

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.

- ANNA AND ELIZABETH (Dorothea Wieck, Hertha Thiele) (German) (Good English titles) The two stars of Maedchen in Uniform do memorable roles in interesting story of humble country girl magnified into "saint" through accidental "miracles". Notable atmosphere. Compelling character portrayal. 1-26-37
(A) Fine of kind (Y) (C) Doubtful interest
- CHARLIE CHAN AT THE OPERA (Warner Oland, Boris Karloff) (Fox) Famous Chinese detective deftly solves multiple murder mystery, this time backstage at the Opera, involving jealousy, vengeance and insanity among the stars. Usual elements of suspense and interest but plot is over-complex at times. 1-12-37
(A) Good of kind (Y) Good (C) Perhaps
- HEARTS IN BONDAGE (J. Dunn, D. Manners, Mae Clarke) (Republic) Well-meant attempt at Monitor-Merrimac history with romantic, tragic North-South complications. Careful sets and costumes, but cluttered narrative and elementary direction rob it of needed tempo, emphasis and conviction. 12-8-36
(A) Hardly (Y) Fair (C) Little interest
- HOLY TERROR (Jane Withers) (Fox) Hilarious, farcical army air-post life. Jane, as officer's over-precocious daughter and darling of the post, starts all troubles, solves all problems, and runs constant songs, dances, and slapstick antics. Pleasant change from "disagreeable brat" roles, at least. (A) Depends on taste (Y-C) Probably amusing
- LLOYD'S OF LONDON (Bartholomew, Tyrone Power, Madeleine Carroll) (Fox) Masterpiece of high historical and dramatic value. Portrays the famous "Lloyd's" as intimately involved in stirring times of English history in days of Lord Nelson. Splendidly staged and directed. Vivid, vital, convincing. 1-12-37
(A-Y) Excellent (C) Largely beyond them
- MAN OF AFFAIRS (George Arliss) (G-B) Enjoyable picture of English politics with Arliss in dual role—as pompous Prime Minister stupidly bungling a delicate situation, and his twin brother, a gay adventurer, who saves his twin by heroic measures and gives him the glory. 1-19-37
(A) (Y) Very good (C) Mature but good
- MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS (Charles Ruggles, Alice Brady) (Para) Hilarious, amusing farce. Circumstances turn shy nature editor's column into sensationally successful exposé of crooked politicians. Scout troop thwarts kidnapers as climax. Boy Scouts interesting but Talbot's bel-lowing annoys. 1-19-37
(A) Amusing (Y) Amusing (C) Amusing
- ONE IN A MILLION (Adolphe Menjou, Sonja Henie) (Fox) Largely vaudeville slapstick. Ar-line Judge wisecracks. Menjou, head of cheap troupe playing Switzerland, bawls his lines to be funnier. But Sonja and her kindly father, seeking Olympic honors, her charm and match-less skating redeem the film. 1-12-37
(A) Fairly good (Y-C) Good
- ONE WAY PASSAGE (Warner re-release) (Film Estimate of October, 1932) Powell and Francis excellent as smooth crook-hero and sensuous heroine. Sensational voyage, ardent love, deftly directed and acted, good comedy and suspense, logical tragic ending. Glamorous crooks dominate film. 12-8-36
(A) Very good of kind (Y) Doubtful (C) No
- PLOUGH AND THE STARS (Stanwyck, Foster) (RKO) Strong, vivid picture of tragic misery of 1916 Irish Rebellion. Impressive for authentic scenes and action, for striking characters and realistic violence, but whole weakened by lack of dramatic unity and Stanwyck's complete inadequacy. 1-26-37
(A) Notable (Y) Grim (C) No
- SMARTEST GIRL IN TOWN (Gene Raymond, Ann Sothern) (RKO) Rollicking, merrily improbable farce. Heroine out to marry money and immensely rich hero gives himself endless trouble in winning her by not revealing his wealth. Broderick's hilarious slang and Blore's masterful "valet" are the high comedy. 12-8-36
(A) Good of kind (Y) Amusing (C) Prob. good
- THEODORE GOES WILD (Irene Dunne, Melvyn Douglas) (Columbia) Crazy, sophisticated, well-acted farce with some genuine human comedy. Hilarious situations when demure village heroine, revealed as author of "sexy" best seller, pretends to be scandalous character readers think she is. Irene clever comedienne. 12-8-36
(A) Very amusing (Y) Not suitable (C) No
- THE PLOT THICKENS (James Gleason, Zasu Pitts) (RKO) Agreeable little murder mystery with adequate complication at times, and lightened by humorous activities of two detectives, the cocksure Jimmy and adroitly dumb Zasu, who share success. 2-2-37
(A) Fair (Y) Good (C) Fair
- THREE SMART GIRLS (Deanna Durbin) (Univ) Very human comedy, told with taste, with bits of Deanna's notable singing. Three sisters, engaging youngsters, thwart a fortune-huntress after their rich father, bring him back to mother after 10 years separation, and find worthwhile romance besides. 1-26-37
(A) Amusing (Y) Excellent (C) Little interest
- WOMAN ALONE (Sylvia Sidney, Oscar Homolka, John Loder) (G-B) Unusual, skillfully told, gripping version of Conrad story of Sabotage in London's industry. Sinister atmosphere, tense situations, grim deaths. Fine individual acting and pantomime, but ill-fitted roles make situation a bit unreal. 1-19-37
(A) Good of kind (Y) Doubtful value (C) No