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By Sam Massereth

BEST FOR 1943
The annual Academy meeting set for March 2, 1944, to make nominations for the best picture of last year.

Several films being considered for the academy, such as "For the Bell Tolls," "Madame X," and "The Song of Bernadette" cannot be included in this list because they haven't yet been shown on the screens of Oregon. And since we don't state our preferences on only from the pictures which played in Eugene during 1943.

"Which We Serve." Noel Coward's tribute to the grit of the war, especially men in her country, and their families, eclipsed the 1943's "Mrs. Miniver." The movie was naturalness, minus the backneyed or spoken or cliches. Not mere poignance, but drama, emanated from the screen.

"Air Force." The story of a young woman named Mary Ann, who flew her plane across the Pacific during Pearl Harbor was an example of what can be done with the ordinary. Drama and documentary at once, it had punch, virility, humor, memorability.

"Watch on the Rhine." A social and political essay, Lillian Hellman play bowed Broadway early in 1941. Paul Lukas and Lucille Watson gave top performances. Its best recommendation is that, when it appeared on the screen almost two years later, it was just as good, just as forceful a treatise on the subject as it was before America entered the fray.

"The Human Comedy." In the tale of a California town, where the war may appear remote, it is actually very close. William Holden spoke with compassion of goodness, but never preached. Mickey Rooney showed he could do more than a too-cute "kid," if anybody else set his mind to it, beautiful film.

"Random Harvest." Charm—tells this one. And why didn't it—with the drama in the care of Greer Garson and Paul Lukas, direction by Henry King, production by Frank Capra, and a compelling story by James Hilton, who has the difference between sentiment and sentimentality.

"Stage Door Canteen." No tunes, but by all odds the best musical. The wartime drama was touching if without "Heaven" heart. The guest performers were top-notch, the production was long but sook entertainment.

"The Moon Is Down." Outstanding among the many "occasional" pictures, this appeal to the intelligence and the constructive emotions without losing to the incitement of morose—emphasizing the point on the Steinbeck play was a record that "passive resistance" may be the best defense against tyranny, it implied that Gophers those who help themselves, showed that even "good" individuals among the enemy can be punished for their part in helping Hitler.

"The Hard Way." What has been melodrama because elegant if sobering drama, showing the abilities of Ida Lupino to convince through solid characterization.

"The Ox-Bow Incident." By Henry Fonda western with story overtones, exemplifying courage which can fall in ennobling way not for the thin-skinned. It was pointed out that man, until the power he has harvested, must learn to conquer himself before the ultimate in progress can begin.

"The Constant Nymph." The year's most eloquent love story, which sometimes tottered under the weight of whimsy, was a gem because of the performance of the young woman. A wonderful good musical score by the Wolfgang Korngold counterbalanced the delicacy of the romance.

In 11th and 12th places we nominate the two most enjoyable comedies of 1943, "Holy Matrimony," and "The More the Merrier." The remainder of our selecting would include "This Is My Life," "Casablanca," "So Proudly We Hail," "Shadow of a Doubt," "This Is the Army," "Life Begins at 8:30," "Desert Victory," and "A Lady Takes a Chance."

At Sunday: Nominations for best picture by individual.



MAE WEST cuts capers with **VICTOR MOORE** in "The Heat's On," scheduled for the Heilig screen starting today. **William Saxton** is their co-star.



FROM HIT PARADE to Hollywood went **Frank Sinatra**, whose first starring musical film, "Higher and Higher," held for four more days at the Mayflower.



SUN VALLEY is invaded by **Universal's Bud Abbott and Lou Costello** in their latest laugh hit now showing at the State theater, "Hit the Ice."



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Heilig Presents West vs. Moore

Advance notice on "The Heat's On," Columbia's musical extravaganza opening at the Heilig theater this Sunday lists a cast, besides the stars Mae West, Victor Moore and William Saxton, of feature players who will keep audiences warm whether any other form of heat is on or not.

There's Xavier Cugat and his rumba orchestra; there's songstress and piano playing whiz, Hazel Scott together with the high trump of trumpeters, Leonard Sues; lovely, warbling Mary Roche; David Lichine, actor, dance originator and director, extraordinary; Lester Allen, Alan Dinehart, Lloyd Bridges, Almira Sessions, and Lina Romay.

Tropic Temperature
Added to these hot ingredients, there are six songs by some of Hollywood's better known composers including: Jay Gorney, Edward Eliscu, Henry Myers, Julie Styne and Sammy Cahn. As sung by Mae West, Mary Roche, and Hazel Scott, these numbers are said to be high contestants for the hit parade.

The original screenplay, with suspense, glamour and guffaw producing situations, is a battle of wits and zags between Mae West and William Saxton with Victor Moore getting laughs at both ends and the middle.

Movie Cashes In On Juke Box Hit

Republic has cleverly capitalized on the current popularity of the juke box hit, "Pistol Packin' Mama" in its current picture sensation of the same title, scheduled to open Thursday at the Heilig on a double bill program.

Ruth Terry has the title role in the film, and Bob Livingston plays opposite her.

'North Star' Dances Produced by Lichine

Samuel Goldwyn engaged David Lichine, noted choreographer, to direct the dances in "The North Star," the story of the Russian people at the outbreak of the Russo-German conflict. The dances are part of a village festival in which the peasants participate prior to the invasion.

Lichine, former star of the Ballet Russe, gave up dancing two years ago to devote his time to the production of ballets. He has produced "The Prodigal Son," the Prokofiev ballets and "The Graduation Ball" at the Metropolitan in New York, and "Helen of Troy," presented by the Ballet Theatre. He has also been choreographer for a number of films.

Special music and lyrics were composed by Aaron Copland and Ira Gershwin for the dances which Lichine directs in "The North Star," which is coming to the Heilig theater Sunday, February 20.

Theater Programs

McDONALD: Through Tuesday, "Happy Land" and "The Girl from Monterey." Wednesday through Saturday, "Banjo on My Knee" and "In Old Chicago."

HEILIG: Through Wednesday, "The Heat's On." Thursday through Saturday, "Pistol Packin' Mama" and "Hail to the Rangers."

STATE: Through Wednesday, "Hit the Ice" and "Her Cardboard Lover." Thursday through Saturday, "The Merry Widow" and "Honeymoon Lodge."

MAYFLOWER: Through Wednesday, "Higher and Higher." Starting Thursday, "The Heat's On."

REX: Through Monday, "Flight for Freedom" and "Someone to Remember." Tuesday and Wednesday, "Seven Days' Leave" and "Ball of Fire." Thursday through Saturday, "Princess O'Rourke" and "Man from Music Mountain."



LIFE IN RUSSIA, before Hitler, is depicted in "The North Star" at the Heilig Feb. 20. Above, Farley Granger, Anne Baxter.



ACADEMY AWARD WINNER James Cagney and Marjorie Lord appear in "Johnny Come Lately," planned for Feb. 20 at the McDonald.

Robert Taylor In Screen Battle

Screen scraps have become increasingly strenuous in recent months, evidently reaching their peak with a battle between Robert Taylor and George Sanders in "Her Cardboard Lover," which opens at the State theater today.

As rivals for Norma Shearer, who co-stars with Taylor, they hurl buckets, suitcases, dishes and assorted vegetables at each other in a free-for-all.

George Cukor, the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer director, required all other players to remain out of range for the scene. He also heeded his own advice.

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Ameche Stars In 'Happy Land'

With its stirring picturization of MacKintay Kantor's sensational best-seller, "Happy Land," which is scheduled to open shortly at the McDonald theater, advance reports indicate that 20th Century-Fox has added still another to its impressive list of triumphs in transforming top literary properties to screen masterpieces.

More than thirty million readers have already thrilled to Kantor's beautiful and unforgettable story as a Saturday Evening Post story, as a run-away best-seller, as a Reader's Digest Fiction Feature and as a nationally circulated newspaper syndicate feature.

Now on the screen, the film, which features Don Ameche, Frances Dee, Harry Carey and Ann Rutherford, tells the story of the laughter, tears, love and courage of the people who are the heart of America, is already being acclaimed as one of the most human and inspiring stories ever to be filmed.

"Happy Land" deals with the effects of the war on one family in a typically American community, and of the strangest adventure that ever made every-day Americans overnight heroes.

The film's impressive cast is headed by Don Ameche in the role of Lew Marsh; Frances Dee as Agnes, his wife; Harry Carey as "Gramp," and Ann Rutherford as Lenore Prentiss.

McDonald Sets All-Time Hits

Two all-time hits in one great show! The flaming spectacle, "In Old Chicago," and the story of life on the turbulent Mississippi, "Banjo on My Knee," will open Wednesday at the McDonald theater.

Tyrone Power, Alice Faye, Don Ameche, Brian Donlevy, Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea and Walter Brennan—seven of the screen's outstanding stars—will be seen in these two great pictures. Power, Miss Faye, Ameche and Donlevy are the stars of the lusty, "In Old Chicago," while the remaining trio headline the cast of "Banjo on My Knee." Both films are 20th Century-Fox productions.

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and **ELAINE DENNIS**
That little blonde gal with the brunette voice. New songs—new gowns. Her 15th week and still the tops.

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