

**AS I SEE IT**



Pat Costa

We watched two variety shows at our house last week, the first to see how the Brothers Smothers were faring in their new home at NBC.

It was about as expected. An artist whether he works in paint, marble, music or comedy must grow if he is to survive the onslaught of time and the ever increasing sophistication of the modern consumer.

The musician-comics have not grown, at least not to the degree which might be expected of performers who have never really been out of the public eye since first making it big a decade or so ago.

In the opening monologue of the second show which had Dick on stage and Tom seated in the audience behind a large nose, I was reminded of nothing so much as the record of one of their night club acts which was my introduction to their talents. And that was 10 years ago.

In the intervening years they attempted to build and maintain a controversial image. It was mostly on paper and in the minds of certain TV critics who could find nothing else to write about.

Basically they do what they have always done. They can

claim, for example, that they do not indulge in any more "mother likes me best" jokes but probably no other line, missing or not in the present routine typifies their brand of comedy.

Perhaps all they need is a new set of writers. The use of comic David Steinberg in several sketches including a particularly awful one about a marriage counseling psychiatrist was enough to send me back to "The Rookies."

On the plus side, the Smothers Brothers music is fine and so was the spot featuring popular singer Olivia Newton John.

The second variety show we saw was by accident when our kids read the TV listings and discovered that Marie and Donny Osmond were featured on "The Mac Davis Show."

Also an NBC entry, it is scheduled opposite The Waltons and Barney Miller. Its chief attraction is the man himself, whose song writing talents are considerable and whose personality would be a plus in any situation. As the host of a variety show he does splendidly exuding a natural "just folks" manner, a pleasing voice and an ability to make his guests look good. The favorite segment with the group that night proved to be Davis' on-the-spot composing as member of the audience gave him titles or phrases.

Another bit of fun was provided in the song "The Story of Alice," performed with gusto by the Osmonds, Davis and guest Florence Henderson.

Even the skits featuring Tim Conway were better than the usual run of the variety show mill.

For once a variety show that can be recommended!

**At Home With The Movies**

**ADVENTURES OF THE QUEEN**  
Friday, Feb. 14

This is the TV version of the Poseidon Adventure, having been produced, as a matter of fact, by the same Irwin Allen team. In point of further fact, the script's plot line reeks of things stolen from the recent theatrical disaster film, Juggernaut, what with a ship load of folks nervously trapped aboard a luxury liner far out at sea, awaiting word about whether they will be blown up in an extortion plot, or if one of the most filthy-rich of the passengers (Ralph Bellamy) is going to pay their ransom.

**THE LAST DAY**  
Saturday, Feb. 15

This shapes up as rather solid, thanks to the acting of Richard Widmark, Barbara Rush and Robert Conrad, but it is a routine and routinely super-violent Western. It's the story of the last big blast of the notorious Dalton Gang, who met their match in the person of Sheriff Widmark when they tried to rob the bank in little Coffeyville, Kansas, that fateful day in 1892.

**SUMMER OF '42 [1971]**  
Saturday, Feb. 15

Foul-mouthed kids (on the home screen they will be suitably blipped) "come of age" on particular wartime summer in a Cape-Cod type summer setting. Of the three, Garry Grimes is the quiet-but-deep dreamer, particularly over the fetching form of Jennifer O'Neill, a local war widow. Of the other two, Jerry Hauser is perfectly obnoxious as the pushy, excitable one whose mouth is always three steps ahead of his brain, if not his urges. A matter of taste, or, if you prefer, tastelessness, for adults.

A-III

**OLIVER [1968]**  
Sunday, Feb. 16

Rousing British musical is ideal fare for all the family. The plot is sketched from the Charles Dickens classic, Oliver Twist, but bears little resemblance to the original. Rather, Lionel Bart's musical adaptation borrows only the chief characters (Oliver, Artful Dodger, Fagin, Mr. Bumble) and turns them loose in what amounts to a colorful, swirling-stomping-singing Cockney street brawl, and it comes out delightful!

**A CASE OF RAPE**  
Monday, Feb. 17

Repeat of a controversial made-for-TV movie. This was supposed to be hard-hitting stuff, but it punks out a bit by blurring issues and making things a little too pat. Nonetheless, the movie does examine some hitherto unheard-of issues on prime time network TV, namely criminal rape and its ugly, oftentimes twisted aftermath. This is mature stuff, no

**Brolin to Be Circus Star**

James Brolin, co-star of the television show Marcus Welby, M.D. will be guest star on this year's 51st annual Damascus Temple Shrine Circus at the War Memorial, Feb. 19 to 22.

His work as Dr. Steven Kiley in the ABC series has won Brolin an Emmy Award for best supporting actor in a dramatic series. He also has a number of notable movie credits.

Brolin will sing as part of his role at the upcoming circus.

The show which is presented for the benefit of Damascus

matter what the actual treatment, and we'd suggest a suitably mature approach from viewers.

**THE SECRET NIGHT CALLER**  
Tuesday, Feb. 18

Murky melodrama focuses on Robert Reed, a nice, average gentleman who has one nasty uncontrollable habit—he likes to make obscene calls late at night. Betrayal, deception and blackmail all have a part in it—and we'd suggest you leave the phone off the hook on this one.

**THE FAMILY NOBODY WANTED**  
Wednesday, Feb. 19

Here's a made-for television movie that has its heart, if not its head, in the right place. Shirley Jones and James Olson, as wholesome and attractive a couple as ever tread the Hollywood sound stages, play a minister and wife who adopt twelve (count 'em) racially-mixed children. Cheaper by the dozen, yes, and full of corn—but certainly a lot more entertaining, heartwarming, and chaotic than most other TV fare. Good-hearted and fun.

**HEADSTART GRANT**

Washington — Health, Education and Welfare has approved a Headstart grant to the Wayne Community Action Program, it was announced by Rep. Frank Horton. The one-year grant of \$128,613 will serve 75 children from low-income families. The grant will provide money for day care of 30 children in the Red Creek Day Care Center and 45 children in the Sodus Point Day Care Center.

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