

84 Charing Cross Road

Transatlantic correspondence poignantly portrayed by
Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins.

BY BRADY JENSEN

In 1949, Helene Hanff read an ad in the *Saturday Review of Literature* for Marks & Co., a seller of antiquarian books in London. Her request for a Hazlitt and a Newmann began a twenty-year correspondence with the booksellers in this brimming-over shop. That correspondence, between a New York screenwriter and a reserved London book-lover, is faithfully and poignantly portrayed in the film *84 Charing Cross Road*, the address of Marks & Co.

Helene Hanff began writing plays in the 1930s, and then became a \$40-a-week script reader in the forties. With the advent of television, she wrote teleplays for Ellery Queen, and in the sixties began selling stories and articles to *Harper's* and the *New Yorker*. This film, like the successful play of the same name, is based on Hanff's memoir of this busy, productive period in her life. Hanff attended Temple University until the Depression forced her to leave college. She continued her study of English literature in the libraries of New York, but became frustrated because she couldn't take the books home to read "with a cup of coffee and cigarettes." Her discovery of Marks & Co. in 1949 provided a solution, as the shop responded to her endless requests for rare editions of English masters.

84 Charing Cross Road deftly weaves Hanff's pursuit of her knowledge and literature with strands of personal and cultural history, the wit of a skilled writer, and the warmth and tenderness of a lovely woman. Hanff's letters are more than purchase orders as she shares her opinions of

the books she receives and the progress of her career. The people in the shop, in their turn, write Hanff warm, personal letters full of news and gossip. Hanff's primary correspondent is Frank Doel (Anthony Hopkins), and he diligently seeks out books to fill her never-ending orders. During periods of food rationing in England, Hanff sends parcels of tinned meats, dried eggs and fruits to her friends. They respond with gracious letters of thanks and a hand-embroidered linen cloth.

The film exudes warmth. Hanff never meets her friends in London, but she and Doel carry on a trans-Atlantic love-affair for two decades. Bancroft and Hopkins fit comfortably into these roles, aging gracefully. For ninety minutes, the audience is drawn into their world of Chaucer and Donne, Elizabethan lyric poets and Latin translations of the Bible.

When I hear of a new film with Anne Bancroft, I know inside it will be good. In *84 Charing Cross Road*, we see a different Anne Bancroft, not the hard-driving passion of Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, nor the frosty attitude of Mrs. Robinson in *The Graduate*. This is a sensitive, often humorous and friendly Anne Bancroft. Twenty-four years after her first major film role in *Miracle Worker*, we are still seeing new sides of this woman. Never before have I liked Bancroft as a character the way I liked and enjoyed Helene Hanff. *84 Charing Cross Road* is a should-see film: Simple, off-beat, and tender. You will find it leads to a hot espresso, a soft chair, and a comfortable urge to pull out the leather-bound classics lurking in the corner of your library.

POSSIBILITIES . . .

Watch for *Working Girls*, due to open May 15. A surprising film about life in a middle-class Manhattan bordello. Next month: *Thoughts from the film's director, Lizzie Borden, and a review.*

A Room With A View just started its 2nd year at 5th Avenue Cinema. If you haven't seen this charming Victorian film of E.M. Forster's novel, do so.

Extreme Prejudice, now showing at The Fox Theater, is an old-fashioned western with a slightly updated exoskeleton (filthy rich drug dealer, duplicitous government men). Starring a trimmer Nick Nolte,

Powers Boothe and Maria Conchita Alonso, the acting's pretty good.

Kangaroo, now playing at the Movie House, stars Colin Friels and Judy Davis in a film roughly based on a struggle for D.H. Lawrence's services as mouthpiece for fascistic factions in post World War I Australia. Good acting, especially Davis.

Black Widow, showing at the Milwaukie, notable for excellent acting by Theresa Russell and Debra Winger, and a surprising depth in the relationship of cat and mouse (spider and fly?).

— Eleanor Malin

The best solution to smoke pollution:

Helps eliminate indoor
airborne impurities.



Call today for a free
demonstration in your office.

ELECTRONIC PURIFIERS
4723 S.E. HAWTHORNE
233-0569

Looking for

After Hours?

EXPOSE YOURSELF TO

The City Nightclub



Portland's only
all-age, gay
nightclub.

Shows every Friday
and Saturday at
11:30 p.m.

624 S.W. 13th (between Morrison & Alder)

224-CITY

CINEMA 21 REPERTORY N.W. 21 223-4722 & HOYT 4722 ONE WEEK ONLY! May 15-21 Broken Mirrors has a lovely black humor... Powerful, well-acted, full of rage." <i>New York Daily News</i> BROKEN MIRRORS A Film by MARLEEN GORRIS PORTLAND PREMIERE	KOIN CENTER CINEMAS SW 3RD 243-3515 & CLAY 3515 COMING SOON "TWO THUMBS UP!" — SISKEL & EBERT & THE MOVIES "TASTEFULLY EXPLICIT..." — Jami Bernard, NEW YORK POST "A BRAZENLY ORIGINAL FILM ABOUT HIRED SEX." — J. Hoberman, VILLAGE VOICE ★★★★★ — William Wolf, GANNETT NEWS SERVICE WORKING GIRLS DO NOT ENTER UNDER 18 ADMITTED	MOVIE HOUSE 1220 S.W. 222-TAYLOR 4595 COMING SOON They shared everything — except success. PRICK UP YOUR EARS
---	--	--

SEVEN GABLES THEATERS

THE PRIMARY DOMAIN

IS

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT !!

CHECK OUT THE NEWS:

- NEW SOUND SYSTEM
- NEW MUSIC
- NEW D.J.
- NEW STAFF
- NEW COLORS
- ELECTRONIC GAMES
- NEW HOURS: 4pm-2:30am
- IMPROVED VENTILATION
- MELLOW TIME 4-7 NIGHTLY
- JAZZ + WOMENS MUSIC: ITS HAPPY HOUR TOO!
- CRAZY SPECIALS EVERY NITE !!



Sunday May 3 LESBIAN AGING PROJECTS' **SPRING FLING**

Another crazy party by this town's best party givers.....

50's + dance music, prizes + contests !!!

Tues. May 5 **CINCO DE MAYO PARTY** at the P.D.

Pinata drink specials + taco bar !!! No Cover.

Wed. May 27 **HUNTER DAVIS IS BACK !!**

1033 NW 16TH

224-4135

Conquer the Urge to Smoke in 5 Hours. GUARANTEED.

- Give up tobacco, **without withdrawals or weight gain.** It's much easier than you think! Just ask our graduates. No pain, hypnosis, drugs or scare tactics. All it takes is 5 **personalized** one-hour sessions.

- No matter how many times you've tried to quit, we will help you stop smoking for good. **Guaranteed or your money back!**

- And our **one year free follow-up** program ensures that you'll remain a comfortable non-smoker for life.



Joe Walsh smoked
1 pack/day for
14 years.

- Call today for a free introductory consultation. **274-9561**,



STOP · SMOKING · FOR · LIFE

510 S.W. THIRD AVENUE

© 1987

PORTLAND, OR 97204

Good