

PAT COSTA
As I See It



There is one good test that can be applied to any show, concert, book, etc., in appraising its worth

How glad were you when you came to the end? Was it a relief to have it over or didn't you care one way or the other.

If, as happens in certain cases, you were sorry to see the whole thing over and wish there was "just a bit more" then chances are pretty good you came in contact with something of value.

And that's how I felt at the end of episode one of the latest offering from Channel 21's "Masterpiece Theater."

Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" with Susan Hampshire as the winsome and scheming Becky Sharp, has an awful lot to offer. Besides the story itself which gives us a villain for a heroine —

and isn't that a nice change — there's the richness of the period (early 19th century) and a host of marvelous character actors.

I was not fast enough when credits were shown to catch the name of the fellow who played Amelia Smedley's brother Joseph, home from India. But the portrayal was a delight, rich in nuances that when put together gave us a creature who went from simpering shyness to a rousing rumpot as awkwardly romantic as Becky was daintily slick.

It has been 20 years since I read Thackeray's picture of a genteel poor girl who manipulates everybody in sight to get her own way. Thus there was no problem in trying to ease preconceived notions of what the characters should look like with what the BBC producers and directors offered.

It is difficult to imagine Susan Hampshire doing anything not designed to charm the viewer into submission. Public television audiences remember her for her Fleur in "The Forsyte Saga" and as Sarah Churchill in "The First Churchills."

And, as Becky Sharp, we may see her better the other two performances, coming up against men, money and power and molding them all to her own greedy little needs.

Following "Vanity Fair", Masterpiece Theater has Balzac's "Cousin Bette" coming up. TV adaptation of the first mystery story, Wilkie Collin's "The Moonstone" also is scheduled.

Renewal Meeting At Spencerport

The Rev. Mr. William Spilly, a deacon serving on the diocesan staff for the Year of Renewal, will address an open meeting Tuesday night, Oct. 17, at St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport. A question period will follow his talk on the mission of the church.

The meeting, at 8:15 in the school hall, was arranged by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. Refreshments will be served. Mary Rupp is chairman.

Once Over Briefly

DOCTOR PHIBES RISES AGAIN — Adults and adolescents — Vincent Price returns as the abominable one this time with Chapter II of "How to Kill Your Friends and Influence People"

THE DARWIN ADVENTURE — Unrated — So what if our ancestor was Adam or an ape? I still think those monkey suits are cute

SUPER FLY — Condemned — Same type of film as "Slaughter", "Melinda", "Legend of Nugger Charley" etc. If you've seen one

FRITZ THE CAT — Condemned — R Crumb's frisky Fritz comes to the screen. Felix, it isn't

THE NIGHTCOMERS — Condemned — Marblemouth Brando in a film that ends where Henry James' "Turn of the Screw" begins. But, where James' masterpiece subtly implies violence, Michael Winner's film openly exploits it.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE — Aults, with reservations — Vonnegut freaks will go for this adaptation of Billy Pilgrims space saga

At Home With the Movies

MARLOWE (1969)
Thursday, Oct. 12 (CBS)

Based on Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe detective stories, this film deserves an E for effort, though it doesn't come close to

Mangione Concert At Eastman

A Chuck Mangione Concert, "Land of Make Believe," will happen in Rochester on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 8:15 p.m. in the Eastman Theatre.

The performance will feature Chuck as conductor and as soloist on flugelhorn; Gap Mangione on electric piano; singer Esther Satterfield; Gerry Newwood on saxophones and flutes; plus concert orchestra and chorus.

"Land of Make Believe" — the title for this Chuck Mangione Concert — also happens to be one of the most popular cuts from Chuck's latest album on the Mercury label, "The Chuck Mangione Quartet". The album, issued last spring, was on the Billboard charts for almost two months this summer.

MERCY CONFERENCE

Three Sisters of Mercy will attend a Formation Conference for Sisters of Mercy at Mercy Union, Generalate, Bethesda, Md., Oct. 13-15.

They are Sister Marietta Hanss, assistant superior general; Sister Therese Richardson, director of formation and executive councilor; and Sister Marie Joseph Crowley, director of postulants.

DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal welcomes news of your club or organization. A deadline of Thursday noon preceding publication must be observed.

Humphrey Bogart's immortalization of Marlowe in "The Big Sleep."

James Garner has the title role in a complicated plot of blackmail and ice-pick murders, and the supporting cast includes William Daniels and Jackie Coogan.

The Catholic film office rated the movie B, objectionable.

THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE (1968)
Saturday, Oct. 14 (NBC)

Based on the formation, training and battle experiences in Italy of the Special Service Force, the forerunner of the Green Berets, this movie will get some drastically varied opinions.

Some will call it a good action film, affirming human potential in times of conflict. Others will see it as an unconvincing series of military cliches, and will deplore its glorification of war.

The film office rated it A-III, for adults.

THE ODD COUPLE (1968)
Sunday, Oct. 15 (ABC)

Originally scheduled for Sept. 11, "The Odd Couple" will definitely be on your tube this time around.

So far, this film has been the best screen adaptation ever of a Neil Simon play. Jack Lemon plays the neurotically neat Felix Unger, and Walter Matthau is his sloppy roommate. They play off each other superbly.

It's been rated A-III, for adults.

GOODNIGHT, MY LOVE
Tuesday, Oct. 17 (ABC)

Ninety-minute TV-made movie that really stretches for novelty in casting three-foot-ten Michael Dunn as half of a detective team (the other half, taller if not any better, is Richard Boone) walking through a dreadfully campy "Maltese Falcon" type flick.

The film office does not rate the movies that are made exclusively for TV.

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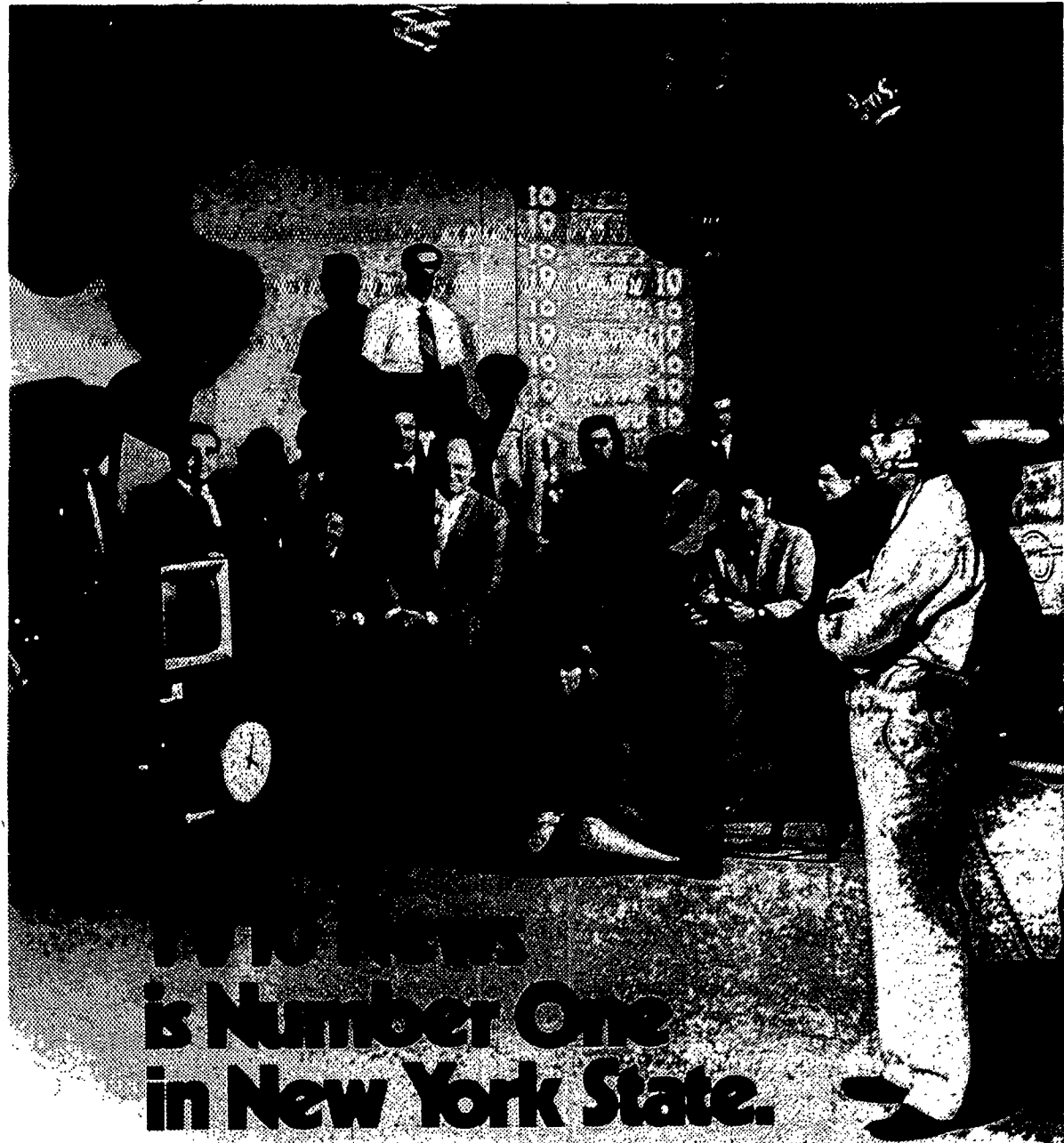
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