

FAT COSTA
As I
See It



The question:
Can a musical satirizing American politics hold up under the strain of 40 years?

The answer: It not only can. It did. George Kauffman's comedy about a presidential candidate who runs on a platform of love did bog down from time to time but the fault probably lay with the direction rather than the material itself.

"Of Thee I Sing", Kauffman's Pulitzer prize drama with music by George Gershwin was adapted for a 90-minute CBS special presentation. The result: some good laughs, delightful music and noteworthy performances by some very familiar people.

As if to prove that his weekly stellar performance as Archie Bunker is no fluke, Carroll O'Connor was most convincing as the small town politician nursed into the White House by a bunch of back room politicians.

Cloris Leachman proved her mettle as his secretary turned bride and Michelle Lee was delicious as the beauty contest winner who thought that position belonged to her.

But Jack Gilford as the vice president Throttle-bottom stole the show, his performance pure pleasure. And Gershwin's songs were as fresh and toe tapping as ever.

Award for absolutely the most wooden acting seen on the tube this season goes to Robert Conrad and Skye Aubrey in a seg-

ment of "The Men."

CBS' so-called late night news report on the career of Jackie Robinson following the athlete's death Oct. 24 was disappointing. Heywood Hale Broun's deficiencies as a newsman were never more glaring. The TV personality's belief that putting words together alliteratively compensates for saying nothing was a blight on this particular tribute. Red Barber's eulogizing of the men who had stories to tell of the black hero was almost as bad. At least one of the men, Roger Kahn, author of the story of the Brooklyn Dodgers "The Boys of Summer," never was allowed to explain why he was included in the group.

In this case the excuse of short notice doesn't hold up. Broun and Barber are professionals and that is what the game of communications, particularly the TV medium, is all about.

"The Waltons" continues to get rave reviews from critics throughout the country. Its gentle family stories of a mountain boy during the 1930s earning rare compliments. Ratings for the show which is up against Flip Wilson are not what they should be. So, if you appreciate this kind of programming it would be a good idea to drop a note to CBS.

The address:

Robert Wood, president, 51W 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10019.

Once Over Briefly

FAT CITY - Adults - Two boxers, one a has-been, one a rookie, in John Huston's hard hitting but never depressing master piece.

YOU'LL LIKE MY MOTHER - Adults - Old-style horror show with Patty Duke and Richard Thomas.

A SEPARATE PEACE - Adults and adolescents - John Knowles' mini-classic novel about a prep school is now a fine film.

DOCTOR PHIBBS 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 - Everyone - 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 Nigger Charley," etc. If you've seen one.

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.

At Home With the Movies

THAT CERTAIN SUMMER
Wednesday, Nov. 1 (ABC)

TV feature just might be one of the year's most controversial, since it deals frankly with the problems of a divorced homosexual father (Hal Holbrook) trying to cope with his visiting adolescent son (Scott Jacob) and come

to terms with his own identity.

The film is thoughtful, well-acted, and well-made, and it treats the man as a human being rather than the safer, more familiar stereotype.

With the theme, however, and the depth of its treatment in the

film, this movie is definitely for adult viewers. In fact, the film itself implies this audience, because the son is unable to accept his father's problem or respond to the man's plea for understanding.

THE DIRTY DOZEN (1967)
Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 1 and 3 (CBS)

Twelve Army prisoners are promised freedom if they agree to destroy a concentration of high German officers at a chateau retreat. A free-wheeling major (Lee Marvin) undertakes the training assignment and mission.

A savage, violent film, "Dozen" moves quickly and with originality. It is replete with anti-authority criticism within context of traditional American acceptance of war. The casual viewer had best look hard for the ironic statements and situations which comment on the authorized brutality of the whole film, culminating in the excruciating, though largely off-camera, incineration at the end, so as not to become absorbed in that brutality. Rated A-IV, for adults, with reservations.

VON RYAN'S EXPRESS (1965)
Sunday, Nov. 5 (ABC)

Fast-paced action thriller that focuses on some prisoners-of-war and their escape by train through the Italian Alps into Switzerland with moments of high excitement.

Some scenes are played too heavily for laughs and patriotism, and one wonders if Frank Sinatra is possibly too old for his role. Directed by Mark Robson, and rated A-I, for everyone.

Webster Students Hamming It Up

Students at Schroeder High School, Webster, have come up with a different kind of theater. It's called "Meller Drammer."

This type of vaudeville acting is a take off from the melodramas which originated in the days of temperance and prohibition to teach people a moral lesson. But unlike melodrama, Meller Drammer is not serious.

Audience participation is a major part of Meller Drammer. The audience is to boo, hiss, and throw peanuts at the evil vil-

lain and cheer the courageous hero.

The productions, "Bessie, the Bandit's Beautiful Baby" and "Penelope, the Pride of the Pickle Factory," will last a half hour each. Between set changes, "Olios" of comedy, music, and dance will be presented.

The Meller Drammers will take place at Schroeder High on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17 and 18, at 8 p.m. There is also a matinee scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m.

Holy Name Church Marks Anniversary

Last Sunday was the fifth anniversary of the Church of the Holy Name in Greece. A special guest expected was the architect of the structure, Anthony Genovese of Ridgewood, N.J.

The celebration included installation of the parish council

at the 9:30 Mass and coffee hours, with slide shows, after Masses. Five candles and pictures of parish events were carried in the Offertory procession. A commemorative booklet was issued.

The parish held its first Masses in August, 1964, at Cardinal Mooney High School. The first solemn high Mass in the new church was celebrated Oct. 29, 1967.

Pupils Raise \$600 For St. Jude Hospital

Spencerport - Grammar school pupils at St. John the Evangelist raised more than \$600 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Taking part in a nationwide "work-a-thon," the children did odd jobs in the neighborhood and ran a garage sale and bake sale earlier this month.

GARDEN CLUB SALE

Thirty garden clubs in the Rochester area will sell handmade holiday decorations Thursday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, Allen Creek Road at Clover Street. Proceeds will be used for various beautification, conservation and therapy projects of the federated clubs.

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<p>Royal Scot Steak House 457 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.</p>	<p>Kar-Mac Manor Routes 5 & 20, Between Geneva & Waterloo, Thruway Exit 42. Dinners from \$2.95 - Featuring Prime Rib - Char Broiled Steaks - Chicken Orzegno - Liver & Onions - Seafood - Dancing Fri. & Sat. Rte 5 and 20 Between Geneva & Waterloo. Reservations - 789-1305 or 539-8044.</p>
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