

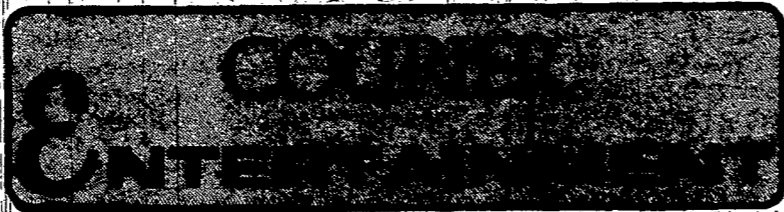
Film Industry Slipping Says Catholic Agency

New York [RNS] — The Roman Catholic film and broadcasting agency declared here that while statistics show that only the very young continue to be frequent moviegoers more than 50 per cent of all films released in 1973 were rated in the "mature adult" categories.

Noting that "seriously objectionable" pornographic film fare has declined somewhat and that this may be an encouraging trend, the U.S. Catholic Conference's Division for Film and Broadcasting (DFB) said "the concentration of films of an adult nature leads inescapably to the conclusion that the motion picture industry has so narrowed the base of its audience appeal as to raise serious questions as to its future viability as a mass entertainment medium."

Moreover, the film industry has succeeded in generating "neither the resourcefulness nor the creative thrust to check its own downward spiral," the agency said.

The analysis appeared in a year-end report published in the DFB's Catholic Film Newsletter. A special section entitled "Movie



Ratings: A Question of Values" cited the R rating given "The Exorcist" as an example of what is wrong with the rating code employed by the Motion Picture Association.

(The R rating means that nobody under the age of 17 is admitted unless he is accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.)

The DFB accused the Motion Picture Association of employing a film rating system that is based on "a series of legalisms that fail to take into account either the nature of film as a communicator of values or the needs of the majority of parents who are clearly concerned about their youngsters' exposure to adult subject matter."

It cited "The Exorcist," because of its content and treatment of subject matter, as a case in point.

In rejecting the R rating for "The Exorcist," the DFB said the likelihood is too great that the material presented in the film "will be misunderstood or, indeed, actually be damaging to impressionable viewers."

"However regrettable it may be that an X rating has come to be associated with hardcore pornography, an X rating applied to 'The Exorcist' would be a clear indication to the public of the serious, adult nature of this film's subject matter."

The Catholic film office rated the movie A-IV, adults with reservations.

Stating that "The Exorcist" is a film that can neither be dismissed nor recommended by a "simple rating," the DFB said what is needed is some form of commentary that places the film rating into context.

AS I SEE IT

Television actresses have complained, and with good reason, that there are few decent roles written for women on the home screen.

With the exception of a handful of comedienness, television features male stars.

Yet in the last week two of the most powerful performances seen in some time on the TV tube were the work of women.

The first and the best was that of Miss Cicely Tyson in the "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman."

Cloris Leachman showed up almost a week later with a stark, moving performance as the mother in a TV adaptation of Tennessee Williams' play "The Migrants."

Watching both these women in their respective roles I cried, I cringed and I ached for them and their families, a rather novel experience to have watching television where one's chief emotion is likely to be a silent withdrawal in face of the violence the industry proffers in lieu of something more substantial.

"The Migrants," written some 20 years ago by Williams, details the quite horrible life lived by those who pick crops for a living. Even dire poverty is overshadowed by fear of the foreman who makes them economic puppets and the law which pricks and needles their already miserable existence.

Because CBS screens its plays for national critics prior to public screening, reviews of "The Migrants" were readily available.

One critic carped because the cars were late model and because today most migrant workers are black not white. Rather than assume that the play was not relevant, therefore, as he obviously did, we can be sure that the black worker has even less recourse than the white migrant did and that the law is twice as hard on the blacks.

Miss Leachman and her co-stars, particularly Ron Howard, were unforgettable. I doubt I shall ever erase from memory the scene in which the family carries the body of the son-in-law around in their station wagon vainly seeking help from local authorities to bury him.

Now for Miss Tyson as the magnificent, if fictional, Miss Pittman. I kept having trouble remembering that this was a portrayal and not the real thing.

The story of a black former slave from early childhood to the age of 110, this presentation showed the tragedies, minor and major, suffered by blacks in the country's development, most of them at the hands of the whites. Beautifully written, delicately and lovingly enacted, it was drama at its very best.

For its boldness, its imagination, its initiative in sponsoring such provocative material, Xerox erases any doubts that it indeed is Number One in corporate social awareness.

'The Trees' To Appear At Cathedral

The Trees, a resident group of musicians from the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in New York City, will present a concert of original music on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 26.

The setting for the concert is Christ Church Cathedral. It will begin at 8 p.m.

Canon Cyril V. Roberts of the cathedral arranged for the group's appearance.

ANTIQUe SHOW

The Woman's Club of Rochester will sponsor an antique show and sale Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14 and 15, at the Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover St., at Highland Avenue. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; admission, \$1.

At Home With the Movies

THE GREAT ESCAPE

[1963]
Wednesday, Feb. 13 [NBC]

Conclusion and best portion of the entertaining thriller. The first part was shown Monday, Feb. 11. A-I

RYAN'S DAUGHTER [1970]

Thursday, Feb. 14 [CBS]

A Valentine's Day treat! Robert Mitchum is a rural Irish schoolteacher married to simmering Sarah Miles, who develops a mad passion for one of "the enemy," occupying British Officer Christopher Jones. This is a huge, sweeping, powerful drama written by Robert Bolt and directed by David Lean, and set in the explosive time of the Irish Rising of 1916 along the ruggedly beautiful coast of Dingle. Caught in the middle between forces of political upheaval and old-fashioned lust is the little town's pastor, magnificently portrayed

by Trevor Howard. He and Mitchum bring depth and breadth to match Lean's sweeping visualization of what is a rather confused moral drama on Bolt's part. A-III

DR. JEKYLL AND SISTER HYDE [1971]

Friday, Feb. 15 [CBS]

It all began with an egg-laying male fly who developed the talent as the result of Dr. Jekyll's research into old-age prevention drugs. Dosing himself, the good doctor promptly "transvests" into a bewitchingly sinister, female who has a mind and body of her own that can be sustained only by a potion brewed from the sex glands of murdered women. Thus Sister Hyde finds herself out-lacking the Ripper until fate steps in to uncover the doctor's unwilling complicity. The film is at its best when it slyly rings the changes on the 19th-century R.L. Stevenson story. A-III

THERE WAS A CROOKED MAN [1970]

Saturday, Feb. 16 [NBC]

After a great number of flashback episodes intended to reveal background and character, this generally muddled Western settles into a contest-of-wills as prison inmate-leader Kirk Douglas pits wits against new warden Henry Fonda. Turns out that both are after a pot of gold hidden deep down inside a rattlesnake pit. Watch for the twisteroo ending — that is, if you bother to watch at all. A-III

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS [1957]

Sunday and Monday, Feb. 17 and 18 [ABC]

You can share in one of Hollywood's great landmarks, if you can stick it out over a successive night presentation of the Book of Exodus according to Cecil B. DeMille — after all, the Jews had to wait centuries for Moses to lead them to the Promised Land. The epic is loosely based on Biblical sources, but it is less an inspirational vehicle than a dramatic spectacle, with excellent technical and special effects, a towering story, vivid color, excitement, etc. Much of its virtue lies in DeMille's bold casting — and topliners Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner, Anne Baxter, Edward G. Robinson, and Nina Foch are acting standouts. A-I

IF IT'S TUESDAY, THIS MUST BE BELGIUM [1969]

Monday, Feb. 18 [NBC]

This drip-dry comedy is mostly drip as stereotype American tourists, camera-and-luggage-laden, stumble around the watering holes of Europe — and both the people and places are easy targets for satire. On the funny side, tourist Norman Fell haplessly searches for his wife, who got carried off by mistake with a busload of touring Japanese. Less funny is a romantic complication involving pretty tourist Suzanne Pleshette, whose fling with grabby guide Ian McShane comes to naught. A-III

Good News on the Air

HOST	RADIO STATION	DAY	TIME
Rosary for Peace	Msgr. Joseph Cirincione WSAY (Rochester) WRLX (Auburn) WCHL-FM (Corning) WNIA (Buffalo)	Daily	7 p.m.
God in Headlines	Fr. Louis Hohman WHAM (Rochester)	Sunday	11:15 a.m.
Call for Renewal	Fr. Daniel Holland WROC (Rochester)	Sunday	9:30 p.m.
Open Mike	Fr. Louis Hohman Fr. Gerald Appelly WROC (Rochester)	Sunday	12:45 p.m.
Magnify the Lord	Fr. Paul Cuddy WLEA (Hornell) WFSW (Seneca Falls) WGHT (Bath) WGLI (Corning) WAUB (Auburn) WACK (Newark)	Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday	1:15 p.m. 10:45 a.m. 10 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 7:15 a.m. 7:30 a.m.
Sunday School	Fr. Lewis Brown WLEA (Hornell)	Sunday	9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Catholic News and Views	Fr. William Cosgrove WFLR-AM, FM (Dundee)	Sunday	10 a.m.
Mass	James Raftis WEBO (Owego)	Sunday	9:25 a.m.
Contemporary Concerns of the Church	Msgr. William Roche WHCU (Ithaca)	Thursday	11:30 a.m.
Morning Meditation	Fr. John O'Malley WGHT (Bath)	Saturday	9:05 a.m.
Catholic Church Today	Fr. Otto Vogt WHHO-AM (Hornell)	Sunday	2 p.m.
Now Generation	Sr. Vincenza Cogliostro WHHO-FM (Hornell)	Sunday	5 p.m.
Gospel Changes	Joseph McCaffrey WBBF (Rochester)	Sunday	10:15 a.m.
Mass	Fr. John O'Malley WGHT (Bath)	First Sundays	10 a.m.
TELEVISION			
Mass for Shutins	WHEC (Rochester) (Channel 10)	Sunday	8:30 a.m.
Vignettes	Fr. Sebastian Falcone WHEC (Rochester) (Channel 10)	Daily	Sign-off

CALL FOR RENEWAL — Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, will be Father Dan Holland's guest on Sunday, Feb. 17, during Catholic Schools Week. Father Holland is the new host of the show.

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