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.


(A) Very good (Y) Very good (C) Good

CRUSADES, THE (Wilcoxon, Keith, Loretta Young) (Para) History a la DeMille, splendidly exaggerated. Distorts historical spirit, motives, characters and dates, but vivifies and makes political and moral teaching in thrilling action and gorgeous spectacle. Sets, costumes, backgrounds grippingly true. Eyes so full, minds miss falsities.

11-2-35 (A) Fine of kind (Y) Thrillingly int. (C) No

DAUGHTERS OF TODAY (Mrs. Wallace Reid production) (Roadshow) Another typical, sincere effort to teach parents responsibility for conduct of youth. Shatters gay life of high school students leading to seduction and tragedy. Acting and story too amateurish and elementary to be effective.

(A) Gd. of Kind (Y) Absorbing (C) Gd. of kind

LITTLE AMERICA (Admiral Byrd and Crew) (Para) The authentic record of second Byrd Antarctic trip. Heroism, not heroics; adventure, not stunts. Some scenes obviously staged but inoffensively so. Intense, vivid, thrilling, largely instructive despite familiarity of events via radio.

(A) and (Y) Excellent (C) Mostly excellent


11-19-35 (A) Disappointing (Y) Little value (C) No. int.

THE RAINMAKERS (Wheeler and Woolsey) (RKO) Crazy farce, much below this pair's average as entertainment, but at least not vulgar. Fake machinery plus accidental dynamite blast brings in too many elements to save farmers and defeat crooks. Much poor acting, and locomotive climax is almost endless.

11-12-35 (A) Mediocre (Y) Perhaps (C) Funny

THE RAVEN (Bela Lugosi, Boris Karloff) (Univ.) Gratuitous-horror melodrama of mad doctor, gratifying sadistic impulses by subjecting whole cast to diabolical torture devices as described in various Poe tales. Preposterous, gruesome connection designed solely for spine-chilling and shock.

7-30-35 (A) Depends on taste (Y) No (C) By no means

THE VIRGIN JUDGE (Walter C. Kelly) (Para) An unpretentious but engaging comedy of Southern village life, with strong human appeal and delightful character humor. Thoroughly laughable throughout, and with fine admixture of sound ethical values embodied most unobtrusively. Kelly excellent.

11-19-35 (A) Very good (Y) Excellent (C) Amusing

WILLIAM TELL (Conrad Veidt) (Swiss production with English dialog) Historically accurate filming of Swiss revolt under Austrian tyranny in 14th Century, produced in the Alps. Story slow and obscure at times but film notable for majestic scenery and authentic portrayal of architecture, life and customs of the period.

5-24-35 (A) Interesting (Y) Yes (C) Probably good