

FILM ESTIMATES

Progressive teachers will find dependable advice in these estimates on current film releases. Recognizing that one man's meat may be another man's poison, the National Committee on Current Theatrical Films gives three ratings: A, for discriminating adults; Y, for youth; and C, for children. These estimates are printed by special arrangement with *The Educational Screen*, Chicago.

BARBARY COAST (Miriam Hopkins, E. Robinson) (UA) Strong, vivid melodrama of goldrush 'Frisco with gambling, drinking, ruthless killings. Heroine, money-mad mistress of crude gambler who runs town. Then true romance with prospector-hero, till Vigilantes free her from gambler for new life. Fine photography. 10-29-35

(A) Good of kind (Y) Unwholesome (C) No
BIG BROADCAST OF 1936 (Jack Oakie and Radio Stars) (Para) A score of radio acts loosely hung together by wild yarn about a crazy invention and two station owners kidnapped, threatened with death, and their final hectic escape. Includes some fine talent, parts amusing, but whole tiresome. 9-24-35

(A) Hardly (Y) Probably good (C) No
BONNIE SCOTLAND (Laurel and Hardy) (MGM) Good nonsense farce, typical Laurel and Hardy antics, and crazy plot leading from jail, to Scottish homestead, through burlesque war in India, to no conclusion at all. Healthily laughable as happy-go-lucky slapstick comedy. 10-15-35

(A) Fair (Y) Good (C) Very good
BROADWAY MELODY OF 1936 (Eleanor Powell, Jack Benny) (MGM) Notable musical comedy, fast, gay, glittering, with beautiful dancing, and outstanding role by Eleanor Powell. Well-knit little plot, smart dialog. Broadway stage life background, and not overdone. Good sophisticated fun, in today's taste. 10-15-35

(A) and (Y) Fine of kind (C) Probably good
CAMILLE (La Dame aux Camelias) (Yvonne Printemps) (French film) (Du World) Dumas' classic love tragedy beautifully done, with the great Printemps in the title role. Charming French dialog, notably good sound reproduction, adequate English titles. Excellent for all who know the book. 10-29-35

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Mature (C) No
CONDEMNED TO LIVE (Ralph Morgan) (Chesterfield) Grim, fantastic tale about fine man supposedly marked at birth when mother was killed by huge vampire bat. He develops dual personality, becoming a blood-sucking monster at night, with many victims. His suicide final solution. 9-24-35

(A) Hardly (Y) No (C) No
FALSE PRETENSES (Sidney Blackmer, Irene Ware) (Chesterfield) Humble heroine wants luxury. Ruined millionaire promotes stock-company to marry her to rich husband, stockholders to profit accordingly. Poor acting and feeble dialog make far-fetched story quite futile. 10-22-35

(A) Dull (Y) No (C) No
FIGHTING YOUTH (Charles Farrell) (Univ.) Utterly amateurish picture purporting to deal with radicalism in colleges. Plot, acting and comedy attempts are dull and childish. Football play holds most of footage, with preposterous feats by hero. Thoroughly absurd as "college life." 10-22-35

(A) Stupid (Y) No (C) No
FRECKLES (Tom Brown, Virginia Weidler) (RKO) Sentimental, homespun Gene Stratton Porter's story of the Limberlost, with lovely nature backgrounds for the wholesome little ro-

mance, distorted with autos, gangsters and gun-play. Impossible but amusing child steals picture. 10-29-35

(A) Elementary (Y) Fairly good (C) No
I LIVE MY LIFE (Joan Crawford, Brian Aherne) (MGM) Deft, improbable but humanly amusing romance. Spoiled heiress, posing as Secretary from visiting yacht, meets equally self-willed hero doing archaeology on Greek Isle. Identity revealed in N. Y., furious clash but "back to Naxos" for heroine. 10-15-35

(A) Amusing (Y) Mostly excellent (C) Hardly
LAST DAYS OF POMPEII (Basil Rathbone, Preston Foster) (RKO) Spectacle film (Lytton's in title only) aiming to portray grandeur, greed and cruelty of Roman civilization in 1st Century A. D. Convincing moral marred by artificiality and gruesomeness. Religious motif well treated. Much historical value. 10-29-35

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Probably good (C) No
O'SHAUGHNESSY'S BOY (Wallace Beery, Jackie Cooper) (MGM) Poignant and humorous father-son theme against circus background. Deserted by wife and boy, crude lion-trainer loses nerve and is maimed. Finally recovers son and spirit. Strong human appeal beneath violence and excitement. 10-22-35

(A) Fe of kd. (Y) Vy gd. (C) If not too strong
SHIPMATES FOREVER (Dick Powell, Ruby Keeler) (1st Nat.) High-grade, authentic Navy propaganda built on fine story of Annapolis life. Four types of men are molded into officers by routine, crisis, love and heroism. Sentimental in spots, but engagingly romantic, human and entertaining. 10-22-35

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Excel. (C) Strong but gd.
SPECIAL AGENT (Geo. Brent, Bette Davis) (Warner) Super G-Man hero, with help of stool-pigeon heroine, gets the super gangster—more murderous than usual—for tax evasion! Skillful acting, convincing tough dialog, violent thrills, make fine orgy of abnormal emotions. 10-15-35

(A) Good of kind (Y) Unwholesome (C) No
THIRTY NINE STEPS (Robert Donat, Madeline Carroll) (Gaumont-British) Detective-spy-adventure thriller of distinction. Marked character interest, tense atmosphere, suspense, fast action, no hokum. Human and absorbing, however improbable. Fine photography with English-Scottish backgrounds. 10-22-35

(A) Interesting (Y) Very good (C) Mature
WAY DOWN EAST (Rochelle Hudson, Henry Fonda) (Fox) Famous old melodrama beautifully produced, lovely in rural charm, ably and sincerely acted. Story of betrayed, innocent heroine, exiled by village gossip and self-righteous old squire to suffering and near death, is deftly modernized to please. 10-29-35

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Good (C) Mature
WINGS OVER ETHIOPIA (Praesens film, Zurich) (Para.) Striking air shots from plane over Mediterranean to Ethiopia. Close-ups of country, natives, customs, with some shocking barbaric practices. Fine narrative accompaniment. Seems true and vivid picture of scarcely civilized race. 10-22-35

(A) Gd. of kind (Y) Gd. of kind (C) Perhaps