

Langley reviews

'Tora, Tora, Tora' bombs as film art

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Five Easy Pieces—This movie cannot be called a complete success, simply because many of its scenes just do not come off, especially in the first half-hour. When the scenes do work it is partly because of good scripting and superior work in small roles, but mainly because of the acting of Jack Nicholson. He gives the definitive portrayal of a hollow shell of a man, one of the great screen performances. Though deeply flawed and drastically uneven, the film finally gives the impression of being very fine. Above all, Nicholson should not be missed.—G

Where's Poppa—Ruth Gordon is merely grotesque, and George Segal's manic

comedy acting gets to be a bit much, but the film is slickly made and manages to stir up quite a few big laughs. Ron Leibman is very good and Trish Van Devere is beautiful to watch.—CH

Catch 22—Mike Nichol's new movie starts off very well, then goes straight downhill. In the end only the farce scenes come off, the connecting of war and capitalism being particularly poorly done. Moreover, the film seems edited down sloppily from many times its length (and it's not just the structure). Not really bad, but very disappointing.—CH, D

Tora, Tora, Tora—The first half hour of this is not a movie, but a boring and

skimpy history lesson, with the characters standing around explaining everything to each other. After that it gets better, almost in spite of itself. Some of the facts presented are interesting and astounding, and the attack itself is magnificently staged. It will leave you breathless. Zero as cinema art, but as a war movie, it has its moments.—CH

numbers are merely entertaining when they should be forceful and the satire is infantile when it should be savage. The director, in his first assignment, chooses to borrow freely from the other directors in his style, and the result is a stylistically incoherent mess and his scenes go on far too long. There are a few good lines, and some nice quiet moments, but it's not enough.—R

You Only Live Twice—An only fair James Bond thriller. By this time the series was getting pretty gimmicky, and the special effects are the worst in the entire group. Sean Connery looks pretty bored with it all.—R

Thunderball—By far the worst of the Bond series. The makers of this movie seem more interested in photographing beautiful underwater scenes than in furthering the plot and the result is a total lack of suspense. Add to this a very weak script and you don't have much of a movie.—R

Gone With The Wind—The old standby is still making the rounds as it will be centuries from now. See it again.—R, G (in 70mm, but beware, it is no good in this format)

The Virgin and the Gypsy—The story from which this is adapted does not seem to have been one of D.H. Lawrence's best, but second-string Lawrence is still

extremely good and there is a lightness here lacking in "Women in Love." The adaptation could not be better. It is beautifully photographed and directed and supremely well acted with a special feeling for time and place. Altogether a superb motion picture.—D

2001: A Space Odyssey—This must be the most boring great motion picture ever made, but a great motion picture it definitely is. There is so much depth to it that even four or five viewings cannot gather it all in. With its beautiful photography and high intelligence, the snail-like pacing simply does not matter.—D (in 70mm)

The Owl and the Pussycat—The plot line for this is very trite as can be seen in the drippy last scene, but most of it is absolutely hilarious, thanks to bright comedy lines, inventive direction and Barbra Streisand. The incomparable Barbra just keeps getting better and better.—R

There's a Girl in My Soup—A numbingly convention sex comedy, leering and unfunny, with scenes that look as if they came from a bad Grace Kelly movie. Peter Sellers starts with a performance of great dry wit, but even he succumbs to the general lack of fizzle. Slick, professional, worthless.—G

Brewster McCloud—A tiresome piece of fashionable cinema. Director Altman tries to outdo his "MASH" in the outrageousness of its humor, but his jokes are weak, and he repeats them too often.

Moreover, the film seems edited and photographed by a computer fed with last year's art movies. Strictly for pseudo-intellectuals.—G

The following have not been reviewed. Opinions are those of a consensus of critics.

Love Story—High style gush.—D, R Doctor's Wives—High style soap opera.—R Little Fauss and Big Halsey—A motorcycle picture with Robert Redford and Michael J. Pollard. Pretty lousy.—R Rio Lobo—A western directed by Howard Hawks and starring John Wayne. One of their worst.—R, G

When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth—Son of "One Million, B.C." Stupendously terrible.—G

The Three-Cornered Bed—Another one of the Varsity's despicable skin flicks. Isn't it about time that theatre was boycotted?—CH

Announcements

The Carolina Union Board needs a new female member, preferably freshman or sophomore. Interested persons should come to the A.W.S. meeting Monday night, Feb. 15, at 6:45 in room 217 of the Union. A.W.S. will elect the new Board member at this meeting.

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