

MOVIES

1982 Was Lean Year for Good Movies

By Michael Gallagher

New York — The U.S. Catholic Conference's Best 10 list for movies of 1982 is as follows:

"Gandhi," "Missing," "The Long Good Friday," "The Verdict," "The Boat," "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial," "Diner," "Gregory's Girl," "Rocky III" and "Tex." The first five are in order of preference. The last five are arranged alphabetically.

The past year has indeed been a lean one, even considering that the memory of the last fat one has grown quite dim. Up until December, when "Gandhi," and "The Verdict," came out, it would have been a good trick to come up with 10, even using the most tolerant and charitable criteria.

"Gandhi" and "The Verdict," however, have had the effect of making the whole year seem almost respectable. And it is not at all going out on a limb to predict that when Academy Award time lurches around in three more months Ben Kingsley for his Gandhi and Paul Newman for the lawyer hero of "The Verdict" will fill two of the five slots for best actor nominations.

"Gandhi," whatever its incidental defects, is an awesome accomplishment. It is one of those rare films that might not only make you feel different when you leave the theater but also affect how you think for some time to come. From all accounts, the project has been a labor of love for Richard Attenborough, and as such is one of the best vindications of the power of love we've had in quite a time.

"Missing," director Costa-Gavras' drama of an American father searching for his son who has disappeared in the aftermath of a

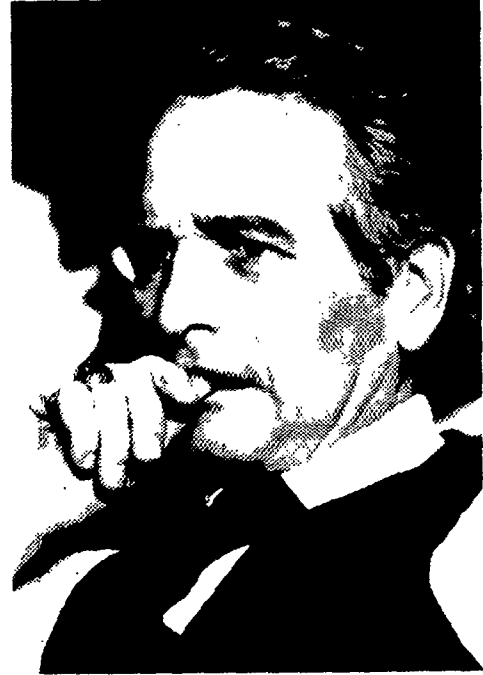
military coup in Chile, is a powerful and stirring film. Jack Lemmon as the father and Sissy Spacek as his bereaved daughter-in-law are memorable. If there is any justice in Hollywood — a moot point at best — Lemmon should be up there with Kingsley and Newman at Academy Award time. But since "Missing" is politically controversial, I wouldn't be surprised if it gained no nominations. The wonder is that it was made in the first place.

"The Long Good Friday," is a tough but highly intelligent English gangster movie marked by a superb performance by Bob Hoskins, who, as a czar of London crime, suddenly finds himself caught in a chain of events that resemble a rough-edged Greek tragedy.

In "The Verdict," Paul Newman gets the best role he's had in years as an alcoholic Boston lawyer, a failed idealist who seems to have nowhere to go but further down when a malpractice suit comes his way. Instead of going for the expected out-of-court settlement, he decides to take on the establishment. The movie makes many melodramatic and highly implausible turns, but Newman's performance never does. Jack Warden is also superb in a supporting role.

"The Boat" is an extraordinarily effective re-creation of the final cruise of a German submarine in World War II. There is no attempt to go into the moral aspects of what these heroic men were doing, however, and the implication that nobody, but nobody was a true-blue Nazi seems more than a bit disingenuous and constitutes a serious flaw in an otherwise gripping picture.

"E.T." is a nice little movie despite its shamelessly playing up to its juvenile audience by doing its best to confirm their



Michael Gallagher considers it a sure thing that Ben Kingsley, left, and Paul Newman will be nominated for Academy Awards for their work in movies "Gandhi" and "The Verdict," respectively.

suspicious that adults are quite inferior to the brilliant kids of today. It's a pity that many adults — much like guilty white liberals in the 60s — have gone along with this and even taken "E.T." as a sort of literal Second Coming.

"Gregory's Girl" is also a pleasant and perceptive comedy. It's about the pangs of first love set against the background of a rather zany high school in urban Scotland. There are some funny and winning moments, but at times it's so slight it threatens to blow away.

"Rocky II" is the same again, but, of course, that's not all bad. Stallone is still in good form as both writer and actor, and, despite a tinge of racism and the usual brutalities of the ring, this is good, solid entertainment.

"Tex" is a bit more serious, if somewhat less charming, American version of "Gregory's Girl," notable most of all for a fine performance by Matt Dillon.

Gallagher is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Communication.

AT YOUR PARISH



Father Mura applies make-up to 8th grader, Sarah Romeyn.

St. Thomas More

"Casting God's Spell" has been the theme of the 7th and 8th grade Cultural Arts Program at St. Thomas More. The theme has served a dual purpose; it helped students with their studies in music, art, and theater, and prepared them for their participation in the annual Christmas concert.

For the art portion the students were the medium —

designing costume and make-up to fit the characterization of the musical "Godspell." To assist them, Father David Mura, director of Youth Retreats and an active participant in clown ministry, conducted a workshop for the students. He showed a film and spoke about the meaning of clown ministry from the Christian perspective.

St. Vincent

Churchville — Children and parents participate in a unique sharing program at St. Vincent De Paul Church here. The program is the annual celebration of St. Nicholas, during which children line up to present gifts to "St. Nicholas," and parents join in by donating canned goods and personal items.

All of the gifts donated are distributed to the needy through the Catholic Worker.

During this year's celebration, Sister Jean

Rodman captured the attention of children and parents with the story of St. Nicholas and the tradition of Santa Claus.

Carl Bodensteiner played the role of the saint, accepting the children's gifts. He thanked each child and presented each with a tiny nativity scene ornament, assuring the child that the gift would be given to a child less fortunate.

The event also includes a sing-along and a potluck supper.

Christ the King/ St. Thomas

The parishes of Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle are conducting the popular "Focus on the Family" program starting 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 9, in the Christ the King School hall.

The program is based on a seven-part movie series by Dr. James Dobson, dealing with family situation from small children to husband-wife relationships.

The sessions include viewing the film and discussion. Babysitting will be provided.

Blessed Sacrament

The evangelization committee of Blessed Sacrament Church will sponsor a First Friday Mass Jan. 7. Father Benedict Ehmann will hear confessions at 7 p.m. and celebrate the Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:30 p.m.

St. Helen

The Rosary-Altar Society of St. Helen's Church has slated a mixed card party, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 12, in the parish center. Tickets at \$2.50 include the cost of refreshments. Further information is available by contacting Nancy Brown, chairperson, 247-7843.

Holy Apostles

The Rosary Society of Holy Apostles Church will gather for a short meeting after the 9:30 a.m. Mass, Sunday, Jan. 9, in the school basement.



St. Mary

Third, left to right (front row) Stephanie Hughson, Nisha Mathew, Kevin Bement and Paul Monet; (back row) Jessica Chappell, Suzanne Gregorio and Christine Jarzomski, present a song about Christmas in Mexico during the Christmas program at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua which celebrated holiday traditions of other cultures.



St. John of Rochester

Shepherds Chris Williams, Tom De Mott, Jim Campolieto and Jim Passalugo, and angels Kari Naegler, Joni Monacell and Georgina Konecny take part in a musical program presented by pupils of St. John of Rochester School, one of three such events held during the holiday season. Music director is Mr. Jean Mulhall. Directors for the school pageant were Mrs. Pat Donegan and Mrs. Eileen Dwyer.

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