

# At Home with the Movies

**BERSERK! (1968)**  
Thursday, March 30 (CBS)

A horror-in-the-circus story, starring Joan Crawford as the circus owner and ringmaster. The film builds up whodunit suspense as four grisly murders are committed: one in which a high-wire artist is garroted on his own rope, one in which a spike is driven through a man's skull, another in which a tight-rope walker plummets toward a field of bayonets, and finally one in which a gal is really sawed in half.

Neither the original film — and certainly not this TV version — had much gore, despite the plot. But everyone is mean and a nuisance to be around.

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

**TRIOLOGY**  
Friday, March 31 (CBS)

This is a trilogy of "pilots" for future TV series, by which you can tell now which programs you'll hate or love tomorrow. It's one more gimmick the networks have come up with to recoup their costs in underwriting experimental episodes for possible future shows. In the old days, a pilot was made and if it was never bought by sponsors, no one ever saw it on the air. That may have been a saving for the viewing public but it was a big loss for the networks.

The names of these three pilot shows tonight are Bobby-Jo and the Good-Time Apple Band, My Sister Hank and Miss Stewart, Sir.

There are no film office ratings for made-for-TV fare.

## 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" raree. 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.

**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.

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF** — Everyone — Exuberant musical of life in Tzarist 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."

**\$ (DOLLARS)** — Objectionable — A crude comic caper flick.

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

**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.

**CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF**  
(1958)

Friday, March 31 (NBC)

A well-made and heavily-laundered film version of Tennessee Williams' play about the dying patriarch of a Southern family (Burl Ives, in a superb portrayal) and which of his sons is to inherit his money.

One of the sons is played beautifully by Jack Carson: a spineless nothing pushed around by his social-climbing wife (Madeline Sherwood, who used to be the mother superior on *The Flying Nun*.) The other son is played by Paul Newman who is under suspicion of excessive "hero worship" in college, a euphemism for homosexuality.

Elizabeth Taylor is the woman who straightens him out and makes "Big Daddy" very happy.

Explosive adult dialogue, even with a lot of editing for TV.

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

**CAST A GIANT SHADOW**  
(1966)

Saturday, April 1 (NBC)

A "biographical" film, this is supposed to be based on the exploits of U.S. Colonel David "Mickey" Marcus, a former military adviser to FDR, who in 1949 was sent to reorganize a rag-tag Israeli army so it could adequately defend the new nation against the Arabs.

To insure box-office success, the film's creators came up with a fictitious love story — will Marcus leave his stateside wife to marry the buxom girl fighter he has found in the Haganah?

— that overshadows everything else.

However, the film does provide much accurate, fascinating background on the Israeli-Arab problem. Although loaded with star names — Kirk Douglas, Senta Berger, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra — the film is stolen by an Israeli actor named Topol, who plays a Bedouin and who now plays Tevye in the film version of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

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

**THREE ON A COUCH (1966)**  
Sunday, April 2 (ABC)

Another of Jerry Lewis' zany comedies in which he shows up in a number of disguises. In this film, he impersonates a psychiatrist, taking over some cases from his fiancée (Janet Leigh) and later shows up as a rancher, an athlete, an effeminate zoologist and also that man's older sister. If you prefer broad slapstick humor, this will do.

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

**THE SHOES OF THE FISHERMAN (1968)**

Sunday, April 2, (CBS)

A very tedious, sprawling version of Morris West's novel about the first Russian Pope (Anthony Quinn).

The first half of the film dwells on the pomp and pageantry of the Papacy and then the film goes on to a climax in which the new Pope decides to give all the riches away in the cause of world peace.

There aren't very many subjects that are not touched upon in this epic (including a treatment of a Teilhard de Chardin-like priest, played by Oskar Werner — the best thing in the film).

It was rated A-1, unobjectionable for all.

**SMOKY (1966)**

Monday, April 3 (ABC)

Fess Parker stars in this nicely done family type Western based on the Will James novel about an outlaw mustang stallion. The Catholic film office rated it A-1.

**A HOWLING IN THE WOODS**  
Monday, April 3 (NBC)

A made-for-TV fantasy with Barbara Eden, Larry Hagman and Vera Miles stumbling over bodies in a spooky Nevada ghost town to the tune of Rover's howling. The Catholic film office provides no ratings for made-for-television films.

PAT COSTA

**As I See It**



I don't like the way that Mrs. Bono puts down Mr. Bono each and every Monday night any better than I did last summer. But with that one exception, "The Sonny and Cher Show" seen at 10 p.m. on CBS is bright, well-written, and engagingly executed.

Last summer when the husband-and-wife team made the big comeback as a season replacement, it took umbrage at the mother-in-law jokes and Cher's step-on-the-male routine.

Those aspects of the show are still there but in the meantime I've become entranced by the way the classy Mrs. B. can belt out a song and the marvelous things she does for clothes.

On top of that her comedy timing is expert and she can deliver a line with finesse. Somebody saw to it that the Bonos got some good writers and does it show on this variety series.

On a recent show Merv Griffin was a guest and joined Sonny and Cher in a Bonnie and Clyde skit that was fast-paced and moderately amusing. But the songs and clothes and opening dialogue are the things to watch for here.

A personal favorite is the take-off on the forties that Cher does each week.

The outfits Cher sported were all vaguely reminiscent of that era as are her hairdos and her blood red lipstick and fingernails. The gowns on one show ranged from pink sleeveless with deep ruffled décolletage, through a red, definitely slinky job to an Arabian princess get-up. All were smashing.

Sonny is obviously a great deal brighter than he lets on. His songs are often featured, his comedy bits a nice foil for his wife and he can sing, too, as he demonstrated the other night with "Someone Who Needs Me" against a huge backdrop of pictures of the couple's young daughter Chastity.

Tom Kennedy, the quiz show

emcee last seen a couple of years ago doing a show called "You Don't Say" on NBC, is back, this time on ABC. His new show is called "Split Second" and features a three-player panel spitting out rapid fire answers. It's on at 12:30 p.m. in "Password's" former time slot. Now "Password" is at noon opposite "Jeopardy" which is a shame since the pair are probably two of the three best game shows ever devised for television. I'd count "To Tell the Truth," which is seen nights only at 7 p.m. on Channel 8 in their top ranking category.

## Mercy Senior Wins Award

Ann Kalaska, a senior at Mercy High School, is among 200 national winners in a writing contest sponsored by Quill and Scroll, an international honorary society for high school journalists headquartered at the University of Iowa.

Miss Kalaska will be awarded Quill and Scroll's National Award Gold Key and is eligible to apply for one of ten journalism scholarships sponsored by Quill and Scroll.

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