

At Home with Movies

BETRAYAL

Wednesday, June 4

Amanda (Gunsmoke) Blake plays a widow who becomes the unwitting victim of a sinister scheme when she hires a young woman to be her companion. The young woman and her boyfriend have lean and hungry looks for the wealthy widow's dough.

Unrated.

ELVIS—THAT'S THE WAY IT IS [1970]

Thursday, June 5

This is one of the best, most fascinating, and most musically enthralling "rockumentaries" ever put together — and if you're a fan of old swivel hips, then the feast is all the better.

The film provides an intimate close-up of one of our era's superstars as he goes through the intricate preparations for a gala opening night at the International Hotel in Las Vegas back in 1970. The rehearsals and exhausting preparations provide us with a glimpse of Elvis that most folks never realize exists, much less get to see. And by the time we sit down in the front row to watch and hear him perform, we're as nervous and excited as he is.

The performance itself captures the quality of the man as performer, and conveys that special Elvis magic that is part put-on and part solid singing conviction. This is a winner, and there are thirty — count 'em, 30 — songs to savor.

A-II

NIGHTMARE

Thursday, June 5

Richard Crenna, Patty Duke and Vic Morrow inhabit this suspenseful drama about a wishy-washy businessman (Crenna) who gets involved in the investigation of a murder he thinks he witnessed, and ends up wishing he had washed his hands of the whole thing. Miss Duke is supportive as his fiancée, and Morrow is the jaded detective who at first won't believe Crenna's story. Shades of Hitchcock's Rear Window, but only shades.

Unrated.

THE GAMES [1970]

Friday, June 6

This an Olympic sports film, but it seems more like a marathon event than a sprint. In fact, it is centered in the international competition of the marathon event, as the movie traces the personal stories of the various competitors and their national origins, etc.

Erich Segal was responsible for the script, which probably explains its fatuousness and phony rings (or, should we say, thud.).

Ryan O'Neal is perfectly obnoxious as the braggart American runner, Michael Crawford is all strained skin and bones as his British counterpart, Athol Compton is an exploited underdog Aborigine from Australia, and Charles Aznavour plays a Czech runner-for-the-state whose unique handicap is to own the stumpiest pair of legs in long-distance running history. Forget this one, it goes on and on and on to no point!

A-III

ZIG ZAG [1970]

Friday, June 6

Insurance man George Kennedy discovers he has a malignant brain tumor. He sets himself up to be convicted of an unsolved crime and arranges that his wife will receive the reward offered by the insurance company. There is an amazing amount of complication involved while he lays the phony clues leading to his arrest and arranges for the money.

Eli Wallach as the lawyer and Anne Jackson as Kennedy's wife are both lost in the jumble of events, and the incredibly contrived ending detracts from what merits the plot may have had. Kennedy, however, puts in a fine performance as always.

A-II

THE WORLD OF HENRY ORIENT [1964]

Saturday, June 7

Peter Sellers stars in this slightly whacked-out comedy about a fair-to-middlin' concert pianist whose pursuit of extra-curricular love is foiled by the unwitting but persistent efforts of

two teen-age girls who just may be his only fans in all the world. Paula Prentiss co-stars.

A-II

THE MOLLY MAGUIRES [1970]

Saturday, June 7

This is a fact-based and hard-hitting drama based on the bloody upheavals in the Pennsylvania coal mine areas during the middle of the last century. The Molly Maguires were a select and secret band of miners who inaugurated a reign of terror against mine owners and their minions in an attempt to force labor reforms in mining.

The owners, of course, fought back with equally harsh methods. The people in the drama are Sean Connery as a Molly leader, Richard Harris as the Irish agent imported to ferret out men like Connery, and Samantha Eggar, whose family loyalties placed her in the Molly's camp, but whose heart joined itself with Harris.

Frank Fjelday contributes a sinister performance as Harris' police contact, and Anthony Zerbe gleams darkly as a Molly whose enthusiasm for violent reform proves fatal. Thoughtful and exciting but requires some endurance to see it through. Martin Ritt (Sounder) directed.

A-III

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St. Stephen's Sets Gala

Geneva — The Town and Country Plaza will be the site for St. Stephen's annual June Happening slated this year on June 15.

According to Father Richard Torrey, pastor, the gala fund raising event will get underway at 1 p.m. under a football field size

big top. The day will close with a fireworks display at 10 p.m.

Special free entertainment will draw on the talents of the Geneva High School Marching Band, Appleknockers Drum Corps, Celebrate Life, Friendship Squares Squaredancers, Barbershoppers, Ray Sniffen, Anna Calabrese and Josephine Bihary.

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AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

Every so often we get a letter from a reader complaining that this column never has anything good to say about anybody or anything in television.

I am always surprised by this kind of comment, not because of its inaccuracy (actually we're easy to please), but because that anyone not in the TV industry nor with nothing to gain would rise up to defend a medium which at present has probably achieved 5 per cent or less of its potential.

But that's another column. The idea this week is to point out that when's there something good to be said for the industry, we say it.

Bravo to WHEC-TV and station manager Jack Decker for beginning the series of locally produced editorial comments. We saw and heard the first on Memorial Day. Suffering as we were from a combination of heat prostration, too much diet root beer and a carnival atmosphere in the back yard, we probably didn't

get the full import. But, briefly, Decker made the point that a nation that survived Watergate and all its attendant ills and landed on its feet is not doing too badly.

Not bad for a start although we'd like to hear some ideas not yet developed by newspaper editorial writers and we'd definitely like to see focusing on local issues.

Next? How about a kind word about Ron DeFrance? That's what the head of the house suggested. I have to agree. "Bowling for Dollars" may be on an intellectual level with "The Flintstones" but DeFrance is a winner. He is always gracious, amiable, and appears genuinely interested in every contestant. This after more than a year in his role as host! That he is never condescending in the face of bumpkin-ism is reason alone to earn him kudos. He may also be unflappable. We were watching one night when a young woman contestant thumbed her nose at her boss on TV. DeFrance, as startled as we were, recovered instantly. It's more than we did.

Finally to keep our grouchy image intact I wish only to say that in bumping "Moon for the Misbegotten" to make room for the National Hockey League playoffs, Channel 13 has reinforced our contention that local television hasn't an inch of ground to stand on in complaining about the potential impact of cable TV. And then to reschedule the play for 11:30 on a Sunday night. Infamous!

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