

PAT COSTA
As I
See It



Only upon infrequent occasions do I stay up for the late night talk show anymore but when I heard the promotion for the Merv Griffin show recently I couldn't resist.

Billed as a testimonial to "Tracy and Hepburn" the show promised to bring together people who had known Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn.

The reason for such a show was the publication of a book by the same title by Garson Kanin. Happily, Griffin chose to include Mr. Kanin in his group. Otherwise there might have been no show.

I had read an article Kanin had done on Katharine Hepburn a year or so ago for McCall's magazine and while I haven't read his book about the acting team, his comments on the talk show plus the article earned him my respect.

For example, when Griffin asked him why he had no mention of a love affair between the two great stars, the writer, who knew the team well and was in fact responsible for bringing them together initially, said simply, "I only wrote what I knew about."

He entertained with any number of anecdotes all included in his book. Had he appeared alone he might have saved the talk show. Griffin, never a penetrating interviewer, over-relied on his usual wide-eyed look of wonder contributing little to the "testimonial."

Kanin's wife, actress Ruth Gordon, who appeared as a friend of Tracy and Hepburn rather than spouse of the writer, lent sparingly to the conversation.

But that was all right, for we had others who knew the team warming up backstage, ostensibly to delight us with little known stories of these two great stars' idiosyncracies.

Out came Gene Kelly, as charming as ever, who had starred in "Inherit the Wind" with Mr. Tracy and upon occasion used to have Mr. T over to his house to drink a few.

But if Mr. Kelly had any stories about Mr. T he was not about to share them with us.

Exit Mr. Kelly and Walter Matthau is introduced. What was Mr. Matthau's claim to fame as concerned the Tracy-Hepburn team? Right off we learn that Mr. Matthau has starred in "Kotch", a property that Mr. Tracy was once interested in.

Afraid to listen any longer and have my fear verified that indeed that was Mr. Matthau's only link with Mr. Tracy I shut off the TV.

Unfortunately I missed Channel 21's Bookbeat program featuring "Tracy and Hepburn." And unfortunately, Rochester receives neither David Frost nor Dick Cavett, both of whom may have done credible jobs interviewing Garson Kanin. Guess the only thing left to do is read the book.

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.

BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS — Everyone — A delightful Disney fantasy about the way to win a war.

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

BLACK BEAUTY — Everyone — A sadly uneven remake of the Anna Sewall classic.

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

CRY UNCLE — Condemned — Occasionally screamingly funny but most-paunchy, private eye's fornicating his way through a blackmail case.

DESPERATE CHARACTERS — Adults, with reservations — Adult drama about the high emotional cost of urban living.

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.

FANTASIA — Everyone — Disney classic that's been drawing older folks back to the movies.

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

GOING HOME — Unrated — A man returns from prison to a house filled with bitterness.

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

IT ONLY HAPPENS TO OTHERS — Adults — A shattering drama about the death of a child.

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

KOTCH — Adults — Old fashioned sentiment without the tinsel about an unwed mother.

LET'S SCARE JESSICA TO DEATH

— Adults — a ghoulish psychological thriller with a more than light touch of vampirism thrown in for good measure.

MILLHOUSE — Adults — An honest if uneven documentary-satire on the career of Richard Nixon.

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-sensitive on racial issues. James Garner makes a habit of selling his best friend.

SOMETHING BIG — Adults — An inept Western with a lot of doubles entendres and killing, all in the name of clean fun.

SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY—Adults, with reservations — An unpleasant film about a homosexual, ambisexual and heterosexual triangle.

SUMMER OF '42 — Adults, with reservations — An American initiation rite.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION—Adults — An inhuman cat and mouse game. NCOMP called it one of the "most exciting, as well as one of the most harshly realistic detective movies in recent years."

THE STEAGLE — Objectionable — Walter Mitty Meets the Cuban Missile Crisis, but it's a sadly uneven and offensive comedy.

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 IMPOSSIBLE YEARS (1968)

Thursday, Dec. 2 (CBS)

David Niven stars in this so-called "comedy" having to do with adolescent sex. Here's how The New York Times reviewer summed it up at the time:

"About as smutty and suggestive a comedy as the screen has had in a long time, made genuinely offensive by the picture's radiantly colored and absolutely hypocritical facade as a 'family comedy,' with two 'modern' parents and eventually the entire neighborhood concerned with the question of how, why and to whom lovely 'hep' daughter has lost her virginity."

The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (NCOMP) nevertheless gave it a rating of A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

ONE MORE TRAIN TO ROB (1970)

Saturday, Dec. 4 (NBC)

This features George Peppard in a rather complicated plot for a Western shoot-em-up. In this, a train-robber has seemingly gone "straight" but can't resist just one more heist. What he doesn't figure on is the return of an old crime partner (Peppard) whom he earlier double-crossed. A lot of killing.

NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

THE GREAT RACE (1965) (Part 2)

Sunday, Dec. 5 (CBS)

This is a continuation of the film begun last Sunday, a marvelously-funny and witty spoof of Hollywood adventure films, starring Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon as "hero" and "villain" in an around-the-world auto race. The climax is an old-style pie-throwing fight and, like the rest of the film, is a gem.

A-1 rating from NCOMP and recommended by them.

LUV (1967)

Monday, Dec. 6 (NBC)

Based on a successful play by Murray Schisgal about a born loser, the film blows everything up out of all proportion, adding characters and scenes that don't do much but pad out the film and waste the viewer's time.

Jack Lemmon stars as the loser, Peter Falk is his old schoolmate and Elaine May is Falk's know-it-all wife. The film is supposed to be a pseudo-psychological spoof of middle-class customs, suburbia, romance, divorce, re-marriage.

NCOMP rated it A-4, unobjectionable for adults, with reservations, observing that "the sometimes crude humor of this satire on marriage may prove offensive to some viewers."

DOUBLE TROUBLE (1967)

Monday, Dec. 6 (NBC)

Another Elvis Presley picture, with a variation of the

standard plot for these shake-em-ups.

Elvis is a singer in a London nightclub where a fan falls madly in love with him. Her guardian wants none of that, and packs her off to a school in Belgium, but the girl and Elvis meet on board a ship crossing the channel (seems his next singing engagement is in Belgium).

There is intrigue, spies, counterspies, music, singing, dancing, romance. Aw, shucks.

NCOMP rated this one A-1, unobjectionable for all.

School Plans Kindergarten

St. Salome's parish school on Culver Road will start a kindergarten next Fall, limiting the number of pupils to 25 in a morning session.

The school board announced this schedule for registration at the school office: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 15, 12:30 to 3:30 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Registration of first graders for September, 1972, also will be taken and parents are invited to observe first grade classes during registration hours.

Thursday Deadline

Thursday noon is the deadline for news and photos for the Courier-Journal of the following week.

COME DINE WITH US



RUND'S In Rochester it's Runds for good food, pleasant atmosphere and smart entertainment. Joe Cady's 2851 W. Henrietta 7 piece orchestra playing nightly 9:30 p.m. 'til 1:30 a.m. and feature entertainment in our lounge. 473-3891.

Royal Scot Steak House 657 Ridge Road East, Corner Hudson Route 104 Rochester's most distinctive dining spot featuring Scottish atmosphere, delicious food. Luncheons served Mon. thru Fri. 11:30-2 p.m. Dinners served Mon.-Thurs. 5 to 10 p.m., Fri. 5 to 11 p.m., Sat. 5 to 12 p.m. Reservations: 342-4220. Entertainment Fri. and Sat. in the Scot's Pub.

NATIONAL HOTEL Host to travelers since 1937. Enjoy a meal in this colorful edifice famous for its cuisine, located in historical Genesee Valley, two miles Southwest of Genesee. Steaks, chops, broiled on the open pit. Prime ribs, seafoods, large entree selection. Open weekdays 5 to 11 P.M. Sun. 12 to 9 P.M.

THE VIKING 1485 Mt. Read Blvd. Near Lexington Jack Bayliss Intimate Lounge, Restaurant, Prime Ribs, Surf & Turf, Lobster Tails every day. Luncheon specials. Entertainment nightly. Serving from 11 A.M. lunch and dinner. 458-0420 for reservations. Closed Sundays.

McCombs Johnson House 9 Main St., S. in the heart of Churchville. Just 15 min. by expressway, serving superb American cuisine in the Williamsburg atmosphere. See your steaks broiled over live charcoal in our newly added Paul Revere Room. Dining Room open daily at 5 — Sunday at 1, Luncheon Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri. 12 Noon. Banquet accommodations. 293-1111.

UNCLE JOHN'S FAMILY RESTAURANT 3420 MONROE AVE. Complete line of pancakes and waffles. Steaks, salads, omelettes, sandwiches, sundaes and milkshakes. Childrens birthday parties. Where everyone meets after church. 381-2850.

Kar-Mac Manor Dinners from \$2.95 — Routes 5 & 20 Between Geneva & Waterloo Thruway Exit 42 Featuring Prime Rib — Char Broiled Steaks — Chicken Oregon—Liver & Onions — Seafood — Dancing Fri. & Sat. Rte. 5 & 20 Between Geneva & Waterloo. Reservations — 789-1305 or 539-3044.

CINELLI'S COUNTRY HOUSE 4 miles east of Pulneyville, on Rt. 18 (Lake Rd.) Overlooking Lake Ontario Unusual decor, excellent cocktails, superb steaks, seafood & prime ribs of beef, luncheon 12 to 2 P.M. Dinners 5 to 9, Sat. 'til 10, Sundays 1 P.M. to 8 P.M. Closed Mondays Accommodate private parties Make your reservations now. Opens Easter Sunday. Your hosts: Margaret & Frank Cinelli. 315-483-9508.

LOCUST LAWN ROUTE 64 IONIA, N.Y. We are open every day except Mon. & Tues. from Noon until 8 p.m. We feature those deliciously different hamburgers and home baked Pies. Phone 315-657-7710.

The Big Elms Restaurant 196 Seneca St., Hornell, N.Y. Our Colonial Room—famous for 50 years. Home baked pastries our Specialty. Open daily 7 a.m.-12 midnight. Introducing The New Victorian Dining Room (gourmet specials), Cocktails, Banquet Room. Authentic antiques, Tiffany-type leaded shades create the ideal Victorian atmosphere. Luncheon weekdays 11:30, Dinner 5:30, Sunday 12:30.