

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.

ARTISTS AND MODELS ABROAD (Benny, J. Bennett) (Para) Rollicking farce about penniless American theatrical troupe in Paris, which rich heroine and father join because Benny mistakes girl for damsel in distress. Incredible adventures but good fun. New feature—Jack gets girl! Lavish fashion-show sequence.

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

BREAKING THE ICE (Breen, Costello, Ruggles) (RKO) Sombre Pennsylvania Mennonite background of stern life lightened by Bobby's singing and efforts to earn money to free his devoted mother from unhappiness. Fine skating sequences, and Ruggles as tricky peddler, Bobby's friends, adds queer ethics, many laughs.

(A) Good of kind (Y) (C) Mostly very good

CAMPUS CONFESSIONS (Betty Grable, Hank Luisetti) (Para) Ridiculous "college" story with basketball climax. Students busy at play, eats, puppy romancing, razzing rich President who opposes athletics, and his queer son, till both become heroes! Inane, misleading but laughable travesty. Another "first of a series"!

(A) Mediocre (Y) (C) Probably amusing

CHRISTMAS CAROL (Reginald Owen, Gene Lockhart) (MGM) Fine screening of Dickens that is Dickens, done with dignity and truth in character, action, dialog and settings. Tempo slightly fast at times and one or two Hollywood "effects" are the only flaws in otherwise excellent film.

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

COWBOY AND THE LADY (Gary Cooper, Merle Oberon) (UA) Artificial social-contrast comedy. Sheltered, inhibited heiress breaks from selfish father and marries, incognito, a benighted cowboy. Complications end as expected. "Action" slight and character values suffer from narrow-gauge acting. Fine role by Davenport.

(A) (Y) Fairly amusing (C) Little interest

DOWN ON THE FARM (Jones Family Series) (Fox) Home burns, so family go vacationing to auntie's farm. Farical doings, puppy love, cheap politics, crazy kidnapping, till Mr. Jones wins cornhusking contest with quite unsportsmanlike outside aid. Corn liquor figures large. Laughable stuff of doubtful taste.

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

DRAMATIC SCHOOL (Rainer, Goddard, Alan Marshall) (MGM) Stage ambition drives heroine through factory-work by night, dramatic school by day, dreams, romance and disillusion, to final triumph. Some trivial and unconvincing stuff combined with much drama of real power. Notable roles by Rainer and Sondergaard.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) Prob. good (C) No

KENTUCKY (Loretta Young, Richard Greene) (Fox) Expert Technicolor film of great pictorial charm in story about fine horses and fine people. Simple, appealing romance, genuine human values and character interest. Notable role by Brennan as grand old Southern colonel. Authentic, colorful, suspenseful Derby race climax.

(A) (Y) Excellent (C) Probably mature

A MAN TO REMEMBER (Edward Ellis, Ann Shirley) (RKO) Strong, honest, utterly human story of courageous horse-and-buggy doctor's struggles and triumphs in lifetime of service. Notable role by Ellis. Expert direction and acting make "film to remember." Intelligent and thought-provoking.

(A) Excellent (Y) Very good (C) Beyond them

NANCY DREW, DETECTIVE (Bonita Granville, Frankie Thomas, John Litel) (Warner) Engaging little thriller. Lawyer's keen, irrepressible, teen age daughter, bent on being detective, runs down villains with aid of staunch boy friend. Pleasantly puzzling, without undue violence. Another "first" of rather promising "series"

(A) Good of kind (Y) (C) Rather good

SAY IT IN FRENCH (Milland, Bradna) (Para) Frothy, sophisticated comedy of complications. Hero and French bride keep marriage secret to help his family out of financial difficulties, she masquerading as maid while he pretends engagement to wealthy girl. Forced situations, some in bad taste. Ridiculous chase at end.

(A) Inane (Y) Unsuitable (C) No

SPRING MADNESS (M. O'Sullivan, L. Ayres) (MGM) Light, amusing, rather enjoyable comedy of college youth. Despite some farcial exaggerations, wholesome serious underlying romantic element. Clever dialog, smartly produced, well acted except for Burgess Meredith's overdone eccentric role.

(A) Good (Y) Good (C) Doubtful interest

STABLEMATES (Wallace Beery, Mickey Rooney) (MGM) Strong, appealing picture of low-level life with racetrack purses as sole aim. Drunken veterinary, of crooked past, regenerated by affection of boy pal whose discarded racehorse he saves for victory. Human and convincing despite some false notes.

(A) (Y) Mostly fine of kind (C) Doubtful

THE SHINING HOUR (Crawford, Sullavan, Douglas, Young) (MGM) Oldest son brings cabaret dancer wife to ultra-gorgeous "farm" home. Married brother falls in love with her. Tense situation till two wives restore status quo in startling style. Convincing triangle drama, fine in acting, dialog and character interest.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) Too mature (C) No

TRADE WINDS (Frederic March, J. Burnett) (U. A.) Unique, clever detective-murder-mystery with philandering hero-detective chasing love, liquor and supposed murderess-heroine around the world. High comedy by Ann Sothern as drunken secretary, and Bellamy as dumb detective. Deftly sexy throughout.

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

YOUNG IN HEART (Roland Young, Gaynor, Burke, Godard, Dupree, Fairbanks) (UA) Engaging, chronically crooked family of four, firmly averse to work, find sweet, rich old lady an easy mark. But her faith in their "goodness" brings convincing reform. Slow, whimsical character comedy finely done, intelligently amusing.

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