

At Home with the Movies

RACHEL, RACHEL [1968]
Thursday, Aug. 14

This is a fine film, thoughtfully written, directed, acted. It stars Joanne Woodward as a painfully lonely and somewhat repressed woman living and teaching school in a small mid-American town. As Rachel, Miss Woodward is young enough to be very attractive, yet old enough to be justly concerned about becoming a dowdy spinster. When an old school chum (James Olsen) comes back to town for a visit, Rachel falls hopelessly and helplessly in love. The affair is brief and intense, its conclusion harsh and bitter. Left to ponder her shrinking options, Rachel decides to make the next half of her life, as she calls it, her own.

A-III

THE GREAT WHITE HOPE [1970]
Thursday, Aug. 14

This is based on the life of a prize-fighter and onetime heavyweight champion of the world, Jack Johnson. Set in the early decades of the 1900's, the film traces the swift rise and prolonged fall of the black, giant boxer who taunted the racial attitudes of an entire nation. The boxer is played with burning intensity by James Earl Jones. The film has quality but is not for all to see; adults should approach it with clear eyes and an open mind.

A-III

BORN FREE [1966]
Friday, Aug. 15

Great family entertainment. Joy Adamson wrote a best-seller about her adventures with a lion cub named Elsa who eventually had to be taught how to survive in the African jungle. This is a

beautiful nature film that satisfies the imagination by capturing the characteristics of wild animals in their natural habitat and in their adaptation to the human environment of a government game station. Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers play their roles with such an easy manner that one does not have the problem of disbelief as is the case with many similar films.

A-I

THE UNDERGROUND MAN
Friday, Aug. 15

Made-for-TV detective flick stars Peter Graves and Jack Klugman as lawmen with an unusual case to crack. Typical who-dunnit, paced expertly to fit in the commercial breaks.

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE [1962]
Saturday, Aug. 16

One of the all-time great political spine-tinglers. Laurence Harvey is topline as an ex-Korean War POW who has been transformed, via Red Chinese hypnosis, into a deadly instrument of assassination. Returned to the U.S.A. during the time of a Presidential campaign, Harvey is at times unaccountably strange in behavior toward wife and family. An Army psychiatrist (Frank Sinatra) suddenly realizes what is going on and a major manhunt and race with time are on.

A-III

INDICT AND CONVICT
Sunday, Aug. 17

Lurid made-for-television melodrama about a public official accused of murdering his wife and her lover. Some of the other plot twists are even "nicer." Wm. Shatner is the politician and George Grizzard and Reni

Santoni are the folks who check things out for the police.

ROMANCE OF A HORSETHIEF [1971]
Monday, Aug. 18

The ethnic enthusiasm of an international cast gives an awkwardly humorous punch to this folk tale set in the Polish village of Malawa near the German border, in 1904. Most of the Jewish peasants of this region subsist by dealing in horses, and they enjoy life too much to worry about the illegality of their equine pursuits. Chief thief Eli Wallach and his youthful apprentice Oliver Tobias's filch fillies for leader David Opatoshu to sell to the Imperial German Cavalry. Business is bustling at the border, and also at night when the traders recreate in Madam Lainie Kazan's hotel. Business is busted, though, when local Cossack commander Yul Brynner requisitions all horses and conscripts all the young men for the Czar's war against Japan. Some rough verbal exchanges spoil what should have been a lighthearted fun film for the family.

B

THE LAW
Tuesday, Aug. 19

Repeat of a TV feature film, starring Judd Hirsch and John Beck as, respectively, a big-city public defender and a big-city prosecutor. The two clash in a sensational case involving the murder of a pro football star. Co-starring are Gary Busey as the No. 1 suspect, Allan Arbus as an assistant D.A., Barbara Baxley as a "hanging judge."

THE TRIAL OF CHAPLAIN JENSEN
Wednesday, Aug. 20

James Franciscus plays a U.S. Navy Chaplain, Andrew Jensen, whose claim to fame is to be the only chaplain in U.S. Service history ever to be court-martialed solely on a charge of adultery. The drama, adapted by Loring Mandel from a nonfiction book by Jensen and M. Abrahamson, is a pretty gritty probing of one man's hellish experiences after being brought up on false charges. Joanna Miles plays Jensen's wife, Charles Durning is the iron-tough lawyer who defended him, and Linda Day George and Dorothy Tristan are the Navy wives who accuse him of unseemly behavior. Intense but interesting.

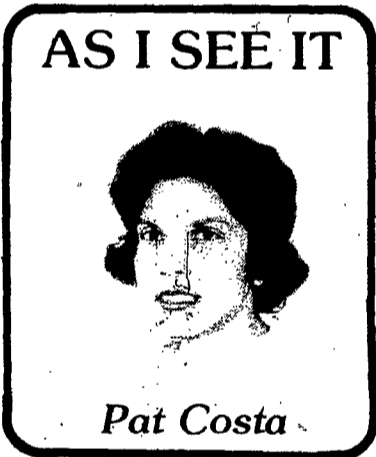
series during a portion of "Forest" this public television offering was the best thing we've encountered on the tube in a couple of months.

It was particularly therapeutic lacking as it did any sustained physical violence or action. Old Man Hubbard did slap his son across the face once and there was talk of lynching as his children closed in for the kill but talk was the featured attraction in this literate play — and how refreshing in a medium where the chase, the fistfight, the gunplay is the norm and the battle of the well chosen word almost nonexistent.

This kind of rerun seen as part of the Hollywood Television Theatre series, they can lay on us anytime.

Someone has suggested that the tendency away from the Anglo-Saxon name in TV and toward the ethnic hero, (e.g. Kojak, Baretta, Columbo, says something about us Americans as a changing people. More tolerant perhaps? More expansive in our embrace of what we consider familiar or can identify with? On the other hand perhaps it has been the viewer all along who has been underestimated and the industry which has been, the bigot, the narrowminded, the fearful.

Whatever the case, the situation is improving. It has occurred to this individual that shows such as "Sesame Street" and "Electric Company" have achieved much more than educating our children in reading, spelling and math. Who can measure the value of the lessons in getting along with others whose skin shade or way of speaking may not be the same as ours. Children who grow up seeing blacks and whites enjoying each other's company on TV have a head start in human relations, regardless of the kind of neighborhood they live in.



At the height of the heat wave we experienced a weekend ago, four of our family was enroute to New York to pick up the fifth member.

As the thermometer climbed to 96 we took refuge in a motel where the air conditioning was working perfectly and the TV picture sharp and clear.

After seven hours of sweltering in a car whose interior was even hotter than the registered heat outside I dare say I would have looked with favor upon a two-hour Howdy Doody festival or an all night marathon of the most deplorable game show ever, "Treasure Hunt."

Instead our luck held. Lillian Hellman's "Another Part of the Forest" a kind of prologue to her more famous "The Little Foxes" soothed and entertained for 2-1/2 hours, its mean and callous characters an antidote to the oppressive climate outside the room.

A repeat showing of the 1972 production starring Dorothy McGuire, Barry Sullivan, Tiffany Bolling, Robert Foxworth, Andrew Prine and Patricia Sterling, it showed that one shouldn't make generalized statements about summer reruns.

With the exception of "Moses: The Lawgiver" which incidentally was concluding its five-part

Cast Readied For Video Life of Christ

London [RNS] — Robert Powell, a 31-year-old English actor who recently had the title role in a film about composer Gustav Mahler, has been chosen to play Jesus in a six-part television series.

Sir Lew Grade, head of England's independent -ATV network, announced the selection of Powell at a press conference here.

He said the actor had been chosen by director Franco Zeffirelli after an international search. Other stars chosen for the series on the life of Christ, which will be shown on NBC in the United States next year, include Peter O'Toole, Laurence Olivier, and Dustin Hoffman.

NORTHEAST FESTIVAL

Ithaca — Mrs. Edna Michael of Highland Road is the general chairperson for the annual Northeast Festival here Friday and Saturday after Labor Day.

Sir Lew commented that Elizabeth Taylor was "a probability" for Mary Magdalene. No actress has yet been chosen for the role of Mary the Mother of Jesus, but the impresario had said last year that he was "opposed to using a professional actress and certainly not a box office figure" for that part.

The producer announced that the series was expected to cost about \$10 million for ATV and its partner in the venture, Italian State Television.

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