

IN REVIEW
FEATURE

Recent releases range from the absurd to dull

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

'Serial Mom'

(Savoy) Absurdist social satire in which a suburban matron (Kathleen Turner) goes around nonchalantly killing people who offend her sense of decorum, then is put on trial while her adolescents (Ricki Lake and Matthew Lillard) cheerfully capitalize on her media celebrity. Writer-director John Waters skewers current media fascination with mass murderers, but in such exaggerated style that the campy black humor is sometimes overwhelmed by a gross depiction of violence more troubling than funny. Several nasty murders, some brief nudity, occasional sexual innuendo, an obscene phone call and recurring rough language. The USCC classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

'Cops and Robbers'

(TriStar) Tepid comedy in which a crusty police detective (Jack Palance) sets up a stakeout in the home of a bumbling dad (Chevy Chase) who jeopardizes the operation by his unwanted, overeager participation. Director Michael Ritchie allows Chase his famil-



Henry Casey (Scott Bairstow) and his half-dog, half-wolf White Fang.

iar klutzy persona and Palance his wry snarls, but never does much with either in this one-joke comedy. Some violence, mostly of a comic nature, brief nudity

with mild sexual innuendo and a sprinkling of profanity. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

'Sunday's Children'

(First Run) Beneath a family's seemingly idyllic summer vacation in the Swedish countryside of the 1920s are simmering tensions, especially between an 8-year-old boy (Henrik Linnros) and the volatile minister-father (Thommy Berggren) he both idolizes and fears. Scripted by Ingmar Bergman and directed by his son, Daniel, the autobiographical drama exquisitely captures the fine details of daily life in a bygone era while providing insights about the life-long effects a parent's behavior can have on his offspring. Subtitles. Some violence, brief nudity and occasional profanity. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the MPAA.

'White Fang 2'

(Disney) Accompanied by his wolf-dog, a young gold miner (Scott Bairstow) in 1906 Alaska sets out to find food for a starving Native American tribe, falls in love with their princess (Charmaine Craig) and uncovers a plot against them. Director Ken Olin's scenic but uninspired sequel to Jack London's tale of a lad and his canine is a standard outdoors adventure with scenery-chewing stick villains and pat solutions. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Book on Holocaust describes stories of 'ordinary' heroes

By Ana Rodriguez-Soto
Catholic News Service

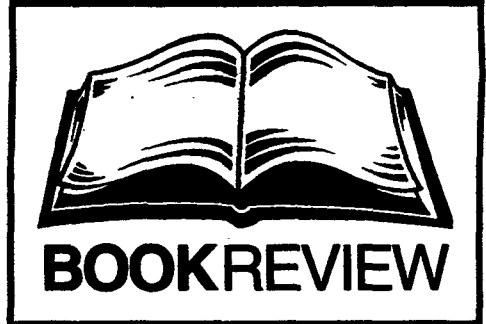
MIAMI — They were not powerful men like the legendary Raoul Wallenberg or Oskar Schindler, both of whom saved hundreds of Jews from the gas chambers of Nazi Germany.

But Florida author Arnold Geier found inspiring the heroism of "everyday, plain people" whose acts helped save lives during the Holocaust.

Geier, of metropolitan Miami, spent five years researching and writing *Heroes of the Holocaust*, a 272-page paperback that recounts 28 true stories of Holocaust survivors who were saved by others — often through simple acts of kindness.

Until now, none of these stories had received attention. Unlike Wallenberg and Schindler, Geier's heroes are the "little people, the everyday, plain people like you and me who have a decision to make," he told *The Florida Catholic* in a recent interview. "And they made a decision on the side of goodness."

"What I really wanted to show is



moral heroism. To me, it sort of balances the athletic variety that we show our young people today," said Geier, whose book details how ordinary people "can make the difference between good and evil."

"The time has come to recognize that the Holocaust, as horrible and horrific as it was, did have just moments, rare moments, where rays of light penetrated the darkness," said Geier.

A Jew who fled Nazi Germany with his family when he was 12, Geier served with the U.S. Army counterintelligence branch in World War II. He said he wrote the book "so that our children will have some hope that man's inhumanity

is not universal and perpetual."

Among the stories: that of a young Jewish girl saved by a doctor with the help of a mother superior in a Warsaw convent; that of a Jewish man, who, after the war, hocked all his possessions to buy life-saving penicillin for the daughter of a German man who had earlier helped him; that of a father, grieving over the sudden death of his only son, who gave his child's name and identity papers to a Jewish boy in order to save his life.

"This is not a book solely about Christians helping Jews, or about Poles helping Jews, or about Dutch people helping Jews," Geier explained. "This is a mix. This is also a situation where Jews helped Jews and Jews helped Christians."

To find the stories, he wrote to 180 newspapers all over the world and received 258 accounts from Holocaust survivors as far away as Australia. But many of them came from south Florida, which is home to more than 15,000 survivors.

He interviewed his subjects by phone, mail and in person. Their stories "tore at your heartstrings," he said, recalling the

years he spent writing the book. "It was a very emotional thing. I wouldn't do it again."

Geier has published five other books, consumer guides to insurance, his line of work. But when he pitched the Holocaust book idea to major publishing houses, they rejected it, saying Holocaust literature did not sell. The book was finally published by a smaller firm, Londonbooks, and brought out on April 8, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Pre-publication galleys of the work were sent to such figures as Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel and Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy of Miami, whose words appear on the back cover.

The archbishop called it "a wonderful presentation of the goodness of the human heart shining forth in an era of historical darkness."

EDITORS' NOTE: *Heroes of the Holocaust* may be purchased by sending \$16 to Londonbooks/USA, P.O. Box 96-0884, Miami, Fla. 33296; or by calling 1-800-255-BOOK. Profits from sales are to go to Holocaust memorial organizations.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Theodore St. Stanislaus	1 St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	2 Holy Apostles Our Lady of Mercy St. Stanislaus	3 The Aquinas Institute Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	4 St. Anne St. James St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	5 Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	6 Good Shepherd St. Michael St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Theodore St. Stanislaus	8 St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	9 Holy Apostles Our Lady of Mercy St. Stanislaus	10 The Aquinas Institute Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	11 St. Anne St. James St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	12 Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	13 Good Shepherd St. Michael St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Theodore St. Stanislaus	15 St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	16 Holy Apostles Our Lady of Mercy St. Stanislaus	17 The Aquinas Institute Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	18 St. Anne St. James St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	19 Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	20 Good Shepherd St. Michael St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Theodore St. Stanislaus	22 St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	23 Holy Apostles Our Lady of Mercy St. Stanislaus	24 The Aquinas Institute Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	25 St. Anne St. James St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	26 Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	27 Good Shepherd St. Michael St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Theodore St. Stanislaus	29	30 Holy Apostles Our Lady of Mercy St. Stanislaus	MAY BINGO CALENDAR SPECIAL PAID ADVERTISEMENT			

BINGO TIMES & LOCATIONS

- Aquinas Institute
1127 Dewey Ave.
254-2020 Wed. 8pm
- Bishop Kearney
125 Kings Hwy. S.
671-1065 Wed. 8pm
- Good Shepherd
328 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-3518 Sat. 7:30pm
- Guardian Angels Church
2061 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-1412 Wed. 7:30pm
- Holy Apostles
6 Austin St. 254-7170
Tues. 7:30pm
- Holy Family Church
859 Jay Street 328-3110
Sun. 7:30pm
- Holy Family Home
School Assoc.
899 Jay St. 328-4800
Wed. 7:30pm
- Most Precious Blood
179 Stenson St.
458-9079 Fr. 7:30pm
- Our Lady of Mercy
500 Denise Rd.
866-0776 Tue. 7:30pm
- Our Lady of Perpetual
Help
823 Portland Ave.
467-2725 Wed. 7:30pm
- St. Anne
1600 Mt. Hope Ave.
271-3260 Thur. 7:30pm
- St. Boniface
15 Whalin St. 271-1468
Sun. 7:30pm
- St. Cecilia's
2732 Culver Rd.
467-4296 Fri. 7:30pm
- St. Charles Borromeo
64 Malden Lane
663-3230 Mon. 8pm
- St. James
119 Brocton Rd.
482-9796 Thur. 7:30pm
- St. Jude the Apostle
4100 Lyell Rd. 247-4322
Thurs. 7:45pm
- St. Mark's
54 Kuhn Rd. 225-3710
Fri. 8pm
- St. Mary Lyncum Hall
Auburn 315-252-9545
Mon. 7:30pm
- St. Michael's
863 Clinton Ave. N
325-4040
Thur. 7:30 & 8pm
- St. Michael's
320 S. Main St. Newark
315-332-2287
Sat. 1pm
- St. Rita's 1008 Maple Dr.
671-1100 Sun. 7:30pm
- St. Stanislaus
1150 Hudson Ave.
467-1472 Sun. Tue &
Thur. 6:15pm
- St. Theodore
170 Spencerport Rd.
428-6811 Sun. 7:30pm
- St. Thomas The Apostle
41 Colebrook Dr.
342-2323 Sat. 8pm

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