

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.

BUNKER BEAN (Owens Davis, Jr., Louise Lati-mer) (RKO) Lively farce, fairly amusing for skilfully done hero role of timid clerk, who becomes self-confident and aggressive when told that he is reincarnation of Egyptian King. Outwits schemers seeking to rob him of valuable patent and marries boss' daughter. 7-7-36

(A) Perhaps (Y) Amusing (C) No interest

CHARLIE CHAN AT THE RACETRACK (Warner Oland, Keye Luke) (Fox) Another of justly popular series on shrewd, suave doings of unique Chinese detective. He catches well-concealed arch-crook and gang who commit murder to achieve betting swindles at the track. Suspense well maintained. 8-25-36

(A-Y) Good of kind (C) Probably good

CRAIG'S WIFE (Rosalind Russell, John Boles) (Columbia) Egocentric wife, seeking security, not love, relentlessly keeps her possessions for herself, estranges friends, kin, husband, and earns heart-breaking solitude at end. Unsympathetic role finely done with elegance and restraint—save absurd eyelashes. 10-6-36

(A) Very good (Y) Mature but good (C) No

EARLY TO BED (Mary Boland, Charles Ruggles) (Para.) Delightful farce-comedy with rare roles for Mary and Charlie. She marries old love at last, but he is a sleep-walker! Startling complications, further complicated by Mary's well-meant help. But finally honeymoon can begin. 6-9-36

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

GENERAL DIED AT DAWN, THE (Gary Cooper, M. Carroll) (Para.) American hero in China is betrayed by heroine into hands of the cruel bandit general he opposes. Tense suspense, grim killings and violence, as he escapes, is recaptured with repentant heroine, finally freed in harrowing, unconvincing climax. 9-8-36

(A) Good of kind (Y) Prob. too strong (C) No

GIVE ME YOUR HEART (Kay Francis, Roland Young) (Warner) Dignified problem play about unwed mother who, to assure child's good name, gives him up to married father's family. Resultant heart-aches end fairly convincingly in three happy marriages. Roland Young's role outstanding comedy. 10-6-36

(A) Very good (Y) Over mature (C) No

GYPSIES (Russian Soviet) (Amkino) Above average Russian picture, with notable music nicely balanced with dialog, adequate English titles, showing Soviet inducing Gypsies to settle on collective farms. Usual faults of Russian technique less glaring, and human interest outweighs propaganda. 9-29-36

(A) Fairly good (Y-C) Hardly recommendable

KISS ME GOODBYE (Magda Schneider) (German) Continental musical film marred by inferior sound and engaging heroine's faulty English. Friendly rivalry over heroine by two English

pals on holiday in Vienna chief amusing element, with elaborate song and dance as special feature. 7-14-36

(A) Hardly (Y-C) Doubtful interest

RAMONA (Loretta Young, Don Ameché) (Fox) Well-known melodrama of California in the '70's finely done in excellent Technicolor, some scenes of unusual beauty and charm. Idyllic Indian romance, until persecution by greedy whites brings tragic suffering and grim death for hero. 9-29-36

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Very good (C) Too strong

SECRET AGENT (Madeleine Carroll, Robt. Young, John Gielgud) (Brit-Gaumont) Sensational, suspenseful spy story. Grim murders and tragic climax. Lorre repellent as ruthless killer, aide to British hero pursuing German spy. Unconventional situation of heroine posing as hero's wife avoids real offensiveness. 8-4-36

(A) Good of kind (Y) Doubtful (C) No

SWORN ENEMY (Robt. Young, Lewis Stone, Jos. Calleia) (MGM) Well-acted gangster melodrama. Fast, exciting action with usual grim brutalities and murders, and hectic climax. His brother killed, himself victimized by racketeers, hero as incognito G-man, uncovers evidence against vicious, secret mob leader. 9-22-36

(A) Good of kind (Y) Doubtful (C) No

TEMPEST (Emil Jannings, Ana Sten) (English titles) (Ufa) Seamy side of life ably played. Hero, his latest jail term over, joyously rejoins mistress who has been cheating merrily. Stormy action follows, until hero kills his chief rival and returns gladly to jail leaving her to jail another. 10-6-36

(A) Perhaps (Y) No (C) No

THEY MET IN A TAXI (Fay Wray, Chester Morris) (Columbia) Lively, improbable fairly amusing mystery-romance. Unconventional but wholly unobjectionable situation when taxi-driver hero aids innocent heroine in trouble. Some homely, human episodes, but hard-boiled hero decidedly overdoes gruff, caveman stuff. 9-22-36

(A) Perhaps (Y) Good (C) Perhaps

WHITE ANGEL, THE (Kay Francis, Ian Hunter) (Warner) Florence Nightingale's heroic service to nursing well filmed, but inferior to "Louis Pasteur" in variety, humor, range of human interest. Kay Francis falls short of Muni's power. Misses high values by omitting fore-shadowing scenes from her early life. 6-30-36

(A) Good (Y) Good (C) Beyond them

WHITE FANG (Michael Whalen, Jean Muir) (Fox) Alaskan thriller, with dark doings over a gold mine, heavy villainy, hero narrowly escapes hanging, etc. Neither hero nor heroine impressive, but Winner and Summerville have really funny roles. The dog, White Fang, does his job well. 7-14-36

(A) Dep. on taste (Y) Fairly good (C) Perhaps