



AS I SEE IT

Pat Costa

"Now who," I muttered quite aloud, "is Marshall Efron?"

The question was a good one. There were my kids switching channels on a Sunday morning and coming up with large mustachioed man who reminded me more of a walrus than anything else. And he was dramatizing the Bible, not an unusual occurrence on Sunday morning TV. No, the inconsistent part was that the Walrus was being wittily irreverent without actually altering the substance of the good book and our youngsters, cartoon fans all, were sitting there, mouths slightly agape, taking it all in.

I found out who Marshall Efron was the next morning when I went to throw out all the previous week's papers and magazines and came across an old TV Guide.

Efron, it seems is a 37-year-old former English instructor at UCLA who turned to show business and is now co-author, narrator and actor of "Marshall Efron's Illustrated, Simplified, and Painless Sunday School."

While we didn't tune in until 10:45 the TV Guide reports that Efron's program shows up on an occasional Sunday morning a sometime thing, at 10:30 on CBS.

For those who like to get their Bible stories sitting in the parlor on a Sunday afternoon in their frilled and starched best with the Good Book on their laps, Efron's

style might be somewhat up-setting.

I found it delightful which apparently puts me in a class with a lot of other adults who have formed a good-size following for the zaniness of this pudgy, Jewish teacher-entertainer.

As I said we tuned in halfway through the show just in time to see Efron begin the story of Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors.

Using puppets, Efron, who plays all the non-puppet roles himself, donned a black robe explaining that puppeteers like to be non-visible. Nobody could be more visible than Efron, his stomach peeping through the black robe as he manipulates Jacob, father of the beloved young Joseph, and explains in a patriarchal voice just why his youngest is his favorite.

"Ah, Joseph, my favorite son, you picked up your pajamas this morning, you brushed your teeth without being told and you ate your cereal without bickering at the table, etc."

Reportedly, the touch of irreverence does not annoy Sunday school administrators, some of whom time their classes so that the children can watch the show as a group and then later discuss it. Others ask CBS for copies of the tapes.

If you have not already seen it, keep trying CBS on Sunday mornings. It's sure to pop up sooner or later.

Without exception, the Tony Awards ceremony which honors Broadway productions and their people are the best such shows presented on TV.

This year's presentation at the famed Winter Garden Theater followed the pattern set in other years. Spontaneity, freshness and a spectacular lack of affectation characterized the two hours which fairly zoomed by.

At Home With The Movies

THE BARBARY COAST Sunday, May 4

Made-for-television crime thriller starring William Shatner and Dennis Cole, and set in the middle of the last century—just for kicks.

Time never seems to change, because way back then in booming, brawling San Francisco there lived men who plied their trade in extortion, blackmail, and outright outrageous behavior, just like today's hoods. Shatner limns in a shallow portait as a governor's undercover agent (nothing like an anachronism or two to liven things up) who ties in with a flamboyant casino owner, played by Cole.

Their object is to break the back of organized crime in the waterfront area by solving a dastardly crime involving a vigilante group's penchant for exacting vengeance at a high price (or, rather, not exacting vengeance for a very high price). You may want to watch it, but you probably won't believe it.

Unrated.

ONE OF OUR OWN Monday, May 5

TV movie stars everybody's tough-guy-with-a-heart favorite, George Peppard. Looming questions of medical ethics vie for attention with heady, hectic problems involved in running a large hospital complex.

Peppard plays a crack neurosurgeon and hard-nosed hospital administrator rolled into one superman. The challenge of the day is to keep the hospital running on all levels whilst dealing with this sort of particular crisis: (a) a brilliant colleague's injuries have been mis-diagnosed by another not-so-brilliant colleague; demanding immediate special surgery; (b) Peppard's own son, is stricken by a

mysterious paralysis and needs immediate attention; (c) a nice man who thinks he's on the mend must be told he's near death; and (d) a prima donna type athlete insists on signing himself out of the place. Don't worry, George can handle it. Zhora Lampert, Strother Martin, William Daniels co-star.

Unrated.

DOUBLE FEATURE Tuesday, May 6

To fill your time, NBC offers two hopeful pilot films. First is The Invisible Man, starring David McCallum and Jackie Cooper. McCallum is a scientist who discovers a substance that can make men invisible — and his problem is to keep his secret from falling into the hands of "the Military." So he takes some of his own medicine.

Second feature is Cop on the Beat, with Lloyd Bridges as a rugged, tired, old-fashioned cop who's having difficulty adjusting to new methods of law enforcement—you know, reading people their civil rights instead of the riot act. Lloyd is worth it, though, if you have the time to kill.

Unrated.

THE CALIFORNIA KID Tuesday, May 6

Repeat. Martin Sheen and Vic Morrow are the leads in this made-for-television action melodrama. The plot involves a sadistic sheriff (Morrow) who doesn't like young drivers who speed through his tight-knit little highway town—so, he arranges fatal "accidents" for them.

Sheen is the brother of one of the sheriff's victims, ultimately confronting the man in a high-speed duel out on the road.

Overheated; and unrated.

MATT HELM Wednesday, May 7

Tony Franciosa tries to pump some life into the droll, slightly smutty private eye Matt Helm, of detective-pulp-novel fame.

Trouble is, he's no better—and in fact is less interesting—than the role's movie originator, Dean Martin.

The emphasis here is on plot (an attempt to protect the life of a beautiful movie actress leads Helm in to a tangle of international intrigue) and action (Matt kicks, punches, and guns down the opposition; Matt pitches woo at the opposite sex), and it's all a matter of low-level taste.

Unrated.

Grade Schoolers To Do 'Pinafore'

Avon — St. Agnes Elementary School will present Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore for the annual Spring stage production of its Enrichment Program on April 30 and May 1 at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The operetta is directed by Sister Grace Giglio, and is under the musical guidance of Mrs. Mary Flick. The cast and chorus include pupils from Avon, Lima, Honeoye Falls, Livonia and Caledonia.

In leading roles are Mark Cullinan, Robby Hamersley, Mary Beth Hayes, Laura Hess, Thomas Stoltman and Marcia Montesano. They are supported by Judy Veeder, Andrew Campbell, Molly Hayes and Chris West.

FIRST FRIDAY

Father Louis J. Hohman, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul in Churchville, will celebrate Mass for the First Friday Club at 11:45 a.m. May 2 at the Knights of Columbus Home, 513 Monroe. He also will speak at lunch.

WINE & DINE

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