

FILM ESTIMATES

Recognizing that one man's meat may be another'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.

BOULDER DAM (Ross Alexander, Patricia Ellis) (Warner) Simple, vigorous and generally impressive story with mighty background of Boulder Dam. Painfully unpleasant hero gradually transformed by potent influence of great engineering achievement and love of a girl. 5-26-36

(A) Rather good (Y) (C) Good

CHINA CLIPPER (Pat O'Brien, Beverly Roberts) (1st Nat.) Notably well-acted human-interest thriller. War-ace flyer, married, obsessed over aviation's future, kills love and peace of mind until his Clipper's first trans-Pacific flight solves all. History theatricalized into good entertainment. 8-25-36

(A Y) Fine of kind (C) Exciting but good

EX-MRS. BRADFORD (Wm. Powell, Jean Arthur) (RKO) Delightfully amusing detective-murder-mystery with deft comedy dominant over thrills. Ex-wife, an engaging mystery addict, merrily helps and hinders her amateur-detective medical ex-husband to final solution and happy remarriage. 5-5-36

(A) Very good (Y) Excellent (C) Prob. good

FURY (Spencer Tracy, Sylvia Sidney) (MGM) Tense, grim film fails as strong indictment of lynching by weakness of cause for mob violence. Innocent, tortured hero, miraculously escapes death at frenzied mob's hands; embittered, plans vengeance on all participants, but relents and forgives in time. 6-16-36

(A) Strong (Y) Too strong (C) No

GIRLS' DORMITORY (Simone Simon, Herbert Marshall) (Fox). Finely done, interesting little study of school-girl life and susceptibility, of faculty understanding and intolerance, of love-blindness in intellectual adults—and unfortunately an unlikely and disappointing ending. Simon wonderful. 8-11-36

(A) Excellent (Y) (C) Doubtful value and effect

MY AMERICAN WIFE (Francis Lederer, Ann Sothern) (Para.) Light, amusing comedy. Hero engaging as penniless Austrian count, truly in love with wealthy American bride. Many laughs as he balks parents' efforts to make him mere show-piece. He wants to be a real, working American. Saloon episodes harmless. 8-25-36

(A) Amusing (Y) Amusing (C) Doubtful int.

MY MAN GODFREY (Wm. Powell, Carole Lombard) (Univ.) Hilarious satire, gayly absurd, with Powell in deft role of Harvard man who becomes butler to slightly mad, spoiled-with-wealth family, teaches them some values before leaving. Lombard's romance-struck heroine somewhat overdone. 9-8-36

(A) Amusing (Y) Amusing (C) Doubtful int.

MYSTIC MOUNTAIN (French-Swiss production, English titles) Artistically done, finely photographed picture of humble life in Alpine hinterlands, central theme a gripping, tragic romance. Strong picture, but slow tempo, weird camera angles and much symbolism prevent general popularity. 8-25-36

(A) Notable (Y) Little interest (C) No

GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

ONE RAINY AFTERNOON (Lederer, Lupino, Rol-and Young) (UA) Light farce-comedy of engaging young actor who mistakenly kisses the wrong girl in darkened movie and becomes great stage idol in consequence. Spots are merely silly, but it is mostly amusing as a complete whimsy. 5-19-36

(A) (Y) Fairly good (C) Little interest

FLOW THAT BROKE THE PLAINS (by Resettlement Administration, Washington) One of finest educational ever made. Full, dynamic presentation of big, vitally important subjects—dust-storm tragedy of the West. Notable handling of background music, narrative voice, and tensely dramatic. 6-23-36

(A) Notable (Y) Excellent (C) Beyond them
SAN FRANCISCO (Clark Gable, J. MacDonald) (MGM) Strong, vivid, well-acted film notable for glorious singing. Fair restraint in scenes of Barbary Coast. Romantic conflict fairly convincing; grim earthquake scenes as climax in which gambler-hero learns that power and money are not all. 6-30-36

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Prob. good
(C) Not for them

THE PRINCESS COMES ACROSS (Lombard, Mac-Murray) (Para) Multiple murder mystery on Atlantic liner, involving pseudo-princess, breezy band-leader, five famous detectives, with wise-crack comedy largely dominant. Deliberate false trails. Merrily played and fairly convincing. 5-26-36

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

THREE WOMEN (USSR production, ample English titles) (Amkino) Exceptional Russian film of strong human appeal, notably acted, free from usual propaganda. Three girls rise from slum squalor and benightedness to war heroism. Merits outweigh slow tempo and overdone close-ups. 5-5-36

(A) Notable (Y) (C) Little interest

TO MARY—WITH LOVE (Baxter, Loy, Ian Hunter) (Fox) Well acted, human and appealing story of real married love, seriously threatened by husband's weakness under misfortune, saved by wife's devotion, and finally adjusted by loyal friend (notably played by Hunter). Regrettable but minor flaws. 8-11-36

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

UNGUARDED HOUR (Franchot Tone, L. Young, R. Young) (MGM) Excellent handling by distinguished cast of involved, not always logical English murder mystery. Roland Young's performance notable. Dialog fresh and swift-moving, interest and suspense well maintained, denouement very surprising. 5-19-36

(A) Excellent (Y) Good (C) No interest

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There is a high proportion of favorable estimates on these two pages because they reprint only the thirty best out of the hundred and fifty-odd estimates circulated by *The Educational Screen* since the last issue of this magazine.

LITERATURE AND HISTORY

GENTLE JULIA (Jane Withers, Tom Brown) (Fox) The Tarkington story of small-town life and romance engagingly done, with Jane Withers, in excessively precocious ten-year-old role, in the limelight throughout. Her impossibly mature but amusing machinations save the situation most agreeably. 7-7-36

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

GORGEOUS HUSSY, THE (Joan Crawford, L. Barrymore) (MGM) Some fine characterizations, but more fiction than history in story of Andrew Jackson's rise to Presidency. Obscure motivation weakens dramatic values. Thoroughly respectable heroine loyal to Jackson to point of sacrifice. Photog. & settings excellent. 9-8-36

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Good (C) Doubtful int.

GREEN PASTURES, THE (Rex Ingram) (Warner) Impressive screening of famous play visualizing Heaven and activities of "De Lawd" as imagined by simple negro folk. Sincere, dignified acting, beautiful settings, lovely singing, simple humor and genuine underlying spiritual values. 7-21-36

(A) Notable (Y) Very gd. (C) Prob. beyond them

I MARRIED A DOCTOR (Pat O'Brien) (1st Natl) Excellent adaptation of "Main Street" with fine character values and intelligent comedy. Vain efforts of city wife of country doctor to bring culture to his town make very human drama and lead to equally human conclusion. 5-5-36

(A) Interesting (Y) Good (C) Little interest

LAST OF THE MOHICANS (Randolph Scott) (Reliance) Fine picturization of classic, notable for accuracy in story, settings, and convincing characters. True to times, it is appealing, thrilling and terrifying by turns. Good example of how much more a picture can do than even Cooper's words. 9-1-36

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

MARY OF SCOTLAND (Katharine Hepburn, Fredric March) (RKO) Powerful picture of tragic life and love of Mary Stuart, done with dignity and truth, acting and direction excellent, costumes and backgrounds notable. Meeting of Mary and Elizabeth unhistorical but tensely dramatic. Outstanding film. 8-11-36

(A) Excellent (Y) Very good (C) Mature

M'LISS (Ann Shirley, John Beal) (RKO) Old style melodrama. Proud little "spitfire" works as barmaid to keep self and drunken father. In conflict with town's "elite", protected by crude, kindly characters, till romance with school-teacher hero brings happiness. Some lovely outdoor settings. 8-4-36

(A) Hardly (Y) Perhaps (C) Doubtful value

PRIVATE LIFE OF LOUIS XIV (German production with good English titles) Convincing por-

trayal of the great Louis' court, its ceremony, politics, intrigues and amours, with historical accuracy in sets, costumes and episodes, finely acted, with sound and background music excellent. Right tempo, much charm. 8-11-36

(A) Interesting (Y) (C) Little interest

RHODES, THE DIAMOND MASTER (Walter Huston and foreign cast) (G-B) Masterpiece from England, one of finest historical pictures ever made. Acting, direction, backgrounds superb. Will make Rhodes the Empire Builder live for millions. History as it should be screened. A great film. 4-28-36

(A) Excellent (Y) Excellent (C) Mature but good

ROAD TO GLORY (Baxter, March, L. Barrymore) (Fox) Impressive, forceful indictment of futility of war, notably acted. Grim, realistic battle scenes and effective dramatic episodes. Central figures are two contrasting French officers in love with same girl but romance minor to moving drama of the regiment. 8-18-36

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

ROMEO AND JULIET (Brilliant cast) (MGM) Splendid screening of Shakespeare, with beauty, fidelity and power, the dialog exclusively his. Sets and costumes nearly flawless. Acting of finest, except Barrymore. Norma Shearer wonderful. Further cutting desirable, but masterpiece now. Merits great success. 9-1-36

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

SHOWBOAT (Irene Dunne, Allen Jones, Roberson, Winninger) (Univ) Outstanding production of famous Ferber opus with excellent direction, glorious singing, lavish sets, and able cast that makes the most of every role. Musical comedy can hardly be better done. Deserves its great success. 5-19-36

(A) (Y) Excellent (C) Very good

SINS OF MAN (Jean Hersholt) (20th Cent. Fox) Fine serious drama, notable for Hersholt's characterization of modern "Job". Successive tragedies through the years rob hero of entire family, but not faith. In old age happy ending is achieved. Depressing entertainment but fine drama. 6-30-36

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Very sad (C) Not for them

TROUBLE FOR TWO (R. Montgomery, R. Russell) (MGM) Retains much of eerie mystery and thrill of Stevenson's "Suicide Club". Incognito prince, pursued to London by his scorned fiancée, is tested by weird perils till she knows his courage. Finely acted, spoken and directed. 6-9-36

(A) Good (Y) Good (C) Little interest

UNDER TWO FLAGS (Colman, Colbert, McLaglen) (Fox) Stirring, colorful Ouida romance of French Foreign Legion and Arab revolt. Skillful direction, beautiful desert photography, some grim fighting. Commendably restrained film of humor, suspense and tragedy by outstanding cast. 5-12-36

(A) (Y) Very good (C) Too exciting