

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.

ALWAYS IN TROUBLE (Jane Withers, Jean Rogers) (Fox) Preposterous, over-acted comedy with dash of melodrama. Jane again incredibly resourceful and cleverer than adults. Her connivings get family into precarious situations including encounter with smugglers, outwitted by Jane in their kidnapping scheme.

(A) Absurd (Y) Depends on taste (C) Doubtful

BLONDIE (Arthur Lake, Penny Singleton) (Columbia) First of another series (cartoon strip) offers hilarious inanity about ultra-stupid salesman, his nice little wife, and endless mistakes and farcically compromising situations. Meritorious for little noise, much funny pantomime, and generally laughable stuff.

(A) Hardly (Y) (C) Funny

DAWN PATROL, THE (Errol Flynn, Rathbone, Niven) (Warner) British flying-base setting for starkly tragic, telling portrayal of war's futile waste. Some exaggerated heroics, but effective realism in military discipline sacrificing young lives to war machine. Fine acting and production, but depressing as entertainment.

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Grim (C) No

GOING PLACES (Dick Powell, Anita Louise) (Warner) Musical farce about salesman-hero crashing summer resort to get business, mistaken for great jockey, forced to ride wild horse in steeplechase. Much singing of checkered quality and comedy effort with little spark. Amusement values quite spotty.

(A) Stupid (Y) (C) Little value

GREAT MAN VOTES, THE (John Barrymore) (RKO) Distinctive, often engaging role by Barrymore as former Harvard scholar, after wife's death a drunken, but still pedantic night-watchman, finally reformed by his two ultra-precocious children and crude politics. Largely artificial, unreal, and sometimes absurd.

(A) (Y) Mostly entertaining (C) Little interest

OUT WEST WITH THE HARDYS (Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone) (MGM) Another good Hardy film. Family jaunts West, father to help old friend's legal troubles, Mickey to be shown up as tenderfoot. Mickey dominates whole, but he should learn from Lewis Stone to drop mannerisms when they become too pronounced.

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

PACIFIC LINER (McLaglen, C. Morris, Wendy Barrie) (RKO) Grim melodrama with some strong character interest, laid below-decks of Shanghai-San Francisco freighter. Doctor and nurse fight cholera, chief engineer fights to keep up steam with dying crew. Grisly cremations of dead add to depressingly entertaining struggle.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) Dbtfl. value (C) No

SON OF FRANKENSTEIN (Rathbone, Karloff, Lugosi) (Univ) Scientist-son of first Frankenstein restores laboratory, brings monster back to life, with gruesome consequences. Weird settings. Misses mark as super spine-chiller, often amusing in effort to "scare." Good acting provides chief interest.

(A) Hardly (Y) No value (C) No

STORY OF A CHEAT, THE (Written, produced, acted, directed by Sacha Guitry) (Gallic) Unique tour-de-force in films. Guitry only speaker of both dialog and commentary. English titles by John Erskine. Clever, risqué story of boy-to-man career of enforced crookedness. Fine cast acts silently. Guitry speaks.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) (C) By no means

TARNISHED ANGEL (Sally Eilers, Lee Bowman) (RKO) Gambling-house-entertainer-heroine, forced by detective to leave town, turns fake evangelist and "converts" crowds with big financial success. Finally believes her own gospel and marries detective, her old nemesis. Supposed expose of religious racketeering.

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

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY (Bob Hope, Shirley Ross) (Para) Merry, sophisticated little farce-comedy of married couples, money troubles, other man, other woman, separation, but coming baby solves all. Free and easy social behaviour with heavy drinking featured. Rather well done by good cast. Hope surprisingly good.

(A) Good of kind (Y) Better not (C) No

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING (Haley, Oakie, Menjou) (Fox) Lively, merry farce-comedy with involved, unique plot, well directed and acted. Haley engaging as contest winner duped and exploited by "ad" agency to get average man's reaction to various merchandise. Climaxed by highly amusing war scare sequence.

(A) (Y) Entertaining (C) Probably amusing

THERE'S THAT WOMAN AGAIN (Melvyn Douglas, V. Bruce) (MGM) Breezy, sophisticated mystery farce, mildly puzzling. Parts amusing, but Bruce painfully distorts dumb wife role, and some loose ends and prosaic solution weaken story. Funny but highly suggestive climax. Douglas deft as usual.

(A) Fair (Y) Sophisticated (C) No

TORCHY GETS HER MAN (Glenda Farrell, Barton MacLane) (Warner) Rather good little puzzler in "Torchy Blane" series, with no undue violence. Elusive forger poses as U. S. Secret Service man until policeman hero gets him and gang with help of breezy little newspaper fiancée and engaging police dog.

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

YOUNG DOCTOR KILDARE (Lew Ayres, L. Barrymore) (MGM) First picture of very promising series. Realistic human story of medical ambitions and ideals of fine old country doctor's son. His sturdy performance as interne wins favor of crotchety but great doctor (notable role by Barrymore). Convincing, appealing, dramatic, dignified.

(A) (Y) Very good (C) Doubtful interest

ZAZA (Colbert, Marshall, Lahr, Westley) (Para) Opens with dizzy tempo to show frantic temperament and loose morals of common little vaudeville heroine. Then real love for the stolid Marshall, then disillusion and farewell. Best efforts of good cast fail to transform the antique very much.

(A) Good of kind (Y) Better Not (C) No