

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.

ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES (Cagney, O'Brien, Dead Enders) (Warner) Finely produced and acted, but mere glorified gangster film. Slum toughness made very amusing, with heartless killer-hero as its idol. Grim climax, with utterly futile "gesture" by hero, further distorts values. Bad ethics and misdirected sympathy.

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

BROTHER RAT (Wayne Morris, Priscilla Lane) (Warner) Merry stage play of military school life becomes heavy on screen with antics of overgrown "cadets," absurdly exaggerated episodes, crazy conduct by officers, and constant effort at "louder and funnier" dialog. Thorough distortion of reality is poor publicity for fine school.

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

THE CITADEL (Robert Donat, Rosalind Russell and English cast) (MGM) Masterful, selective screening of fine novel, made in English locales. Powerful, convincing portrayal of weaknesses in present-day medical practice, contrasted with splendid idealism and humanity of young M.D. hero. Well-rounded realism at its best.

(A) Excellent (Y) Mat., good (C) Beyond them

DARK RAPTURE (A Denis-Lelia Roosevelt Expedition) (Univ) Impressive, informative African travelog. Sincere, authentic study of native tribes in Belgian Congo. Dances of giant race of Wat-ushi, bridge building by Pygmies, capture and training of wild elephants. Fine narration, photography and backgrounds.

(A) (Y) Very good (C) Good but strong in spots

THE GREAT WALTZ (Gravet, Rainer, Korjus) (MGM) Gorgeous musical of gay Vienna under Franz Joseph, historically fine in background and spirit. Rich in Strauss music, dancing and Korjus' notable singing. Spectacle and sound dwarf romantic life-story of Johann Strauss glorifying the waltz. Rainer disappoints.

(A) (Y) Notable of kind (C) Beyond them

HARD TO GET (Dick Powell, Olivia De Havilland) (Warner) Thin, light, lively little yarn about filling-station hero with big idea and big financier who won't buy it, until his daughter, posing as maid, smooths way for hero. Hilarious role by Winninger and less singing than usual by Powell.

(A) Fair (Y) (C) Fairly good

JUST AROUND THE CORNER (Shirley Temple, Farrell, Robinson, Pangborn) (Fox) Shirley, busy and prankish in gay comedy, coaxes prosperity around corner for father and friends, delights rich, crusty old man, father's foe, by mistaking him for "Uncle Sam," and organizing gala benefit to solve his troubles.

(A) Pleasing (Y) (C) Very good

LISTEN DARLING (Bartholomew, Garland, Pidgeon) (MGM) Simple, engaging, human, sufficiently probable little comedy about two 12-year-olds earnestly trying to keep their adored widowed mother from marrying wrong man. Bumpy trailers, Judy's songs, Freddie's forensics and understanding grown-ups are story ingredients.

(A) Pleasing (Y) Good (C) If it interests

LITTLE TOUGH GUYS IN SOCIETY (Boland, Horton, Auer) (Univ) Fake psychiatrist induces wealthy widow to import young ruffians to country estate to give indolent, spoiled son an interest in life. Rowdies smash everything, effect cure and are finally reformed themselves! Rather burlesque treatment of social problem.

(A) Amusing of kind (Y) Amusing (C) Doubtful

MARRIAGE FORBIDDEN (Pedro de Cordoba) (Special) Frank "documentary" on syphilis as national peril, from great Brioux play, "Damaged Goods." Acting dull save Cordoba's role of Doctor. Dignified story, of honest intent, nothing risqué, wholesomely thought-provoking, but publicity is cheap, offensive and false.

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

MARS ATTACKS THE WORLD (Larry Crabbe, Jean Rogers) (Univ) The fantastically absurd "Flash Gordon" newspaper strip-thriller, made more vividly preposterous by motion and trick photography, tries to cash in on recent radio scare. Wooden acting, clumsy dialog, meaningless mechanics, absurd "science."

(A) Stupid (Y) (C) Very doubtful value

MEN WITH WINGS (MacMurray, Milland, L. Campbell) (Para) Absorbing chronicle of development of aviation, stirring in action, beautifully photographed in Technicolor. Held together with episodic but interesting, human story of three childhood playmates. Sweep of film belongs to planes themselves as chief actors.

(A) Notable (Y) Very good (C) Exciting

PROFESSOR MAMLOCK (Russian, very full English titles) (Amkino) Strong, vivid, well-acted story of growth of anti-Semitic outrages by Nazis. Powerful arraignment by Soviet Russia of Fascist doings in Germany, likely to stir any audience that sees it. Decidedly startling documentary film.

(A) Notable of kind (Y) Mature (C) No

THE SINGING BLACKSMITH (Moishe Oysher) (Jewish, English titles) (Collective) Carousing, philandering, likable blacksmith lives his merry career in Russian village from boyhood up, meeting adoration and criticism gaily and winning out over scandal. Slow, gentle, picturesque. Hero's singing and heroine's charm, features.

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

THE SISTERS (Bette Davis, Erroll Flynn) (Warner) Oldest of three Montana sisters, in Teddy Roosevelt-San Francisco earthquake time, marries gay, bibulous, spineless newspaperman, and suffers devotedly to a "happy ending," also hopeless. Intelligent, careful, serious screening of book too big for screening. Depressing.

(A) Disappointing (Y) No (C) No

SUEZ (Tyronne Power, Loretta Young) (Fox) Unimpressive characterizations of De Lesseps and Eugenie compensated by fine supporting cast and splendid background of Suez Canal building, desert storm, and overthrow of Republic. Historical value, despite compression and distortion. Fine in action spectacle and scenic effects.

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