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.

As You Like It (Bergner, Olivier, Quartermaine) (Fox) Notable British production, faithful to spirit of original, impressively set and acted. Intelligently abridged text beautifully spoken by fine English supporting cast. Only flaws, artificiality of forest scenes and Bergner's accent.

(A-Y) Excellent  (C) Good if it interests you

FAMILY AFFAIR (L. Barrymore and fine cast) (MGMT) Excellent picture of family life and loyalty, rich in character values and homely, human interest. Fine old judge, target of crooked political foes, comes through with flying colors for himself, town and family. One marring sequence.

(A-Y) Excellent  (C) If not too mature

FINAL CHORD (Lil Dagover, Willy Birgel) (UA) Headwaiter-hero, jealous ship-owner husband, long-suffering heroine wife for great musical career. Notably acted with three outstanding roles. Fine German dialog and English titles.

(A-Y) Fine of kind  (Y) Beyond them

HISTORY IS MADE AT NIGHT (Jean Arthur, Chas. Boyer) (UA) Headwaiter-hero, jealous ship-owner husband, long-suffering heroine wife for great musical career. Notably acted with three outstanding roles. Fine German dialog and English titles.

(A) Very good of kind  (Y) Doubtful  (C) Mostly excellent

Lost Horizon (Ronald Colman, Jane Wyatt, Margo) (Colum.) Costly, pretentious screening of much loved book, with much beauty, fine acting and vast thrill. But trying to be colossal overdoes violence and sound, drags out scenes, burying drama and thought under mere weight, length and spectacle.

(A) Notable  (Y) Heavy  (C) Beyond them

Maid of Salem (Colbert, MacMurray) (Para.) Outstanding historical film, first picturing vividly and authentically 17th Century life in Salem. Then, sudden wave of mob hysteria over witchcraft, and film turns to eerie, stark melodrama of shuddering fear and gruesome gallow, with artificial romance added.

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

Maytime (Jeanette Macdonald, Nelson Eddy) (MGM) Outstanding musical to delight all, despite length and sugar-plum melodramatics.

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

MIGHTY TREVE (Tuffy, Noah Beery Jr.) (Univ.) Sincerely done picture of strong human and sentimental appeal, with splendid western backgrounds and finest "dog star" to date. Two embarrassing moments, when misunderstanding humans are about to shoot the adorable dog, may be too tense for sensitive children.

(A-Y) Fine of kind  (C) Mostly excellent

MIDNEY BRIDE (Jean Harlow, Robert Taylor) (MGM) Inartistic version of "Man in Possession." Vacuous "society" drama of wrangling romance, resorting to low comedy, crude slapstick, raucous dialog, and burlesqued character. Many laughs for the general public. Merely good box-office.

(A) Depends on taste  (Y) Doubtful  (C) No

QUALITY STREET (Hepburn, Tone, Bainter) (MGM) Genuine treat for Barrie lovers. Acting and direction distinguished for artistry and intelligence. Correctly slow-moving, to keep gentle humor, romance, charm of original, with settings and action faithful to manner and atmosphere of the period.

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

READY, WILLING AND ABLE (Ruby Keeler, Ross Alexander) (Warners) Just another musical farce, with two young wise-cracking would-be producers trying to get a play financed. Plot transparent and hero's attitude not always credible, but whole light, amusing and pictorially effective. Grace sings no arias, but many charming songs in charming manner. One trashy song wholly unnecessary.

(A-Y) Amusing  (C) Perhaps

When You're in Love (Grace Moore, Cary Grant) (Col.) Fairly pleasing musical romance. Plot transparent and hero's attitude not always credible, but whole light, amusing and pictorially effective. Grace sings no arias, but many charming songs in charming manner. One trashy song wholly unnecessary.

(A) Good of kind  (Y) Mostly good  (C) Doubtful

WINGS OF THE MORNING (Annabelia, H. Fonda) (Fox) Colorful, richly romantic, rambling story, with great beauty and charm of scene and action in stunning Technicolor and captivating French heroine. Her early masquerade as boy and several embarrassing moments with hero avoid offense.

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