

PAT COSTA.

## As I See It



If we didn't know that Christmas was approaching by the holiday oriented commercials, then the onslaught of children's programs should have told us.

December had hardly begun before we were subjected once again to such familiar shows as "Frosty the Snowman," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", etc. etc.

On the credit side of that list was a rerun of "The Homecoming" the special with Patricia Neal and Richard Thomas about the Waltons which was received so well last year that it became a series.

A new holiday entry, "The House Without a Christmas Tree," starring Jason Robards Jr., Mildred Natwick and introducing Lisa Lucas was a welcome addition to the more meaningful drama.

Based on an autobiographical story by Gail Rock and turned into a charming and poignant 90-minute television script by Eleanor Perry, the special had the continuing attention of all of us, adults and children alike.

The story was set in the year 1946 in a small town in Nebraska where 10-year-old Addie was trying to get her father to buy her a Christmas tree. Unwilling to celebrate anything since the death of his wife 10 years before, he fights off all attempts to make merry.

The relationships of young Addie with her grandmother, her teacher, her friends at school were fresh and real. What an experience to watch a little girl act like a little girl instead of a cardboard prig. Addie engaged in some name calling, a little fisticuffs and some manipulating of family and friends alike.

And when she cried at night in her bed, I cried, too.

I'll bet that CBS is hoping to serialize this story in the same manner as "The Waltons". If so, I can't think of a more engaging heroine than Lisa Lucas in the form of Addie.

Last fall when the Bob Newhart show debuted I missed the first couple of episodes. The first show I saw had Bob taking part in a vocation day program at his wife's elementary class. It was disappointing and I said so here.

Since then I've watched at least four or five other episodes and now find myself regaling friends with the lines this very funny man delivers from time to time.

It appears to be a matter of scripts. The most talented artist can be only as entertaining as his material or in the case of situation comedy as entertaining as the situation.

I suppose one measure of a TV talk show's effectiveness is how often you find yourself quoting the host or one of the guests. If this criteria is accurate then "The Dinah Shore Show" is obviously getting to me.

A couple of months ago I saw a psychologist discussing his new book and I called the book store and ordered the book. Another time I watched Eunice Shriver and members of her Olympic team of retarded children perform and was impressed enough to recount the whole thing for my husband. Yesterday I bought another book, "The Young Churchill," after watching Simon Ward, an actor who plays the title role in a movie adaptation eloquently read one of Sir Winston's speeches. Try Dinah some morning. Her voice is gone but her program can be enlightening.

## Once Over Briefly

**BROTHER OF THE WIND** - Everyone - Has the Marion Perkins Seal of Approval  
**CARRY ON DOCTOR** - Adults - Carries on the "Carry On" tradition  
**DUMBO** - Everyone - He's just a fat kid with big ears

**THE GODFATHER** - Adults - Multisear winner  
**HAMMERSMITH IS OUT** - Objectionable - Faust updated, and poorly done

**LADY SINGS THE BLUES** - Adults, with reservations - The story of Billie Holiday, with everything from Amos 'n' Andy to Superfly

**THE MECHANIC** - Adults - First-rate spine-tingler  
**PLAY IT AS IT LAYS** - Adults, with reservations - Existentially, how to buy a hamburger

**RAGE** - Adults - George C.'s hot  
**THEY ONLY KILL THEIR MASTERS** - Not rated - James Garner sics 'em

**TRISTANA** - Adults - Catherine Deneuve in Luis Bunuel's superlative film

**ULZANA'S RAID** - Adults - Burt Lancaster and Bruce Davison track down Indians in the Southwest

**THE VALACHI PAPERS** - Adults, with reservations - The story of one, big, happy family

**CABARET** - Adults - Christopher Isherwood's Berlin Critics have been going gaga over Liza Minnelli's portrayal of Sally Bowles

**EASY RIDER** - Adults with reservations - Peter Honda and Dennis Chopper look for America The Catholic film office labeled this re-release "slightly quaint"

**EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX** - Condemned - Comic Woody Allen's put-down of Dr. David Reuben's best seller

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF** - Everyone - Exuberant musical of life in Tsarist Russia

**SHAFT'S BIG SCORE** - Objectionable - Believe it or not, the Catholic film office said of this movie "Shaft has been given the treatment his name suggests, and so have we"

**FUZZ** - Adults - No peach of a film, this one stars Burt Reynolds (that Cosmo Guy) and Raquel Welch It's an answer to Jack Webb

**IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD** - World Everyone - One of the funniest movies ever mad

**THE GRADUATE** - Adults with reservations - Our boy who got out of plastics is back in circulation. Koo-Koo-Ca-Choo. Mrs. Robinson.

**NEW CENTURIONS** - Adults with reservations - George C. Scott and Stacy Keach head an impressive cast in a tough, albeit old-fashioned movie about dogs

**PATTON** - Adults and adolescents - President Nixon's favorite movie

**PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM** - Adults - The latest, and best, film from the nationally renowned philosopher who once said, "I don't believe in an afterlife, but I'm bringing a change of underwear" Guess who

**THE OTHER** - Adults - Whoo Boy! If you've just been biding your time to see Father O'Malley in the Exorcist, take in this one - Be careful, you may lose your taste for elderberry wine

**THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS** - Adults - Masterpiece of film about the Italian Jews under fascism



### Choral Belles

Nazareth Academy's Choral Belles will sing for the people at Rochester Products on Dec. 21. Shown at rehearsal are, clockwise, Ann Palumbo, Janine Wallour, Christine Okun, Marian Weiss, Elaine Burbott, Vicki Brasser, Sue Agricolto, Barbara Foley, Judith Kearsse, Lynn Curry and Florine Ferro. Members of the group not in the picture are Grace Muscalino, Audrey Klipp and Mary Jo Culhane.

## At Home With the Movies

**EVERY MAN NEEDS ONE**  
Wednesday, Dec. 13 (ABC)

A swinging bachelor architect (Ken Berry) hires a woman (Connie Stevens) to assist him. The result is a battle-of-the-sexes comedy.

**HOW TO MURDER YOUR WIFE**  
Thursday, Dec. 14 (CBS)

Jack Lemmon and Romy Schneider in a very funny movie about a frustrated husband who concocts schemes to do away with his spouse. You'll love it if you're a male chauvinist.

**VIVA MARIA**  
Saturday, Dec. 16 (NBC)

The Bardot, the Moreau, and George Hamilton star in an unlikely film about two women who get themselves tangled up in a Central American revolution.

**THE SNOOP SISTERS**  
Monday, Dec. 18 (NBC)

In this original two-hour TV drama, sisters Helen Hayes and Mildred Natwick who write murder mysteries find themselves in the middle of the real thing when retired movie star Paulette Goddard turns up dead shortly after her daughter (Jill Clayburgh) has shared her fears for her mother's life with the quaint sisters. The supposed motive: a scandalous autobiography the movie star was writing. Minor characters in the drama include

Craig Stevens, Art Carney, Lawrence Pressman and Fritz Weaver.

**YOUR MONEY OR YOUR WIFE**  
Tuesday, Dec. 19 (CBS)

A made-for-TV suspense-comedy about a kidnap caper that backfires when TV script writer

Ted Bessell and friend Elizabeth Ashley concoct a plot to carry off Betsy Von Furstenburg, a TV serial star whose marriage to a wealthy program sponsor has temporarily ended Bessell's writing career. The kidnapers, it seems, become the victim of their own crime.

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### Hofbrau Haus

Closed Sundays during June, July, and August  
406 Lyell Ave. Home of real German & American cooking. Wide choice of continental dinners, such as Sauerbraten with potato pancakes and Bavarian beef goulash. Open daily for lunches and dinners. Bavarian music Fri., Sat. nites. Phone 254-9660. Your hosts, Bill and Betty Oswald

### 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

### 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. Rts 5 and 20 Between Geneva & Waterloo Reservations - 789-1305 or 539-8044.

### National Hotel

Routes 20A and 39, Cuylerville, N.Y. Host to travelers since 1937. Located in historical Genesee Valley, two miles Southwest of Geneva. 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.

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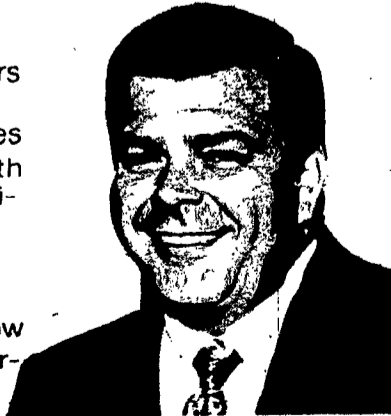
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