

Weekend Preview

By **CHRIS HOUGLUM**
Emerald Staff Writer

The McDonald Theatre continues this weekend to carry the best comedic double bill to play Eugene in many months. The two-fold offering features Peter Sellers in the hilarious romp "After the Fox," and follows this up with another fine farce, "What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?" with Dick Shawn, James Coburn, and Sergio Fantoni.

In the former production Sellers plays an Italian crook, the "Fox," a reputable criminal known for his brilliant heists and prison escape artistry (five escapes in five attempts). After pulling off his latest escape, Sellers is asked by acquaintance Akim Tamiroff to aid in the smuggling of a stolen Egyptian gold shipment into a small Italian fishing village. No ordinary mastermind, he works out a plan in which he poses as the director of a picture on the smuggling of a stolen Egyptian gold shipment into a small Italian fishing village. Get it? Things run smoothly, with a cast of extras doing the dirty work for the ingenious crook, but the intervention of Italian police causes the plan to backfire, with unbelievably wild complications ensuing.

SELLERS IS SUPERB

Sellers is, as usual, superbly tailored to his role, and Vittorio De Sica deserves praise for his direction, although sometimes it is hard to determine whether he is directing a satire on movie direction, or whether he is instead doing a satire on a criminal doing a satire on a director doing a satire on a criminal. Anyway, it seems evident that both Sellers and de Sica had as much fun making the film as viewers will in seeing it.

"What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?" exploits the "Hogan's Heroes" premise that World War II was a blast, but manages to easily overcome the where-have-we-heard-this-before plot with fine comic direction and strong performances by the entire cast. It concerns the confrontation of American troops attempting to capture a small Italian village (no, not the one in the Sellers picture) with the Italian troops within. The Americans have prepared themselves for full-scale opposition, but Sergio Fantoni's Italian troops surrender happily and invite officers Dick Shawn, James Coburn, and Co. to a fiesta. Revelry leads to buddy-buddy relations all around.

The American field marshal doesn't know this, thinking instead that the area is under siege. He sends an aide to investigate. Shawn and Fantoni, facing demotion in the light of circumstances, must eventually stage a mock battle, then overthrow German troops who rush in to complicate things.

Best performer of the whole show is Harry Morgan, of "Pete and Gladys" fame, who is wonderful as an American major slowly going insane while lost in an immense catacomb system beneath the village. I nominate him for a belated Academy Award.

"THE BLUE MAX"

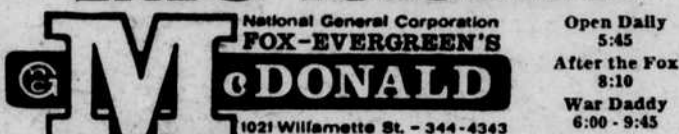
"The Blue Max," now playing at the Fox, combines fantastic camerawork with good performances by George Peppard and James Mason in formulating a believable yarn about an over-ambitious WWI German pilot who so wants to win the coveted Blue Max decoration for shooting down 20 enemy planes that he lets virtually nothing stand between himself and his goal. As Brune Stachel, Peppard is often, captivating as he fights a losing battle with his ambition and his enemies throughout the film.

Direction is sensitive, with an aura of tragedy permeating the entire production. Special film sequences depicting with frightening accuracy the ferocity of aerial combat are of the highest caliber.

"Doctor Zhivago" approaches the end of a successful run at the Mayflower this week, boasting fine performances by Julie Christie and Alec Guinness and some beautiful photography of the Russian countryside in Revolutionary times. Omar Sharif does little more than look sensitive throughout the picture, most of his talent wasted by the fact that he is adapted to the script, rather than vice versa. All in all, the production is still well worth watching.

To switch the subject to campus activities—another sequence in the Film Society's "Underground series" is scheduled for 150 Science at 8 p.m. tonight; the Sunday afternoon film feature is "The Cardinal," 2:30 and 8 p.m.; and the Film Society is active again Sunday with its presentation of "The Brig" at 7 p.m. and again at 9.

ENDS TUESDAY!



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