing a few years ago.

PINOCCHIO—For family—The classic children's story in lavish Disney style.

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.

RED TENT—for adults—A 1928 dir-igible crashes in the Arctic; rescue is painful. Adventure theme which might have been good for family trade is spoiled by complicated ethi-cal and psychological ramblings of the dialogue.

SCANDALOUS JOHN—For family—Exciting, crazy Western adults will laugh at as well as the kids.

SHINBONE ALLEY—For family—Disney creation the children will love.

SOUL TO SOUL—Adults and adolescents—A "return" theme which deal to hard-rock fans; U.S. musical stars go to Ghana to entertain for national holiday.

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

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

VON RICHTOFEN AND BROWN—For adults and adolescents—World War I fliers; great air-battle scenes between British and German aces.

WHO IS HARRY KELLERMAN—Adults only—Dustin Hoffman is a successful composer-singer who has crushed people on his way to the top. As his world crumbles he slips into phantasies of bitter paranoia. Sad, not funny.

WILLARD—Adults and adolescents—A horror film about a psychotic who trains pet rats to kill his family's enemy.

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

HARPY
Thursday, Sept. 9 (CBS)

This is a made-for-TV movie about a divorced wife's attempt to win back her former husband (Hugh O'Brian), who is on the verge of marrying his secretary.

The ex-wife (Elizabeth Ashley) is not only unsuccessful, but she's killed by O'Brian's pet falcon.

There are no Catholic film office ratings. This one is not for the young ones.

O'HARA, U. S. TREASURY
Friday, Sept. 10 (CBS)

David Janssen stars in this made-for-TV movie, which was actually a "pilot" for a new TV series scheduled this season.

The "pilot" introduces the O'Hara character to the viewers, showing him applying for membership in this federal agency and taking on his first major assignments, which involve narcotics. In this episode he's off to New Orleans to track down a shipment of drugs into the country.

Again, there are no NCOMP ratings for movies such as this.

OWEN MARSHALL, COUNSELOR AT LAW
Sunday, Sept. 12 (ABC)

One more made-for-TV movie "pilot," this one for a regular series that starts later in the week about a "brilliant, compassionate Santa Barbara attorney whose practice runs the gamut from a boundary dispute to murder," according to the publicity releases.

Arthur Hill, a fine actor (a Broadway stage veteran and also star of The Andromeda Strain film) is featured in this pilot (and the series) as Marshall, who defends a hippie charged with murdering a local matron. Lots of names in tonight's cast: William Shatner,

Vera Miles, Joseph Campanella, Dana Wynter (as a judge). No NCOMP rating for these films.

REAR WINDOW (1954)
Monday Sept. 13 (ABC)

James Stewart and Grace Kelly star in this Alfred Hitchcock thriller about a photographer (Stewart) who passes the time recuperating from a broken leg by becoming a Peeping Tom of sorts, following the lives of his Greenwich Village neighbors via a telescope.

He sees a murder being committed in a nearby apartment and is unable to convince his detective friend (Wendell Corey) of what he's seen, and sends his fiancée (Grace Kelly) into the apartment to search for evidence. Thelma Ritter and Raymond Burr are also featured.

Very sophisticated, fine acting, good Hitchcock suspense and passable entertainment if you haven't seen it yet or have forgotten most of it.

NCOMP rated it A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

THE FORGOTTEN MAN
Tuesday, Sept. 14 (ABC)

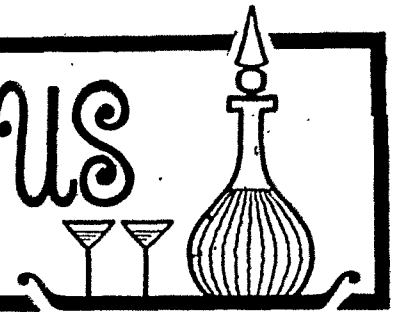
The season's premiere of the made-for-TV "Movie of the Week" series features Dennis Weaver as an American prisoner of war who has been declared dead but escapes from North Vietnam only to return home and find his wife remarried, his business sold and his life completely changed.

He gradually has an emotional breakdown, nearly killing his wife's new husband, and kidnapping his daughter, in hopes that he can recapture something of his past life with her. Anne Francis co-stars as his wife.

There are no NCOMP ratings for films made for TV.

(Catholic Press Features)

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