PAT COSTA

As I See It

Among the first shows I like to watch when a new television season starts are the situation comedies. There are several reasons for this but the principal one is that they are still only 30 minutes long and you need not tie up a whole evening to get acquainted.

There is one definite winner among the shows I did watch (there are several I've yet to see) and that one is an English import.

"Doctor in the House" stars Ernest Clark as Michael Upton, British medical student, very innocent and full of awe for professors and institutions alike.

Marvelous dry humor that one can expect from the British made the premiere an exercise in out-loud chuckling and how often can you say that about TV comedies?

His sidekick, Duncan Waring, is played by Robin Nedwell and the dean is played by Ralph Michael.

From the time Upton's doctor father drops him off at the school for an oral exam through a non-stop greeting by the dean to a misguided entrance in a maternity class with his macabre anatomy assignment, the show continues the fun.

Based on Richard Gordon's "Doctor" novels, this one is better than the first movie made with Dirk Bogarde in the title role.

The other sit coms do not fare as well. "Funny Face" with Sandy Duncan has only the star's very mobile face and squeaky voice going for it.

The premise has Sandy as a college girl who sometimes makes commercials to help pay her tuition. The opener featured Kathleen Freeman as a landlady and Tom Bosley as a not so scrupulous used car salesman. Even their comedic talents were not enough to pull this one above the level of mediocre.

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Dick Van Dyke is back with a host of other well-known names. Hope Lange is his wife, Fanny Flagg is his sister and Marty Brill and Nancy Dussault are manager and wife.

Dick's new show stars him as a talk show host in Arizona and his problem on the first show had him fighting a smoking habit which he had already given up some time before.

"The New Dick Van Dyke Show" is very reminiscent of the old "Dick Van Dyke Show". It's nothing to tell your neighbor about the first time around, but with writer Carl Reiner back in the works again, the show could pick up.

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"All in the Family" is off to what should be its first full season but the feeling here is that the format of an ignorant, opinionated, prejudiced Archie Bunker is not going to have much staying power. Hearing a guy air his pettiness might be amusing once or twice but not much more.

At Home with the Movies

HOW TO SAVE A MARRIAGE AND RUIN YOUR LIFE (1968)
Thursday, Sept. 30 (CBS)

Dean Martin and Stella Stevens star in a carbon of those Rock Hudson-Doris Day "will she or won't she" sex comedies, filled with innuendoes, misunderstandings and "what kind of a girl do you think I am" scenes.

The national Catholic film office rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

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DEADLY HUNT
Friday, Oct. 1 (CBS)

An unrated made-for-TV movie about a young couple out on a hunting trip who are stalked by a pair of hired killers. If that isn't trouble enough, a forest fire breaks out.

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RIVER OF MYSTERY
Friday, Oct. 1 (NBC)

Also made for TV, this is an adventure drama set in Brazil, where two Americans (Vic Morrow and Claude Akins) are hired to do some blasting for a businessman (Edmond O'Brien) who fails to tell them he's blasting for diamonds.

A revolutionary leader looks disapprovingly on the venture and uses sex (Louise Sorel) as bait to lure them away. It is unrated.

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VON RYAN'S EXPRESS (1965)
Sunday, Oct. 3 (ABC)

Another World War II escape film, this one stars Frank Sinatra as head of a major plot to rescue Allied soldiers. English actor Trevor Howard does his usual great acting.

NCOMP rated it A-1, unobjectionable for all.

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TO SIR, WITH LOVE (1967)
Sunday, Oct. 3 (CBS)

Sidney Poitier stars as a teacher in a London school where the students are would-be juvenile delinquents, a group he chooses to approach on an adult level, appealing to their sense of pride rather than fear of authority.

Most critics found the film "too good to be true" in plot.

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

Deaf Players Offer Workshops

Theater groups and college drama clubs have been invited to participate in two workshops conducted by the National Theatre of the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology. The workshops will be held in Booth Auditorium Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The deaf players will perform "My Three Eyes" Sept. 30 and Oct. 1-2 at RIT. Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. in Ingle Auditorium.

Once Over Briefly

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

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

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

BEGUILED—**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.

BUNNY O'HARE — **Adults** — Bette Davis and Ernest Borgnine, disguised as hippies, rob banks, and their antics supply a framework for a series of heavy-handed comments on current social issues.

BRAZEN WOMEN — **Condemned.**

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

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

CONFORMIST — **Adults—with reservations**—The development of fascism, withJean-Louis Trintignant as a man so driven to conform that he would become an assassin.

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.

DEATH IN VENICE—**Adults**—A visually lush interpretation of Thomas Mann's turn-of-the-century story dealing with the torment of an aging artist over a beautiful adolescent boy.

DRIVE, HE SAID—**Condemned.**

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.

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

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

JOHNNY GOT HIS GUN — **Adults, with reservations**—Dalton Trumbo's film, based on his own 1938 novel about a World War I "basket case."

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.

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 everyday.

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

McCABE AND MRS. MILLER — **Objectionable 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.

PANIC IN NEEDLE PARK—**Adults**—A superficial approach to the drug-addiction problem, with good performances by Al Pacino and Kitty Winn.

SOUL TO SOUL—**Adults and adolescents**—A "concert" which will appeal 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".

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.

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