

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.

ALIAS BULLDOG DRUMMOND (Jack Hulbert, Claud Hulbert) (G-B) Super-detective theme completely and deftly burlesqued, in typically English style. Action more lively than violent, dialog amusing without wisecracks, villains who are not "tough guys". Subtle, intelligent, laughable. English spoken throughout.

(A) Entertaining (Y) Good (C) Exciting

ANNA KARENINA (Greta Garbo, Frederic March) (MGM) Serious, impressive screening of Tolstoy's tragic story of illicit love against colorful background of Czarist Russia. Fine cast with Garbo outstanding as unhappy wife and mother whose attempt to find happiness with lover leads to disillusionment, despair and suicide.

(A) Fine of Kind (Y) Very mature (C) No

ANNIE OAKLEY (Barbara Stanwyck, Preston Foster) (RKO) Hilarious costume comedy of Buffalo Bill days, mixing history, slapstick and elemental human appeal. Enough color, fast action and low comedy to outweigh faults of jerky continuity, glaring improbabilities, and very unsympathetic hero.

(A) Good of kind (Y) Good (C) Good

COLLEGIATE (Jack Oakie, Joe Penner) (Para.) Gay, irresponsible playboy inherits Girls' school, turns it into "Charm School" featuring dance and music, and makes it pay. Preposterous and silly farce with a few amusing spots by the four comedians. Oakie's "singing" another feature.

(A) Absurd (Y) (C) Perhaps amusing

CORONADO (Jack Haley, Leon Errol) (Para.) Crude concoction about sailor and girl whose father refuses to believe them married. Cheaply risqué in parts, and the rest suffers from stale hokum and mediocre acting. Leon Errol's extensive clowning is only feature of any interest.

(A) Mediocre (Y) Poor (C) No

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (Peter Lorre, Edward Arnold) (Columbia) Powerful screening of Dostoyevski's grim tale about brilliant murderer, leaving no clues, driven by conscience to confess. Arnold splendid as detective. Lorre sinister and weirdly gripping as hero, but grotesque and repulsive as lover.

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Doubtful (C) By no mns.

DIAMOND JIM (Edward Arnold) (Univ.) Arnold gives notable characterization of Jim Brady, colorful figure of New York in gay nineties, super-salesman, railroad pioneer, sportsman, big spender, gourmand. Dramatic and romantic story of his career and eccentricities. Somewhat overdrawn and fictionalized.

(A) Interesting (Y) Interesting (C) Little int.

IN OLD KENTUCKY (Will Rogers, Dorothy Wilson) (Fox) Last release by Uncle Sam's jester. Appealing little story of horsetrainer and poor girl overcoming treacherous difficulties to win the classic race. Thoroughly human role which gives Will Rogers wide scope for his characteristic and engaging play.

(A) Good (Y) Excellent (C) Excellent

JALNA (Kay Johnson, Ian Hunter) (RKO) Intelligent realism in vivid pictures of joys, woes and wranglings of large Canadian family in old homestead, dominated by erratic, vigorous, cen-

tenarian grandmother. Three romances cause trouble till one accidental death solves all. Real entertainment. Refreshingly lifelike.

(A) Interesting (Y) Mature (C) Beyond them

MARIA CHAPDELAINE (French production, English titles) (Atlantic) Masterpiece of charm and power showing life-struggle of French-Canadians, God-fearing, life-loving, uneducated country folk, devoted to tradition and family, strong in simplicity of motive and character. Famous novel finely screened.

(A) Notable (Y) Excel. (C) Mostly beyond thm.

MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY (Chas. Laughton, Franchot Tone, Clark Gable) (MGM) Masterful portrayal of grim bit of history, when sadistic tyranny evolved into humane discipline aboard English ships. Beautifully photographed and acted by great cast at its best. The terrible South Sea voyage made unforgettable.

(A) Excel. (Y) Strong but gd. (C) Too strong

SANS FAMILLE (French Production) (Atlantic Films) Fine screening of famous Malot story of kidnapped English boy, reared in France, buffeted by misfortune, finally restored to mother. Outstanding work by Robert Lynen, hero of "Poil de Carotte". Many scenes charming, few harsh, none dull. No English titles.

(A) (Y) Excellent (C) Mostly very good

SCROOGE (Sir Seymour Hicks and English cast) (Para.) British film rendering truly and beautifully the story, backgrounds and spirit of the immortal "Christmas Carol". Character interpretation, tempo of action, and especially the role of Scrooge by Sir Seymour would please Dickens himself.

(A) Excellent (Y) Excellent (C) Excellent

SO RED THE ROSE (Margaret Sullavan, Walter Connolly) (Para.) Pictures charmingly life in the Old South, sentimental, idyllic, till Civil War brings terror, hallucinations, heartbreak, tragedy, ruin and social chaos. Beautifully done but continuous disaster makes it as depressing as entertaining. Quite anti-war.

(A) (Y) Fine of kind (C) Doubtful

THE LITTLEST REBEL (Shirley Temple, John Boles) (Fox) Civil War story of South with elaborate role amazingly well played by this extraordinary little star. Supporting cast sometimes heavy and wooden. Comedy, charm, thrill, and especially pathos. Shirley's finest work to date.

(A) Exceptional (Y) Excel. (C) Unless too sad

THE THREE MUSKETEERS (Walter Abel, Margot Grahame) (RKO) Splendid partial screening of Dumas' immortal romantic novel in the spirit of book and times. Sets, costumes, atmosphere, acting of the finest, with historical flavor genuine and humor that is above vulgarity. Joy for those who know the book.

(A) Excellent (Y) Excellent (C) Mature but gd.

THUNDER IN THE EAST (Charles Boyer, Merle Oberon) (UA) (British Prod.) Strong, tragic romance of true exotic quality, done with fine restraint, power and beauty. Loyal Japanese captain risks all, even his beloved wife, for victory. He wins great seafight, loses love, and calmly chooses suicide.

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Mature (C) No