

PAT COSTA
As I
See It



There is, as far as I have been able to discern, only one truly magic ingredient in the new PBS show "Zoom" seen thrice weekly on Channel 21. But one such ingredient is all it takes, particularly when it is embodied in seven lively youngsters.

I first turned "Zoom" on for our youngsters about a month ago. I soon lost interest but they didn't. So I gave it several more look-sees. It didn't take long to become mesmerized by the kids whose ages range from nine through twelve.

According to Christopher Sarson, "Zoom" producer: "The kids on the show are real kids — they're not actors or specially talented the way most kids in show business are. They're natural."

I would have to disagree about them not being "specially talented". Radiance, charm, ebullience all come across the tube in almost overwhelming proportions.

No matter whether they are singing their "Zoom" song, having a rap session, or recounting something that happened to them, the word is engaging.

Much of their material is sent in by other kids aged 7 to 12 from all over the country to Station WGBH in Boston where the show is put together.

Seen at 7 p.m. Sunday, Monday and Friday, "Zoom" en-

courages young viewers to send in original plays, movies, jokes, riddles, songs or what have you. Each "Zoom" idea is rewarded with a "Zoom" card which bears pictures of the kids and jokes and riddles.

On a recent show the program began with all the kids mugging outrageously. We were then treated to a quick game of jacks in which a couple of the youngsters argued over the rules. This was followed by "Ghost from the Boondocks" the play of the week submitted by a young girl from Massachusetts and enacted by the troupe. A film strip of figure skater Maria Chestnut was inserted and then a segment devoted to Zoom Mail. Then the kids playing jacks again, becoming more proficient before our eyes.

A Frankenstein style movie by Amy Schmetzler of Lexington, Mass., was screened next, followed by a rap session in which the Zoomers discussed what made them most afraid.

All of it came off simply and naturally, making Zoom another feather in the cap of PBS children's programming.

Channel 21, starting at 7 tonight in cooperation with the Monroe County Coalition for Welfare Justice, will sponsor a town meeting entitled: "Welfare: Who Pays the Bills? — the Question of Federal Reform." It will last four hours.

Once Over Briefly

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

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE — Condemned — An almost metaphysical study of lust and death. Stanley Kubrick's reading of the Anthony Burgess novel of the same title.

DIRTY HARRY — Condemned — A violent "tough-cop" rare. The film promotes an unusually foul image of police.

THE GO-BETWEEN — Adults — This year's grand prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival. Critics found it "lush."

MY OLD MAN'S PLACE — Objectionable — Formerly released under the title "Glory Boy."

THE COWBOYS — Adults — The first flick where John Wayne gets done in by the baddies.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF — Everyone — Exuberant musical of life in Tsarist Russia.

SUCH GOOD FRIENDS — Condemned — A trashy soap opera.

CARRY ON CAMPING — Objectionable — The latest in the British "Carry On" series, this time with the daffodils blooming in the great outdoors.

JOY IN THE MORNING — Unrated.

THE LAST MOVIE — Condemned — Dennis Hopper's highly controversial study of the preservation of innocence after the fall.

MADE FOR EACH OTHER — Adults — A lesson in how to scream one's way to the marriage bed. Not as funny, nor as penetrating as the producer's earlier "Lovers and Other Strangers."

5 (DOLLARS) — Objectionable — A crude comic caper flick.

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW — Condemned — Peter Bogdanovich's highly praised film of life in a southern town.

THE HOSPITAL — Adults — Critics called this Paddy Chayevsky comedy "Brilliant."

X, Y AND ZEE — Objectionable — Mixed reviews.

MINNIE AND MOSKOWITZ — Adults — John Cassavetes cinema verite becomes monotonous.

SNOW JOB — Adults — Jean-Claude Killy's acting debut-debacle. But he does ski very well indeed.

SHAFT — Adults — polished and exciting entertainment about a black private eye caught between the Mafia and the police.

STAR SPANGLED GIRL — Adults — Neil Simon's first near-miss comedy.

Courier-Journal

At Home with the Movies

Friday, Feb. 25 (CBS)

The usual Friday night movie is being pre-empted for a special film starring Bill Cosby.

MCLINTOCK! (1963)

Saturday, Feb. 26 (NBC)

Another typical John Wayne Western, this stars the Duke as a rip-roaring cattle baron who has family problems; his wife (Maureen O'Hara) has left him over suspected infidelities and now wants a divorce and custody of their teen-aged daughter. Wayne is out to show that he not only knows how to handle homesteaders and Indians, but women as well—the he-man way. Women's lib will not be happy with this. Neither were the film critics. The Catholic film office rated it A-1, unobjectionable for all.

Greece Symphony To Give Concert At Nazareth Hall

The Nazareth Hall Parents' Club will present the Greece Symphony in a benefit concert on Sunday, March 5 at 4 p.m. A reception will follow.

Dr. David Fetter will conduct the orchestra in works of Mozart and Handel and in Mendelssohn's E Minor Concerto for Violin, with Ronald W. Gorevic as soloist.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$1.50, and children will be admitted free in the company of adults.

Proceeds will go towards preparing for the pre-school program which will begin in September. Mrs. Albert Tanchick has charge of concert arrangements.

Willkes to Speak

Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Willke, experts in human sexuality and authors of several recordings and books, among them, "Handbook on Abortion", will speak on abortion at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27 at the Country House, Syracuse, Thruway Exit 36 and Route 81.

Sponsored by the DeWitt Society for the protection of the Unborn, their appearance is open to the public.

THE BLUE MAX (1966)

(Part 1)

Sunday, Feb. 27 (ABC)

The title refers to a medal awarded during World War I by the German air force to any flier who shot down 20 enemy aircraft. George Peppard plays a ruthless German flier who lies and sabotages his own buddies in order to win, until he himself is done in by the high command when they learn of his tactics.

The film belongs to the old-model planes—British SE-5's and German Fokkers—and some stunning aerial photography, but the action is frequently grounded by a torrid love affair between Peppard and Ursula Andress, who herself is a double-crossing mistress of a German officer.

The Catholic film office rated this B, objectionable in part for all, complaining that "two grossly explicit scenes of love-making" had no place in a film being promoted as an action film with appeal to youngsters. The scenes might be toned down a bit—though ABC-TV edits little—but not omitted entirely, since the love plot is essential to the storyline.

THE BLUE MAX (Part 2)

Monday, Feb. 28 (ABC)

See pre-view for Sunday, Feb. 27.

COCKEYED COWBOYS

OF CALICO COUNTY (1969)

Monday, Feb. 28 (NBC)

Made for theatrical showing but receiving very little distribution, this is a fun-type Western, as the title hints.

Dan Blocker ("Hoss" of Bonanza), Nanette Fabray, Mickey Rooney and Jack Cassidy all have a ball for themselves in a silly little thing about mail-order brides. The Catholic film office gave it a rating of A-1, unobjectionable for all.

THE DAMNED! (1970)

Monday, Feb. 28 (CBS)

Luchino Visconti's night mare drama about pre-war Nazi decadence in Germany.

The film is one whose content cannot be separated from its manner of treatment, and visual gore as well as graphic sexual encounters abound in original screen version.

The Catholic film office rated it A-IV, for adults with reservations.

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Wednesday, February 23, 1972