

PAT COSTA
**As I
See It**



When the latest Nielsen ratings appeared, there, just as we have come to expect, was Old Dr. Welby leading the pack.

It is no secret that America is addicted to medicine, particularly if it comes in the shape of an all wise, kindly, paternal figure.

What may be less known is what else America is addicted to and what came in second on the Nielsen ratings. This time it was ABC Movie of the Week series. Last time around it was a Hollywood flick, run for the first time on television.

ABC Movie of the Week just happens to precede "Marcus Welby MD" which could account for some of its popularity.

But I've been turning my channel selector that way with increasing frequency and at least part of the reason for the popularity of these made-for-television movies is their quality.

Besides Movie of the Week, ABC also brings us Movie of the Weekend. NBC presents Mystery Movie of the Week on Wednesdays and World Premiere movies on Friday. All are made for television.

On a recent Tuesday night I watched Hal Holbrook, Barbara Rush, Margot Kidder in something called "Suddenly Single."

Holbrook, suddenly divorced after 15 years of marriage, tries to make a new life for himself. Perhaps more cautious this second time around he finds it more difficult to establish a relationship that looks as if it could last.

First rate drama? No, not really. But it had its moments.

most of them provided by Holbrook. One particularly good one was a scene in which he meets his former wife, Cloris Leachman, and discovers one cannot wipe away a marriage of 15 years in one stroke.

A couple of weeks ago I watched an NBC effort with great interest. It featured film stars Carrie Snodgrass ("Diary of a Mad Housewife") and Michael Brandon ("Lovers and Other Strangers") as a young social worker and the young man she prods toward a new future and away from stultifying security. She begins to love him and then when she succeeds so well in motivating him away from his father's fish-market, he no longer needs her.

There were things wrong with these two hours, namely no restraint in direction of Miss Snodgrass and a lack of tightness about the production.

But there was so much good about it that it inspires hope among those drama buffs who watch television.

There have been other made-for-TV movies of note. One was a "Taste of Evil" with Barbara Stanwyck and Barbara Parkins in which Miss S. plays a rather marvelous villain.

Another featured Julie Sommars, Joan Hackett, Bradford Dillman, Robert Conrad, Annette Comer, Denise Nicholas and Stefanie Powers on an isolated island where the girls are having a college reunion. One of the men is stalking them. They're not sure which.

There have been others with titles I cannot remember. Some good, some not so good. But give them a chance. You might find something to your liking.

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 robbery of a New York apartment; unnecessary sex and violence.

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.

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

BLACK JESUS — Adults — Woody Strode's magnificent portrayal of an African revolutionary makes up for interminable dialogue, slow pace and mechanical plot.

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

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

CHROME AND HOT LEATHER — Adults — Militarism, occasional sex and violence.

CLAY PIGEON — Objectionable — Low budget flick about a Viet Vet who tries to break a narcotics ring in Los Angeles.

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.

DRIVE, HE SAID — Condemned.

THE DEVILS — Condemned — Warned over 18th Century muckraking about a convent and its priest engaged in devil worship.

DOC — for adults only — Marshall Wyatt Esp 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.

FRIENDS — Objectionable — Daft idyll about a teen age couple having a baby without either doctor or midwife.

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

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

LET'S SCARE JESSICA TO DEATH — Adults — A ghoulish psychological thriller with a more than light touch of vampirism thrown in for good measure.

MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE — Adults — Quarts of plastic blood cover distantly related and bloody awful Poe.

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

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH — Adults and adolescents — Harrowing recreation of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's magnificent short novel of life in a Siberian labor camp.

PLAY MISTY FOR ME — Adults with reservations — The barely credible take of a psycho girl and the folks she tries to destroy. Long on "ladies" magazine dialog.

SEE NO EVIL — Adults — A blind girl picks up the scent of a killer. Keep the kids away; the tension is pretty bad.

J. C. — Adults with reservations — Bikes, bible quotes, and brutality.

SKIN GAME — Adults — Good comedy entertainment for the non-sensative on racial issues. James Garner makes a habit of selling his best friend.

THE TODD KILLINGS — Objectionable — based on the true story of the Pied Piper of Tucson. A lurid sex-murder melodrama.

THE LAST REBEL — Adults — Joe Namath smirks his way through crude language, heavy violence and gratuitous nudity.

THE TOUCH — Adults with reservations — Decidedly commercial Ingmar Bergman with more light on the surface than shadows beneath.

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.

At Home with the Movies

THE COMEDIANS (1967)

Thursday, Oct. 28 (CBS)
Richard Burton and Liz Taylor star in a film based on Graham Greene's novel set in Haiti. Alec Guinness, Peter Ustinov and Lillian Gish also give fine support in what is basically a so-so story about Americans attempting to get out of the country before it's too late as the dictator's secret police begin to make life uneasy for everyone.

The Catholic film office (NCOMP) rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

MURDER ONCE REMOVED

Friday, Oct. 29 (CBS)
John Forsythe and Barbara Bain co-star in a made-for-TV drama about a doctor who falls in love with the wife of a wealthy patient and you can take it from there. There are no NCOMP ratings for made-for-TV fare.

GRAND PRIX (1966)

Saturday, Oct. 30 (NBC)
The private love lives of four drivers in this international

auto-racing event make this a stop-and-go drama. Soap-opera storylines about who is or is not being unfaithful to whom get in the way of some great action sequences, directed by John Frankenheimer, although the small TV screen is likely to diminish the film's impact visually.

NCOMP gave a rating of A-3, unobjectionable to adults, to Grand Prix, which will be telecast in two parts, tonight and Monday, Nov. 1.

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH (1956)

Sunday, Oct. 31 (ABC)
Suspense-master Alfred Hitchcock at his best, in a foreign-intrigue thriller starring Doris Day and James Stewart as American tourists in Europe.

They and their son — who is kidnapped — become involved in a complicated assassination plot that is supposed to culminate with a shot fired in a London concert hall just as a pair of cymbals are to clash. It's edge-of-the-seat stuff, which will be made more frustrating by the countless commercial interruptions.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE (1966) (Part 2)

Sunday, Oct. 31 (CBS)
Begun last Sunday, this is a poorly-done World War II epic with typical dialogue and minimal attention to historical details.

The film was rated A-1, unobjectionable for all, by NCOMP.

GRAND PRIX (1966) (Part 2)

Monday, Nov. 1
See pre-view for Saturday, Oct. 30.

Local Maryknoller Now in Pusan

Sister Mary Lou Herlihy, a Maryknoll missionary in Korea, has finished two years of language school in Seoul and now is in Pusan, working with young people employed in factories.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Herlihy of Reliance Street, reported this new address for Sister Mary Lou: Maryknoll Sisters, Box 77, Pusan 600, Korea.

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