

Cross Too Much to Bear

Dullness Entombs Stevens' 'Story'

By STEVE DIMEO
Entertainment Editor

In the beginning was the Herd and the Herd was Audience. And the Herd was with George Stevens, creator, for it glorified in the Word when the Word was at the Fox rather than in church.

For the pious Herd preferred the Word from Hollywood.

Now it came to pass that again the Word came forth from Hollywood. And the Word was more than one: It was Stilted, Trite, Disjointed and Boring. For the Son of Stevens had slouched towards Bethlehem to be born as a Frankenstein of dry old parchment.

Immaculate Zombie

And the conception was immaculate, for Max Von Sydow, Savior (would you believe statue?), was good and Good and all ogled in awe as he strolled in zombie-stature across the screen.

For he was Christ and he saw that he was Good. And from that time forward he began to preach.

But the life in Christ's lines was dead.

Behold! There was a Holy Host of Hundreds of guiding stars who strode their worthless ways with the strained, stereotyped and ineffectual Savior.

Behold Charlton Heston! yelling "Repent!" and hollering holly in the waters and Herod's cell as John the Baptist. Alas, for he was weak and the limp script was strong and the yelling went to his head and he lost it.

Editor Goes Hence

Behold Dav'ed McCallum! who escaped UNCLE only to betray a SON.

Behold Rod'ly McDow'ell! Car'roll Bak'er (not even her legs are showing)! Sal Min'eo! Shel'ley Win'ters (quickly before her ten seconds are up)! Ed' Wynn! (?) Jose' Ferrer! Claude' Rains! And oth'ers!

Behold! the entertainment editor who has got himself hence from the theatre after only two of the three-and-a-half hours. For truly he knew how it would end. And the story and the words were nothing new.

But verily, verily, he says unto you, the Son of Stevens proved a preacher, not a story-teller at all.

The Book Better

For "The Greatest Story Ever Told" was not a story. For it was resurrected thus from what is written. And the movie was no better than the Book.

For it had come to pass that the film only read from the Book

and the story was episodic words and incoherent scenes. And it was droll in spots but dull in all others.

For the movie was neither a fresh insight into the human character of Christ nor a spectacle of superhuman miracles. (Alas, in the hailed raising of Lazarus, the zombie is never even seen to rise.)

Nor, alas, could the Word make up its mind to be King James or Revised Standard.

Awkward Hallelujahs

And the words became awkward thoughts lifted from the Book's scenes not included; shy action became messengers, messengers and messengers; and drama came forth as orisons in unreal unison, and wide - open eyes, and desperate "Hallelujahs."

And the soundtrack's lugubrious lilt was just as exciting.

And even in that time the last-resort technique of photographic gimmicks like sentimental slow fade in-fade outs helped not the Son of Stevens from disastrous descension.

And the critic cried, "My Stevens! My Stevens! Why hast thou forsaken us?" For he was greatly disappointed.

And he gave us his post in the place.

And he was crucified with boredom.

For "The Greatest Story Ever Told" had in this way been told, told, told and it was dead, dead, dead. For it died in its resurrection.

And he said aloud, "Verily, verily, let the dead bury the dead."

And he said, "Cursed be the piece-makers who make pieces like this. For man cannot live by the dead alone."

Now in these days it has come to pass that the film cannot pass until its work is done at the Fox only after seven days.

But rejoice, for on the eighth day we rest.

In the name of Stevens, his Son and the Holy Host, Amen.

NOTICE

CLASSIFIED Deadline: 2:00 p.m. day preceding publication. Deadline for Monday, however, is 10 a.m. Friday.

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LOST: Tiny black terrier near 14th and Hilyard Tuesday afternoon. Did she follow you home? 343-3841.

FOUND: sweater at 17th and Kincaid. Must identify. Physical Plant.

LOST at Villard Hall: Girl's black J. C. Higgins 3-speed bicycle. Reward. Call 344-4558.

BLACK umbrella lost April 20. Chapman Hall. Please return, sentimental value. 343-2462.

LOST: Brown wallet Friday. 343-4443.

LOST: Pair of glasses and green jacket. Reward. Ext. 1646. Rich.

FOUND: A candidate who wants to help the students. Vote Gragg.

PERSONAL

PETITIONS are now available for Asklepiads pre-medical honorary in box, 301 SU, or call Jerry, 344-9153.

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ATTENTION: Spring Picnic is cancelled.

BAHA'I: Faith for Modern Man. Susan Campbell Friday noon.

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GRAGG? ! ? !

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