

On The Area Movie Scene

'Viva Max' & 'Gaily, Gaily' Entertain

By HARVEY ELLIOTT Entertainment Editor

CHAPEL HILL

Best Bet: VIVA MAX! (G)—Max is this Mexican general who decides, one sunny tourist's day in 1969, to recapture the Alamo in the name of honor and Mexico. What provides the sparks are Peter Ustinov as Max and Jonathan Winters as the National Guard Brigadier General and part-time mattress salesman sent by Texas to defend the shrine. Filmed on location, to the horror of the Daughters of the Confederacy (or Daughters of Texas or somebody.) (At the Carolina through Wednesday, shows at

12:45, 2:17, 3:49, 5:21, 7:05 & 8:49.)

THE SECRET SEX LIVES OF ROMEO AND JULIET (X)—The newest attraction in the Varsity Theatre's current culture festival (which got off to a rousing start with "Free Grass"). It's very doubtful if this flick has ever played an indoor theatre, but our local manager is beginning to rival the Midway Drive-In as far as spice and artistic integrity is concerned. And what is this crap about "Best Erotic Film" at the Cannes Film Festival? Come on. (At the Varsity through Saturday, shows at 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9.)

GAILY, GAILY (GP)—If "Secret Sex Lives" isn't held over (as most of them are),

we'll get a real treat at the first of the week with GAILY, GAILY, a nostalgic account of a cub reporter in bawdy, bawling Chicago of the early 1900's, starring Beau Bridges as a country boy (actually Ben Hecht, who wrote the "autobiography"). Melina Mercouri plays a lovable madam (aren't they all?) and it's supposed to be great fun. (Starts Sunday at the Varsity if we're lucky, shows at 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9.)

SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS (not rated)—The traumatic experiences of a William Inge teenager in the roaring Kansas twenties. Warren Beatty made an auspicious debut; Natalie Wood made a surprisingly good showing (for which she was Oscar-nominated). Pretty high-class soap, with some good moments. Watch for younger bit players Sandy Dennis and Phyllis Diller. (Thursday at the Carolina, shows at 12:45, 2:49, 4:53, 6:57 & 9:01.)

DURHAM

Best Bet: THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY? (GP)—Nominated for 9 Academy Awards (with a serious omission in the Best Picture category), this is one of the year's most fascinating films. A marathon dance in 1932 provides the "microcosm of life" for an existentialist, extremely oppressive story of several contestants from a Depression America. Nominated for acting Oscars are Jane Fonda, Gig Young and Susannah York. (At the Yorktowne, shows at 12:35, 2:43, 4:58, 7:16 & 9:34.)

THE COMPUTER WORE TENNIS SHOES (G)—Son of "The Misadventures of Merlin Jones" I guess, except Tommy Kirk and Annette Funicello have grown up, so Disney has hired a couple of new faceless stars. College boy, gets hooked up to computer, is brilliant, stuns the world, but gets real messed up in private life. Extra added attraction: Oscar nominee for Best Animated Short Subject: Disney's IT'S TOUGH TO BE A BIRD. Also rated G, naturally. (At the Northgate, check Durham paper for starting times.)

I AM CURIOUS (YELLOW) (X)—"Boring. It's nothing. Don't go." John Haber, President, Carolina Union (At the Rialto, shows at 12:57, 3, 5:03, 7:06 & 9:14.)

SHENANDOAH (G)—Jimmy Stewart tearjerker about the Civil War and the family in Virginia who just couldn't stay uninvolved. The story of our lives. (At the Center Saturday only at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.)

VIVA MAX! (G)—At the Carolina, shows at 1:05, 2:42, 4:19, 5:56, 7:33 & 9:10.

RALEIGH

Best Bet: THE STERILE CUCKOO (GP)—Liza Minelli is favored to win 1969's Oscar for her portrayal of the kookie



BEAU BRIDGES IN "GAILY GAILY"

Pookie and the movie is a nice little ode to something, with a sincerity so often lacking in young love stories. Wendell Burton is a Charlter Brown lover, and Dory Previn's song "Come Saturday Morning" is also Oscar-nominated. (At the Varsity, shows at 3:30, 5:18, 7:10 & 9:05.)

BEN-HUR (G)—This monumental picture, 10 years later. All restyled and improved (a la "Gone With The Wind"—the only way M-G-M can make money nowadays is to dress up their

oldies), it's still impressive, although doubtful in this age of the "think film" whether it would win 11 Oscars in '69. It was '59's Best Picture and Actor (Charlton Heston). (At the Village, shows at 1:30 & 7:30.)

TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN (GP)—Zany Woody Allen doesn't disappoint us here, he just inundates us until we can't take it any more. Nothing would be funny after the first frantic hour of this. Even Life is anticlimactic. (At the State, shows at 1:15, 2:50, 4:25, 6, 7:35 & 9:12.)

PAINT YOUR WAGON (GP)—Senator Wayne Morse makes his film debut as a Gold Rusher. Also starred are Lee Marvin, Jean Seberg and Clint Eastwood—all singing. The best song, though, is "They Call the Wind Maria" and it belongs to Harve Presnell. Harve Presnell? (At the Colony, shows nightly at 8, matinees at 2 on Wednesdays and weekends.)

BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID (GP)—At the Ambassador, shows at 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9.

THE COMPUTER WORE TENNIS SHOES and IT'S TOUGH TO BE A BIRD (both G)—At the Cardinal, shows at 12:41, 2:44, 4:47, 6:50 & 8:53.

GREENSBORO

Best Bet: THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY (GP)—At the Cinema, shows at 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15 & 9:20.

DOWNHILL RACER (GP)—A what's-at-the-top? story for skiers. Ignore the soap opera, revel in the fantastic photography, study Robert Redford as one of the more promising young actors around. Gene Hackman (Buck Barrow) is not as good as you'd think as Redford's coach, and I can't figure why not. (At Janus 2, check Greensboro paper for showtimes.)

SHORT FILM PROGRAM (NR)—Janus Film Society



USTINOV AND ASTIN IN "MAX"

Free Flicks Feature 'Ziegfeld' & Horror

The story of showman Florenz Ziegfeld will be unfolded tonight in one of the biggest musical extravaganzas ever put on film.

THE GREAT ZIEGFELD, winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture and Best Actress (Luise Rainer), is tonight's free flick at the Carolina Union.

All the mastery and showmanship that made Ziegfeld great is exhibited in such numbers as "A Pretty Girl Is Like a Melody," the inspiration for a similar routine in "Funny Girl," which also spins a Ziegfeld fable.

The original Funny Girl Fannie Brice is featured in THE GREAT ZIEGFELD. She sings the immortal "My Man." Shows tonight are at 7 and 10:30 only, due to the length of the film.

On Saturday night, a chilling thriller about THE SHUTTERED ROOM will be shown at 7, 9:30 and 11:30 p.m.

There are some doors which should never be opened. Such a door leads to the shuttered room: Gig Young, an Oscar nominee for his current performance in "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?," co-stars with Carol Lynley in the horror film, a 1968 release.

The plot revolves around an old house inherited by Miss Lynley and the mysterious circumstances surrounding her return there one summer vacation.

Sunday's film is THE THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR, a Super Sunday series flick. Shows are at 7 and 9:30, subscription only.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a list of answers for yesterday's puzzle.

Answers to yesterday's crossword puzzle: 1-Flaps, 2-Heavenly body, 3-Warm, 4-Vehicle, 5-Apprehend, 6-Sum, 7-Wideawake, 8-Send forth, 9-Large oven, 10-Preposition, 11-Shy, 12-Sailor (colloq.), 13-Hypothetical force, 14-Hindu cymbals, 15-Compass point, 16-Footlike part, 17-Trousers, 18-Greek letter, 19-Part of stove, 20-Portico, 21-Military student, 22-Think, 23-Most ancient, 24-Unlocked, 25-Condescending look, 26-Possess, 27-Musical instrument, 28-Lairs, 29-Golf mound, 30-Egyptian skink, 31-Perform, 32-Symbol for calcium, 33-Bitter vetch, 34-Overflow, 35-Natural, 36-Endowments, 37-Genus of maples, 38-Narrow opening, 39-Renumerated, 40-Powerful person, 41-Scottish outfit, 42-Dude, 43-Poem, 44-Male, 45-Residue, 46-Unit of Portuguese currency, 47-Saturated, 48-Fondles, 49-Cease, 50-Ached, 51-Swerves, 52-Musical drama, 53-Frigid, 54-Toward, 55-shelter, 56-Want, 57-Icelandic writing, 58-Small child, 59-Number, 60-Pronoun.

ROCK CONCERT MYRTLE BEACH EASTER featuring 'TRACTOR' plus 'WILDFIRE' Columbia's new rock rage Myrtle Beach Convention Center 2 BIG SHOWS March 28th, 29th Admission: \$2.00—Tickets Available From: MYRTLE BEACH CONVENTION CENTER MYRTLE BEACH, S. C. WRITE TODAY



NATALIE WOOD



JONATHAN WINTERS

Intense 'Frat' Plays At GM

By ALAN TEASLEY

The set consists of two platforms. The actors wear grey poncho-like robes. The lighting is an unrelenting white glare. The audience is seated on either side of the playing area and no one is farther than ten feet from one of the platforms. There are no characters, no dialogue, no plot.

FRAT & GRIM is not a play in any traditional sense of the word, but it is, in every respect, fascinating theater.

Conceived and directed by Russell Graves, FRAT & GRIM has no script as such. For the most part, the production was created during long rehearsals as an integrated body of actions, images, and sounds. The basis of the conception was the idea of the medieval Everyman plays, but the mode of presentation is akin to that of O'Horgan or Grotowski.

The life of Everyman is acted out between the two battling forces of Frat and Grim—Life and Death or Good and Evil perhaps. There is primal sin and Everyman, trapped by surrounding forces, cries "Free me!" He is finally freed by Grim and burdened with the seven deadly sins.

Finally, with Grim seemingly triumphant, Everyman speaks. "I am alone. I refuse Grim. I will pray to my own existence. There is nothing else."

FRAT & GRIM belongs not to the literary dramatic tradition, but to the theater of gesture, mime, and ritual. Mr. Graves has molded his group of actors into a tightly-knit ensemble that performs more as a unit than as a collection of individuals. Their precision of movement and timing is nothing short of amazing.

The words in FRAT & GRIM are used more as elements in the overall sound texture of the piece rather than for their intrinsic meaning. The actors—except for two or three who have distinguishable roles—serve as a kind of chorus. They sing, scream, laugh, weep, pound the stage, drum on the wall, and make really creepy wind sounds. Together the precisely timed movements and sounds give FRAT & GRIM a sense of rhythm and essentially musical excitement.

It is difficult (and probably inappropriate) to single out performances within the ensemble itself, but William Ellington's performance as Everyman deserves special praise. His drunken mumbblings as "God" are truly pathetic and tremendously moving. Whether clawing his way along the floor to escape Grim, falling flat on his face, or acting out each of the seven deadly sins, he exhibits an excellent sense of physical control and emotional range.

There were a few moments when I personally felt that the action became a bit too abstract and the production lost some of the gut-immmediacy established in its first fifteen minutes. But these were only minor lapses in an otherwise excellent evening. FRAT & GRIM is an intense, absorbing, and often beautiful theatrical experience. Such a thing is rare in Chapel Hill. See it if you can.

Advertisement for Town and Campus Apartments. Features a photo of a woman and text: 'Time to change your scene? DON'T until you've seen... SHORT TERM LEASES NOW AVAILABLE. 15-501 At Garrett Rd. 2 bedrooms, furnished or unfurnished, carpeted, all electric, refrigerator, range, disposal, master TV antenna, laundry facilities. Office open 7 days a week. Mon.-Fri. 8:00-12:00—1:00-7:00 Sat.-Sun. 9:00-12:00—1:00-6:00 RESIDENT, MGR. 489-0600 or 489-6207'

Advertisement for the 1969 Cannes Film Festival Best Erotic Film. Features a photo of a couple and text: 'WINNER 1969 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL BEST EROTIC FILM The Secret Sex Lives of Romeo & Juliet FROM THE DIRECTOR WHO GAVE YOU THE NOTORIOUS DAUGHTER OF FANNY HILL STUART LANCASTER TIFFANY LANE ANTOINETTE MAYNARD 1-3-5-7-9 SHOWS: Varsity 642-3661'

Advertisement for The Blue Angel. Text: 'HAPPENING! The Blue Angel 452 W. Franklin St. 967-1510 Aeolian Piano In Person: TONIGHT MEADE PRINCE A baritone with a Paul Robeson-like voice DAVE OLNEY GUITAR DAVE OLNEY—Guitar Lunches, Suppers 11:30 A.M. - Midnight Every Day Except Sunday'

Advertisement for Atlanta 500. Text: 'Live and in Color—Closed Circuit Television DIRECT FROM ATLANTA RACEWAY ATLANTA 500 GRAND NATIONAL STOCK CAR RACE See the cars and drivers bigger than life on the ALL NEW GIANT T.V. SCREEN! Sunday, March 22 at 1:00 P.M. The Winston-Salem Coliseum All Tickets—\$7.00 Showing in North Carolina Only SPECIAL Student advance sale discount coupon—Save \$1.00 on each ticket ordered by mail. Mail me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$6.00 each. My check or money order for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. ADDRESS NAME Mail check and coupon to 4537 Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem, LIMITED TIME OFFER'

Comic strip panels with dialogue: 'IT'S NOT 'IS FAULT, SON, IT'S A DISEASE WITH 'IM. 'E CAN'T BEAR T' BE CROSSED, AN' 'E MUST 'AVE 'IS OWN WAY', 'VERY INTERESTIN'—OW LONG 'AVE YER 'AD THIS COMPLAINT?', 'WHO'S COMPLAININ'?' and 'PEANUTS MANUSCRIPT ALL FINISHED, EH? READY TO BE MAILED TO A PUBLISHER, I SEE...'

Comic strip panels with dialogue: 'WELL, GOOD LUCK... LOOK OUT FOR THAT TREE!', 'BONK!', and 'SO MUCH FOR THE MANUSCRIPT...'