

## 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.

**BIRTH OF A BABY** (American Committee on Maternal Welfare, Inc.) Unusual presentation of human birth from start of pregnancy through delivery and infant care (showing to general public in theatres). Serious, scientific, utterly frank, dignified. Stresses proper medical care, dangers of artificial abortion, etc.

(A) Novel (Y) and (C) Parents should decide

**BOY MEETS GIRL** (O'Brien, Cagney, Bellamy) (Warner) Fast, delirious burlesque of Hollywood people and methods, built solely for loud laughs, its humor broad and rowdy, subtlety discarded. Central situation built around approaching and ultimate motherhood of studio waitress—aptly acted by Marie Wilson.

(Y) Amusing of kind (Y) Better not (C) No

**FOUR DAUGHTERS** (Lane sisters, Rains, Garfield) (Warner) Vivid, realistic portrait of one happy family of four daughters, and the joy, sorrow and tragedy that romance can bring. Fine cast, notable characterizations, Garfield outstanding. Exceptional film despite artificial touches.

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

**FOUR'S A CROWD** (Flynn, de Havilland, Russell, Conolly) (Warner) Fast, furious, clever romantic farce, hilariously exaggerated out of any semblance to life. Breezy dialog, zigzag motivation, unconvincing reversals, toy trains, dog chases. Related to real drama as "swing" is to music.

(A) (Y) Very gd of kd (C) More or less funny

**HIGGINS FAMILY, THE** (Jimmy, Lucille and Russell Gleason, Lynn Roberts) (Republic) First of a new "Family" series. Rather too farcical for realism, with Russell over-prankish as the inventor-son, but elementary, amusing situations and some simple, homely values will prove entertaining to the not over-critical.

(A) Fair of kind (Y) Mostly good (C) Mature

**I AM THE LAW** (Robinson, Beal, Kruger) (Columbia) Far-fetched, but lively, suspenseful melodrama, lightened by appealing humor. College law professor on sabbatical leave, becomes special prosecutor and by highly original methods smashes the racketeers. Not over-violent except for prolonged fist-fight and grim suicide.

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

**KEEP SMILING** (Jane Withers, H. Wilcoxon) (Fox) Another fixer role for Jane, more credible and appealing than usual. Helps uncle, once ace director, make comeback and gets in movies herself. Lively, substantial plot, exposing grimmer side of Hollywood, well balanced with Jane's amusing antics. Fine work by cast.

(A) Fairly good (Y) and (C) Amusing

**MARIE ANTOINETTE** (Shearer, Power, and notable cast) (MGM) Lavish, beautiful and very long picture of French court life under the Louis, centered around Marie Antoinette's glittering career from wedding to guillotine. Heroine's tragic faults much softened, hence final tragedy heavier. Splendidly done. Shearer outstanding.

(A) Excellent (Y) Mature (C) No

**MY LUCKY STAR** (Sonja Heinie, Richard Greene) (Fox) Sonja's marvelous skating probably compensates for fatuous story with preposterous collegiate background. Heroine is sent to college to model clothes, gets involved in cheap divorce suit, and an ice carnival (in department store!) straightens things out.

(A) Perhaps (Y) Prob. entertaining (C) Fair

**PASSPORT HUSBAND** (Stuart Erwin, Pauline Moore) (Fox) Laughably absurd farce-thriller. Over-dumb hero gets mixed up with two girls, tricked by crook gang into marrying wrong one, but finally marries right one after capturing whole gang by ridiculously impossible coup. Some cheap risqué touches.

(A) Feeble (Y) No (C) No

**SAFETY IN NUMBERS** (One of Jones Family series) (Fox) Homely, human, pleasantly complex, really climactic story of how small-town folk thwarted attempted swindle by city crooks through faked proof that local swamp was valuable mineral water. Good fun for all but the over-critical.

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

**SECRETS OF AN ACTRESS** (Kay Francis, Geo. Brent) (First Nat'l) Unpretentious, dignified, well-knit little triangle with actress heroine, hero and his self-sacrificing friend, finely played by Ian Hunter. Troubled romance, numerous reversals. Simply and convincingly done save for maid's labored comedy.

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

**SOUTH RIDING** (R. Richardson, Edna Best, Edmund Gwenn) (U. A) Fine, mature, leisurely British film, expertly acted, rich in character interest. Impressive realism and restraint in absorbing human drama built round community problems and leaders' individual lives. Charming rural settings.

(A) Excellent (Y) Mature (C) Too mature

**SPAWN OF THE NORTH** (Fonda, Raft, Lamour) (Para) Impressive backgrounds, fine camera shots and a trained seal provide chief interests in clumsy, rambling melodrama of Alaskan salmon fishing. Long sequence of gruesome sea fighting. Grim climax. Fine acting by Barrymore and Tamiroff, rest of cast ineffectual.

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

**THREE LOVES HAS NANCY** (Gaynor, Montgomery, Tone) (MGM) Breezy, sophisticated, well-acted, farce. Clever dialog and amusing, unconventional situations when guileless small-town heroine invades the penthouse apartment of a conceited New York author and his publisher, who become rivals for her hand.

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

**YOUTH TAKES A FLING** (Andrea Leeds, Joel McCrea) (Univ) Inappropriate title for pleasing, convincing little story of hero who yearns to go to sea, and earnest, romantic heroine who has found her love and finally wins him. Slight, simple, but excellently acted, directed and produced.

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