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 with The Educational Screen, Chicago.

**ABBEY BULLDOG** Drummond (J. Howard, Heather Angel) (Para) Drummond, thickly involved in spy ring plot over new, pseudo-scientific "death ray" machine, postpones his wedding, incurs grave suspicion, but deftly solves all! Well-acted, agreeably puzzling little thriller more amusing than scary.

(A) Good of kind (Y) (C) By no means


(A) Fine of kind (Y) (C) By no means

**DEVIL'S ISLAND** (Boris Karloff) (Warner) Wrongly sentenced to Devil's Island, great doctor endures governor's brutality, saves and saves his daughter by operation. Still narrowly avoids guillotine after escape-attempt fails ironically. Best cruelty and hideous sufferings for thrills. Karloff's acting chief merit.

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


(A) Entertaining (Y) Excellent (C) Good

**FIGHT TO THE LAST** (Chinese-English titles) Chinese production showing ruthless Japan decimating unprepared China. Story centers around appealing Chinese family, all dying grisly deaths. Technically poor, with dizzy transitions and montages. But vivid, horrible, convincing realism favoring China in present War.

(A) and (Y) Strong and gruesome (C) No

**GUNGA DIN** (C. Grant, McLaglen, Fairbanks Jr.) (RKO) Excellent, picturesque thriller of British army life in India, informative in sets, costumes and routine. But action bristles with absurdities and burlesque heroics, with actors striving to be boxoffice attractions, not British soldiers.

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

**HONOLULU** (Young, Powell, Burns, Allen) (MGM) Fast, merry musical romance, with dual role for Young as much-pursued movie star and his double, a Hawaiian planter. Amusing complications on ship and shore, roles perfectly fitted to players, tuneful music, and Eleanor's fine dancing. Deftly done throughout.

(A) (Y) Very good of kind (C) If it interests

**IBERT'S DELIGHT** (Norma Shearer, C. Gable) (MGM) Elaborate screening of clever Sherwood play, combining strong anti-war propaganda, whimsical character study, and rather thin comedy. Ongoing "double" motif weakens dramatic power. Splendidly acted. Technique masterful. But will disappoint many.

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

**JESSE JAMES** (Power, Fonda, Nancy Kelly) (Fox) Impressive, forceful story of notorious bandit's lawless career interwoven with tragic married life. Fine direction, acting. Technicolor, authentic backgrounds. Thrilling entertainment but moral values very dubious. Whitewashes and creates sympathy for Jesse.

(A) Excellent of kind (Y) Dit. effect (C) No

**KING OF THE UNDERWORLD** (K Frances, Humphrey Bogart) (Warner) Her husband killed by gangsters, doctor-heroine invades underworld for revenge and wins out in highly improbable fashion. She finds new romance amid wild gunplay, hairbreadth escapes and extra heavy villainy. Waste of Kay Francis.

(A) Mediocre (Y) No (C) No

**LIFE DANCES ON** (Un Carnet de Bal) (French—Eng. titles) Outstanding film artistically done, superbly acted and directed, beautifully photographed. Absorbing episodic drama unified by central character, lonely widow who seeks out girlhood admirers. Experience range from gripping tragedy to fine comedy. Notable cast.

(A) Excellent (Y) Mature (C) Unsuitable

**THE LADY VANISHES** (M. Longwood, P. Lucas) (Gau, Brit.) Intriguing, human-interest spy-thriller, deftly handled in tone, manner, content, and subtleties for intelligent enjoyment. Pleasingly intricate, with suspense, surprise, and comedy adequate. Plot, acting, directing very satisfying, though quite un-Hollywood.

(A) Very good (Y) Good (C) If it interests

**Pride of the Navy** (Jas. Dunne, Rochelle Hudson) (Repub) Happy-go-lucky hero, fired from Annapolis but a mechanical genius, proves invaluable to navy in developing new submarine. Romance with Commander's daughter complicates things, but hero finally wins trials, navy rank, and girl. Light, unskilful amusement.

(A) Hardly (Y) Fair (C) Fair


(A) Excellent (Y) Good of kind (C) Too mature

**ST. LOUIS BLUES** (Lamour, Lloyd Nolan) (Para) Mediocre "swing" musical in Mississippi show-boat setting, with stale, hodge-podge plot, built to exploit Lamour's "singing"and figure. Some obvious sex emphasis. Jesse Welles supposed to be very funny as hard-bitten, wise-cracking, cigar-smoking old woman.

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

**TOPPER TAKES A TRIP** (C. Bennett, R. Young) (U.A.) Diverting, sophisticated sequel to first Topper fantasy with same amazing camera tricks. Concerns spectral hero's attempts to reunite his troubled Topper with wife. Pranks of engaging ghosts—girl and dog—and embarrassing situations for Topper provide fun.

(A) and (Y) Very amus. of kd. (C) Dbtt. int.