# At Home With the Movies

Wednesday, Sept. 19 [NBC]

Gregory Peck, Gene Hackman, Richard Crenna, and James Franciscus star in a star-trek adventure that goes awry as three astronauts get stranded in space. Peck plays the ground control director, and David Janssen flies in a rescue capacity. In all, the film offers super space and electronic effects, and a taut, gripping adventure yarn for all ages. A-II

#### ROSEMARY'S BABY [1968] Saturday, Sept. 22 [ABC]

Roman Polanski's controversial film about the birth of Satan on West 72nd Street may or may not look like the original when ABC gets finished trimming the not-so-pretty parts down for the home screen. The result, in any event, is not likely to please either the admirers or the detractors of this modern day horror about a young husband (John Cassavetes) who turns his wife (Mia Farrow), body and soul, over to the next door neighbors — a coven of witches led by Ruth Gordon (who won the Oscar as best supporting actress), and Sidney Blackmer — so that she can become the mother of Satan Incarnate. Naturally when Ms. Farrow learns what is going on it is too late.

The production values and performances are completely chilling, but the film's religious elements may prove disturbing for Christians who take their faith seriously. For the purpose of thrills, the film toys with some

basic Christian beliefs — the Papacy, the Virgin Birth, the Incarnation, the saving role of Christ, the nature of the spiritual — in a way that almost diabolically denigrates these beliefs to the level of the ridiculous. C

#### **COOL HAND LUKE [1967]** Saturday, Sept. 22 [NBC]

Paul Newman plays Luke, inmate of a brutal ramshackle southern prison farm whose prisoners spend endless hot days whacking weeds at the sides of the state highways. The warders are cold and hard, more so than any prisoner, and the stage is ready for sardonic comment on the futility, inhumanity and injustice of such a penal system. Some will see Luke merely as one of its pathetic victims, but through symbolism and religious references, others will see him as a Christlike figure whose spirit rises above adversity and death itself. At any rate, he's one hell of a hard-boiled-egg-eater. A-IV

### FUNNY GIRL [1968] Sunday, Sept. 23 [ABC]

Recreated faithfully from the Broadway hit that also starred Barbra Steisand, Funny Girl is a sentimental treatment of certain aspects of the life of Fanny Brice, the Ziegfield Follies queen who later became radio's "Baby Snooks." It takes Fanny from her mother's saloon in Brooklyn, near the turn of the century, to the height of her career on the New York stage when her marriage to gambler Nick Arnstein (Omar

too far from tradition, "We expect

rich people to do the right thing and get married in the Episcopal

There was an editorial by John P. Roche who looks somewhat chunkier and less dignified on TV

than he does in the picture used

with his newspaper column. Only

trouble with that was I'd read this

particular opinion, word for word, in our local paper the week

At 8 a.m. I switched to WOKR-TV to listen to the news for a half

hour via Andy Anderson and Matt

Rinaldi. Since by then I was on the third cup of coffee I was able

to recognize that between 8 and

8:30 in our fair city the only TV available is a news or talk show.

Feast or famine seems to be the

story.

# AS I SEE IT Pat Costa

After waiting for several weeks for the local CBS affiliate WHEC-TV to pick up the early CBS News with Hughes Rudd and Sally Quinn, Rochester area viewers who tuned in the first day the show was available here heard Rudd exclaim about his coworkers on the West Coast: "They must all be drunk out in the Los Angeles Bureau."

The irreverence of the man may be the only important distinguishing feature between the CBS offering and the NBC counterpart, "The Today Show."

Quinn who was to be CBS' answer to Barbara Walters tends toward the overemotional reaction whereas Walters has schooled herself for years to show no emotion. Neither is a satisfying accompaniment to that first morning cup of coffee.

On the air for one hour opposed to two hours for the Today Show, CBS has less time for frivolity, and the news and features came steadily. Since many of us are not ready for woman's fashions, poetry recitation or the modern dance at 7 a.m., the pared down format seems just about right.

In fast succession on the first show were stories on President Nixon's radio paraphrasing of his State of the Union message presented the day before; of seven pending Cox indictments; end of the beef freeze; Black Miss America; state of the Agnew situation; an extended feature on how to treat breast cancer and assorted sports scores.

Rudd gave us a tongue-incheek story on the wedding of Brink Thorne and Masie Cox (Tricia Nixon Cox's sister-in-law) who wrote their own wedding ceremony. After the couple was wed in a field adjacent to her wealthy parents's estate she invited all their guests to go swimming.

Summed up Rudd, who wondered aloud if the young couple might not have strayed

Sharif) fails in spite of their love. Although the film, which slows up considerably in the telling, hints at the reasons for the breakup, with Fanny's steady public success versus Nick's failures and hurt pride, it doesn't attempt to come to grips with the issues or to illuminate the times in which the pair lived. The film offers essentially the kind of costumed musical comedy world in which people may belt out lyrics anywhere, anytime, without collecting a crowd except at the

box office.

But if the real Nick and Fanny disappear somewhere in Funny Girl's theatricalized world, the film is still handsome entertainment. Laughs and chuckles abound from Barbra's ingratiating flair for ethnic humor and selfkidding, although she is not the ugly duckling of the script. A pretty girl, no; but beautiful, yes.

#### THE GROUNDSTAR **CONSPIRACY [1972]** Monday, Sept. 24 [NBC]

The story centers on a sabotage plot to destroy an important government nuclear research center, with the main focus being on George Peppard's ruthless methods of flushing out the fat cat — a U.S. Senator, an Air Force general, and a top space agency official are the three candidates - responsible for the treason. Peppard's operating philosophy, one the film never makes clear whether it is criticizing or condoning, is that greater love hath no man than to be prepared to lay down the life of his family for the flag. Not his own life, preservity but his family's What necessarily, but his family's. What is truly lamentable, however, is the movie's use of Michael Sarrazin as the "bait" Peppard uses to lure the big target game out of cover. Sarrazin, a sup-posedly reconstructed nearcorpse caught in the initial explosion of the research center, spends his time either trying to remember who he is or concentrating on making love to earthy Christine Belford. A-III

### POPE RECEIVES CZECHS

Castel Gandolfo [RNS] — Pope Paul told some 400 Catholics of Czech descent from all parts of the world, including the U.S., that their pilgrimage to Rome constituted a gesture of thanks for the foundation of the Prague diocese in 973 by Pope Benedict VI and a demonstration of their attachment to the ancient and noble Christian traditions which make their city of Prague most precious." The Pope thanked the group for their "total devotion to the Church" and encouraged them "to give witness of it

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## Retreat Schedule

Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, is once again offering weekend retreats for men now that summer is over. Contact the following for information on parish retreats for the weekend of Sept. 21-23, or the house itself, 315-394-5700: Blessed Sacrament, G. Walker, 271-2907; Our Lady of Cood Counsel, T. Trabold, 436-2521; Holy Rosary, J. Flynn, 254-4124; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, J. Bittner, 266-2149; St. Lawrence, W. Dorland, 227-3141; Christ the King, L. Wesley, 342-5596.



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