



Father Weber demonstrates his skill

Photo by Dave Witbeck

Jesuit Priest Is Ringmaster Of 'World's Smallest Circus'

By PAT PETRASKE

It was an hour trip into the land of jabberwocky, an amusing blend of wit, whimsy and just plain fun. The Royal Lichtenstein Quarter Ring Sidewalk Circus, the world's smallest circus named after one of the world's smallest countries, was performed at the University of Rochester last Monday by "the world's smallest minds."

Among the three who attempt to communicate the smell of the grease paint and the roar of the crowds on a miniature scale is Father Nick Weber, a Jesuit priest from San Jose, Calif., who serves as ringmaster. The circus is his ministry, reaching thousands at shopping centers and on college campuses. He believes it fulfills a

At Home With the Movies

GOLDFINGER [1964]
Sunday, May 5 [ABC]

Sean Connery as James Bond in one of the most successful of the Bond films. The fast-paced plot involves the legendary agent's pursuit of Auric Goldfinger, an international smuggler whom Connery tracks to Miami Beach, England and Switzerland. Bond's famed way with women links him with Goldfinger's secretary (Shirley Eaton) and stunt pilot Honor Blackman who is persuaded to help Bond thwart Goldfinger's master plan to rob Fort Knox. Harold Sakata is introduced as Oddjob, Goldfinger's superstrong-arm man. A-IV

THE KREMLIN LETTER [1970]
Monday, May 6 [ABC]

Director John Huston, working with a script based on the best-selling spy novel by Noel Behn, has fashioned a complex, action-packed, and occasionally very cruel and violent Cold War thriller. By the time the plot unfolds — and it has too many twists and turns to even list here, much less untangle — nearly everyone has either been bumped off in nasty fashion or revealed to be a double or even triple-agent. The title refers to the prize that all the agents in the movie want to capture — a letter outlining U.S. policy in case of an outbreak of war between Russia and Red China. Among those in the scramble for it are Patrick O'Neal, Dean Jagger, Richard Boone, Barbara Parkins, Nigel Green, and George Sanders. Some of the action is brutal. All.

COURIER ENTERTAINMENT

need since "the churches and theaters are empty."

When the idea of a touring circus was conceived three years ago, Father Weber felt the morals drawn in the ancient fairy tales performed during the circus would be the main justification for its existence. But the Royal Lichtenstein's mini-extravaganza since then has become primarily an invitation to play.

The way the response has been, the circus is a very needed thing in the middle of pressure places like this," said the 34-year-old priest, surveying the University's Todd Union lounge which a few minutes before had held almost 300 mesmerized students. The show, sponsored by the Newman Community and the Student Association, was moved inside because of bad weather.

"Now is now and now and forever. When dreams fade, life becomes a barren field." With poetic finesse, the "unabashed" insult to your intelligence begins. Juggling, jokes and seemingly juvenile "magic" tricks that leave the viewers flabbergasted are intertwined with animal acts and amazing feats.

There's the Transylvania character who can rattle off in a row five names found in the San Francisco telephone directory (Smith, Smith, Smith, Smith, Smith!) Harvey, the invisible duck, runs a dice game in a top hat and manages to turn himself into a visible black and white rabbit.

But "you ain't seen nothing yet" smiles John Salazar, the featured mime. He caides the student audience for laughing at his magic tricks. "I'm having enough trouble, my mother thinks I'm still in med school." He

and Stephen Saiz, the chief story teller, are former drama students, from Santa Clara University in California. Together, they help a high diving flea named Milhouse plunge 19 feet into a thimble of water without aid of a safety line or benefit of fluoridation.

Unlike many traveling shows, the Royal Lichtenstein troupe every year brings a new version of the show to their audiences in the market places of 35 to 40 states. The group receives \$50 per performance for operating expenses and each member is given \$1 per day for pocket money.

Father Weber, a college campus minister and one of the world's few bearded fire-eaters, commented, "It's not really priestly unless you stay poor."

Liederkrantz Sets Concert Fete

The Liederkrantz Choral Society, in its 101st year, is raising money for a 1975 trip to Germany, the ancestral home of many members.

The male chorus will perform at 8:15 p.m. Friday, May 3 at Aquinas Institute. A German-style May Festival in the school gymnasium will follow the concert.

Other units on the program entitled "A Musical Smorgasbord" are the North Greece Early Music Society, a group of high school singers led by James Schmitt, the Melodians of Webster, led by Betty Folger, and the Crazy Firemen, a brass band directed by Steve Kindred. A one-man, one-act musical comedy will be performed by John Bryce. The ticket price is \$1.50.

The festival will feature German food and drink and band music for dancing and singing.

AS I SEE IT

Pat Cease

In my years of television watching I've seen more award shows than I care to count. Because they were live, because they featured glamorous personalities, and because there was almost always a modicum of suspense involved, I would cringe through 2 to 2 1/2 hours of ego expansion in its most repellant form.

Sometimes I was lucky as in the case of the most recent Oscar presentation when a flu-ish fatigue took its toll and I fell asleep one-half hour into the show.

Would that I had been so fortunate this past week. During the annual Antoinette Perry Show, in which Broadway actors, their shows and those responsible for their staging were awarded "Tonys" for excellence.

I had looked forward to this particular show because two years ago the Tony awards people staged a smashing two hours of entertainment highlighted by memorable scenes from past musicals.

Included in the showcase were such showstoppers as Celeste Holm as Ado Annie the part she created for "Oklahoma" 30 years before, singing "I Cain't Say No."

Yul Brynner in "The King and I" and Alfred Drake in "Kismet" were two others who inimitably reminded us of those golden Broadway years.

Hope for more of the same imaginative programming dimmed early in this year's production.

Actors gushed about how good it was "to be back home," limpwristed young men accepted awards, a presenter was left standing when an award recipient failed to materialize, ridiculous transition material was recited and incoherent banalities were mouthed by winners.

But, that was not the worst. The worst was to come — in the form of — entertainment.

Will Ceer who does a most credible Grandpa every week on "The Waltons" got up and sang what has to be the most inane and meaningless song ever written for a Broadway musical. He did not even have the grace to sit still and sing this miserable song, but instead cavorted about as if an effusion of energy would substitute for inspiration.

Even he was topped (or worsted). Betty Walker was in a tasteless revue as the mother of 27 children being interviewed by Charles Nelson Reilly a la Edward R. Murrow. This was Broadway putting its best foot forward for a television audience of millions? I have seen better writing in a grade school skit.

Although these were to be Broadway personalities, everyone who put in an appearance, with few exceptions, was a television name. The criteria for appearance obviously was that if you hadn't made it on the tube you weren't qualified.

Without a doubt the 1974 Tony Awards qualified as the sorriest spectacle in award shows history.

Cabrini Circle Slates Benefit

Mother Cabrini Circle will hold its annual smorgasbord Sunday, May 5, 12:30-5:30 p.m. at Montgomery Neighborhood Center, Cady and Olean streets. Proceeds will go to the scholarship fund that helps black students attend Catholic high schools. Fifteen students are getting Circle aid this year.

Dinner tickets cost \$2.50 for adults, \$1.25 for children under 12, and may be obtained at the door or through Wilma Higgs, 442-2162, or Dorothy Carroll, 328-6639.

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