

FILM ESTIMATES

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.

AFFAIRS OF ANNABEL (Jack Oakie, Lucille Ball) (RKO) Crazy farce comedy, more burlesque than satire on Hollywood. One-track-mind press-agent puts heroine through incredibly absurd situations to build up her screen reputation. Ridiculously exaggerated, continuous nonsense, very funny to many.

(A) Hardly (Y) Fair (C) No

ARKANSAS TRAVELER (Bob Burns, Fay Bainter, Dickie Moore) (Para) Amusing, often improbable but well-knit story of small-town life with engaging characters and appealing action. For old friend's widow, hobo printer saves newspaper, builds radio station, rids town of crooks—and leaves audience happy.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) (C) Amusing

BOYS' TOWN (Spencer Tracy, Mickey Rooney, Henry Hull) (MGM) Heroic priest, believing no boy is "bad," surmounts endless obstacles to found home for wayward boys, where toughest problem (Mickey) is finally solved. Some sentimental melodrama but gripping, moving story. (Based on actual Boys' Town in Nebraska.)

(A) (Y) Very good (C) Probably good

COURIER OF LYONS (French, English titles) (Pax) Forceful, well-directed, historical drama based on real case of mistaken identity and miscarriage of justice during French Revolution. Pierre Blanchard in dual role, falsely convicted by unrelenting judges, is beheaded as criminal he resembled. Acting superb.

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

DRUMS (Sabu, Raymond Massey, Roger Livesay) (UA) Vivid, full color picture of British army-post life on Khyber Pass frontier with magnificent mountain backgrounds. Little Indian prince's loyalty to England defeats Indian treachery in violent fighting climax. Great spectacle, tense action, much noise.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) Thrilling (C) No

FIVE OF A KIND (Dionne Quints, Hersholt, Trevor, Romero) (Fox) Fascinating scenes of Quints' singing, piano-playing, dancing, playing with dolls and puppies—crudely framed in lively, improbable yarn of rival newshawks, man and woman, seeking to "scoop" Quint broadcast, the man a cheap cad! Good taste missing.

(A) Interesting (Y) (C) Mostly amusing

GARDEN OF THE MOON (Pat O'Brien, Lindsay, John Payne) (Warner) Noisy, silly musical of absurd feuds between conceited manager of garish night-club and band leader, glorifying night clubs, "swing," and some painful "vocalizing." Tricky manager, faking death-bed scene, etc., wins contract and club success.

(A) Absurd (Y) Doubtful value (C) No

GIRLS' SCHOOL (Ann Shirley, Nan Grey, Noah Beery, Jr.) (Columbia) Somewhat romanticized and exaggerated story of girl's boarding school life. Problems of snobbery, scholarship students, broken homes, parental wealth's effect on administration fairly accurately shown. Thrills, pranks, crises of 'teen age make the picture.

(A) Interesting (Y) Good (C) Good

IF I WERE KING (Colman, Rathbone, Dee) (Para) Old Paris lavishly portrayed, perfect in costume and background. King Louis XI (Rathbone) and Francois Villon (Colman) masterfully played, with deft use of Villon's poems. Mass action and dialog expertly handled. Historical drama beautifully done.

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

KING OF ALCATRAZ (Lloyd Nolan, Gail Patrick) (Para) Hectic melodrama about murderous crook escaped from Alcatraz. Boards ship disguised as old lady, pulls gun, gets control of ship, but two heroic radio-operators save situation. Terrific thrills, terrific fighting, terrific absurdities.

(A) Hardly (Y) No (C) No

MOONLIGHT SONATA (Paderewski, Marie Tempest) (British) Stupid story, woodenly acted save by Marie Tempest, with trite plot only slightly connected to Moonlight Sonata. Some good sets and photography, but mostly a feeble framework for presenting Paderewski's great playing of the classics, its chief value.

(A) Perhaps (Y) Perhaps (C) Hardly

SPANISH EARTH (Contemporary Historians) Stirring, vivid portrayal of Loyalist Army's defense of Madrid and environs. Emphasizes need of good soil to guarantee food supply and shows work on irrigation project along with war scenes. Partisan but effective narration by Hemingway, impressive photography.

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

THAT CERTAIN AGE (Deanna Durbin, Melvyn Douglas, Jackie Cooper) (Univ) Charming, amusing, well-acted story of young girl's infatuation for older friend of father and effective scheme of parents and victim to disenchant her. Understanding treatment returns her to normal. Deanna's songs a feature, but incidental.

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

THE WAVE (Mexican cast and dialog) (Garrison) Artistic, impressive presentation of Mexican fishermen's life—starvation wages, grafting bosses, "labor union" solution, with wonderful shots of fishing. Pictorial narrative, in proper tempo, little dialog and title needed. Film of dignity and appeal.

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

TOO HOT TO HANDLE (Gable, Loy, Pidgeon) (MGM) High tension melodrama at furious tempo, congested with impossible heroics by super-news-cameraman from war-blasted China to voodoo-infested jungles of South America. Life thoroughly distorted and inflated for maximum of thrills. Desperate dose for jaded public.

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

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU (L. Barrymore, Arnold, Arthur, Stewart) (Columbia) The famous stageplay finely screened with notable cast. Weird family done to the life, hilariously funny, wholesomely entertaining. Marked changes and additions to original make film very long but comedy values are fully sustained.

(A) (Y) Excellent (C) Good