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. Stress proper medical care, dangers of artificial abortion, etc.

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


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 characterization, 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, but Russell over-prankish as the inventor, 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 filler 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 grimier 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 family much softened, hence final tragedy heavier. Splendidly done. Shearer outstanding.

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

MY LUCKY STAR (Sonja Heine, Richard Greene) (Fox) Sonja's marvelous skating probably compensates for fawcett story with preposterous college 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 risque 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


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


(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 guiltless 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 earns, 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