

AS I SEE IT

Pat Costa

The question: Why did anyone believe that "Born Free," a book about a couple raising a lion as if it were their child and then setting it free provide enough material for an entire series?

The answer: Probably no one did. Rather it appears that the producers hoped to trade on the popularity of the Joy Adamson book and the movie and special telecasts that followed to ensure a regular weekly audience.

It hasn't worked. First there are only so many stories one can tell relating to a lioness whose home is the bush rather than the compound.

Second, I keep getting the feeling that Diana Maudaur and Gary Collins were picked for their high cheekbones, slick good looks and brimming good health rather than what one would expect a British game warden and his wife. (Would love to see who an English director might have cast in their roles.)

We had only one look at "Nakia" which has been pointed

ENRICHMENT SERIES

Fred Gargantiel, psychiatric social worker and director of the child guidance clinic at Children's Convalescent Home in Scottsville, is conducting a lecture discussion series on problems in child rearing and family relationships in the Fall Adult Enrichment Series at St. Christopher's Church, Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 8 p.m. The sessions are free and open to the public.

KOFC OPEN HOUSE

The Greece Council #3892 of the Knights of Columbus will hold Open House, Oct. 16, from 7:30-10 p.m., at the Holy Name Parish Hall on St. Martin's Way. An old fashion sing-along and dancing to the music of the Mulligan-Stew will be featured.

out here before is not really a fair way of evaluating a series.

Still this latest Robert Forster vehicle which has the Rochester actor starring as a full-blooded Navajo sheriff in a small town in New Mexico serves to remind me of a notion that had taken hold before.

And that is that more care should be taken in selecting what Forster tackles. Deadpan Banyon and Deadpan Nakia are more alike than may be initially evident. Perhaps he ought to try his hand at a little comedy, the light and frivolous variety.

We only saw "That's My Mama" once, too, but came away enjoying, enjoying the look at a black family that was neither downtrodden, downcast or down in the dumps. (That was a pun, a la Sandord.)

The episode I saw had star Clifton Davis jumping through the hoops for a Miss Goody Goody from out of town who later proved to be all too well known to all of his friends.

Mama (Theresa Merritt) and a daughter (Lynne Moody) along with mailman Theodore Wilson round out the regulars in neat fashion.

Mama doesn't know it all which is a switch and the barbershop locale hasn't been used much since Andy Griffith left Mayberry.

Looks like President Gerry Ford's attempts at humor are losing favor somewhat with the press corps. At his third televised press conference outside he began "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden," and if there were any chuckles in response I didn't hear them. Used to be anything he said was a knee banger.



NBC Presentation Assailed

The National Broadcasting Company's decision to televise "The Godfather" in November has been labeled an "outrageous example of upside down values" by a staff member of a Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agency in Nashville. Harry N. Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the SBC's Christian Life Commission, called on NBC to cancel its announced showing of the Academy Award-winning film, which he termed "too violent for television." A spokesman for NBC, however, urged that the film not be protested in advance, but after viewing the edited version on television, according to a report by Baptist Press, news service of the 12.3-million-member SBC. The film stars, among others, Marlon Brando, who is shown in this scene. [RNS]

At Home With The Movies

ONE IS A LONELY NUMBER [1972] Thursday, Oct. 17

This is an intelligent but rather soapy examination of one woman's search for identity and some semblance of fulfillment following a bitter divorce by her philandering professor-husband, who has run off with a cute co-ed.

Trish Van Devere is the lonely woman-as-victim, finding herself abruptly adrift in a world her seemingly snug marriage had made her lose contact with. A kindly and wise old grocer (Melvyn Douglas) give her both hope and inspiration to continue

her search for meaning in a new kind of life.

The movie is simultaneously simplistic and tough, harsh and sentimental. Van Devere is lovely, and Douglas a pleasure to watch as he brings dimension to a rather shallow role. Adult theme and treatment suggest an adult viewing audience.

A-III

THE MECHANIC [1972] Saturday, Oct. 20

Charles Bronson stars in this twisted, ironic, somewhat depressing chiller about a Mafia

hit man. The title refers to an underworld specialist in stealthy rub-outs, and Bronson is a cynical, cold-blooded "mechanic" par excellence.

He's so good, in fact, that he takes on an apprentice (Jan Michael Vincent, whose performances tend to be as inexpressive as Bronson's), whom he brings through a rigorous training that includes a few easy rub-outs. Betrayal is in the wind, however, and Bronson can sniff it but cannot locate its source — until the twist ending, that is. Slick, quick, but not a very pleasant movie to invite into your home.

A-III

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