

Picture Previews

'Gypsy', 'Barabbas' Opening in Eugene This Week

At first glance, it might seem that the week's two big movies—"Gypsy," opening Wednesday at the Fox, and "Barabbas," slated to open Friday at the McDonald—are just more chapters in Hollywood's familiar success story.

"Gypsy" follows the time honored formula of a musical based on a Broadway play based on a popular autobiography. And "Barabbas" takes on even surer route—a spectacular based on a short passage in the Bible which has been expanded into

a lengthy movie. Both movies have been released long enough now for the movie industry to consider them box office hits. And both have been widely reviewed.

In both cases, reviews indicate the movies have something above the ordinary to offer movie-goers.

"Gypsy" is the story of the climb to fame of Gypsy Rose Lee, probably the best-known "stripper" of the century. Natalie Wood is cast as Gypsy, and Rosalind Russell portrays

her mother. Mother, it seems, sees a second chance to hit the big time through her youngest daughter, (in real life, June Haver), who tires of Momma and runs off. That leaves Gypsy, who is not very talented in most show business fields.

So Gypsy becomes a stripper. Fourteen songs, including the hits "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Small World," and "Together Wherever We Go," are included in the movie.

Some miscellaneous statistics gleaned from industry press releases about "Gypsy" indicate that Miss Wood's wardrobe for the movie—14 costumes—cost \$25,000. But press photos show that in many scenes, it's a case of Miss Wood being Natalie unadorned.

This is also Miss Russell's 45th motion picture. Other stars in the film include veteran actor Karl Malden and Paul Wallace. The Green Sheet, a movie re-

view publication of the Film Estimate Board of National Organizations, was laudatory in reviewing the film. "Loud, long and lusty," the reviewers wrote, citing especially its "infectious musical numbers."

And perhaps because of Gypsy's occupation, they listed it for mature adults and youth. The PTA rates it for "adults only."

"Barabbas," starring Anthony Quinn in the title role, begins with the story told of the man in the Bible: Barabbas, a thief, is offered by Pontius Pilate to the people of Jerusalem in place of Jesus.

The rest of the plot is conjecture, adapted by the noted playwright Christopher Fry from the novel by Par Lagerkvist, 1951 Nobel Prize winner in literature.

As written by Lagerkvist and Fry, Barabbas has quite a life. He celebrates his unexpected freedom in a tavern with drunk friends. Later he sees Jesus' body removed from the cross, and scoffs at predictions that He will rise from the dead.

Barabbas, however, has not had his last encounter with the Christians. For crimes committed later, he is sentenced to 20 years in the Italian sulphur mines, and is chained to another slave—a Christian. Later, he becomes a gladiator in Rome.

and meets other Christians. Eventually, he finds that he must come to terms with his own feelings about the "new religion."

The movie has been widely reviewed in the church press and in religious magazines. Most of these reviewers were not very enthusiastic about the movie, and some attacked it on theological grounds.

A reviewer for Presbyterian Life wrote that Fry, who adapted the story for the movie, "achieves a brooding, cogitative, Scandinavian mood through sparse, economical, tightly-strung dialogue." This "taut" script, he writes, "Also provides an appropriate setting for the occasionally lyrical and truly beautiful line to sing out as it should."

"But the camera," he continues, "does not believe the script." Instead, he writes, the camera features spectacular, "dazzling" pictures which do not fit with the script.

"It is much better on the ears than the eyes," he concludes, "and if one keeps his wits, it is,

in all, an interesting movie." The Film Estimate Board reviewers didn't see this contrast in the movie, which they termed a "monumental production" and a long movie which manages to "preserve realism." They rated it for adults and mature youth.

Out the Other

By DON BISHOFF
Of the Register-Guard

A few notes from a brief holiday vacation to Chicago:

• The city is still basically the wonderfully corrupt, hard-nosed place it's been for years—firemen accused of looting burning buildings, hoodlums accused of being behind-the-scenes operators of plush new night spots, posh motels alleged to be housing world's oldest professions.

But a Loop news stand vendor almost ruined the whole image. Visitor stopped to buy a paper, vendor actually said, "Thank you."

• Big city is NOT the place to spend New Years Eve. Places to go out to fall into two classifications: too expensive and too crowded. We hit one that combined the two.

• Chicago has become a city of freeways, perhaps surpassing Los Angeles. But like Los Angeles, they are generally anything but free of traffic at rush hour.

• Pilot on return flight to Portland shook up his passengers a bit while going through his "We-will-be-flying-at-30,000-feet-at-a-speed-of-500-miles-an-hour" routine. Began naming cities plane would pass over, momentarily forgot the route to Portland.

Apparently somebody in the cockpit had a map—plane made it on schedule.

• Upon arrival in Portland, passengers were told plane would be unable to continue to Seattle because airport was fogged in, no landing possible. Amid much grumbling, Seattle-bound passengers climbed off plane headed for 3½-hour bus ride.

As they walked into terminal, they heard rival line announcing takeoff of flight to Seattle.

WHILE ON THE subject of jet travel, comes this story—alleged to be true—from Herb Caen's San Francisco Chronicle column:

Red-faced stewardess sat down beside passenger on San Francisco to New York flight, vowed, "I'm going to kill that pilot." Went on to explain:

"This is my first flight, and he told me that the air pressure on this plane is peculiar—the only way it works properly is if all the john seats and lids are down. Every time somebody left the john I went in and put the lid down."

"I must have done it 57 times before I caught on."

THE CREW ROSTER for the nuclear ship Savannah, which visited Portland this past week, carries the names of both a Batista and a Castro. But the former is a messman from Connelly Springs, N.C., and the latter a laundryman from the Bronx, N.Y., so there's apparently no Cuban crisis aboard the ship.

AT RECENT kickoff luncheon for March of Dimes, Dr. Tom Warlick had to make a phone call about March of Dimes business.

Found it necessary to borrow a dime for call from fellow drive worker.

YOUNG FATHER REPORTS his daughter eagerly took Christmas gift "Chatty Cathy" doll to first kindergarten "show and tell" session after holidays. Only to find that three other girls also brought theirs — and all four dolls were identical blondes.

Some consolation came to each, however, when they found that when strings pulled, each doll had something different to say.

AT THE JAYCEE'S Distinguished Service Awards banquet Thursday, James Lemert, fruit and vegetable grower, was named outstanding young farmer. In acceptance speech proceeded to chide Jaycees for not having any Lane County vegetables on the menu.

MERV DAHL, First National Bank's Eugene main branch manager, got up to make acceptance speech for Senior First Citizen Award at same banquet. Started with traditional joke, which was an involved one about man who accompanied his wife to church after years of not attending.

Suspense built up, then Dahl forgot the punch line. Called to his wife for help, but the line was lost in the laughter over his memory problem.

FIRST NATIONAL, incidentally, was the subject of what must qualify as the quip of the week. Joe Richards told a Chamber of Commerce luncheon Friday that he had just heard details on construction plans for the bank's new building at Broadway and Oak.

Richards said he understood the bank planned to construct a time-and-temperature sign in the center of the site and then have the new building revolve around it.

At Local Theaters

This Week

FOX—Ending Tuesday, "Taras Bulba." "The Valiant." Starting Wednesday, "Gypsy."

HEILIG—Playing Sunday through Tuesday, "The Notorious Landlady," and "Who Was That Lady?" Opening Wednesday, "Blue Hawaii" and co-feature.

McDONALD—Playing through Thursday, "Carry On Teacher" and "Doctor in Love." Starting Friday, "Barabbas" and "Cash on Demand."

McKENZIE (Springfield)—Sunday through Tuesday, "Veran the Unbelievable" and "A Very Private Affair." Starting Wednesday, "It's Only Money" and "First Space Ship on Venus."

NEW EUGENE DRIVE IN—(Glenwood)—Through Tuesday, "Stalag 17" and "Shane." Beginning Wednesday, "Parish" and "Splendor in the Grass."

NORTH END DRIVE IN—Ending Sunday, "13 West Street" and "The War Lover." Beginning Friday, "Under Ten Flags" and "Requiem for a Heavyweight."

Feature Times

SUNDAY
(Subject to Change)
FOX—Taras Bulba, 1:10, 5:10, 9:10. The Valiant, 3:30, 7:30.

HEILIG — The Notorious Landlady, 1:15, 5:40, 10. Who Was That Lady?, 3:45, 8:15.

McDONALD — Carry on Teacher, 1:20, 5, 8:40. Doctor in Love, 2:35, 6:35, 10:15.

McKENZIE (Springfield) — Veran, the Unbelievable, 1:30, 4:40, 7:50. A Very Private Affair, 3, 6:15, 9:30.

NEW EUGENE DRIVE IN (Glenwood)—Stalag 17, 7:25. Shane, 10:20. NORTH END DRIVE IN—13 West Street, 7, 10:10. The War Lover, 8:20.

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Directed by LOUIS MALLE
Filmed in EASTMAN COLOR
Original Story and Screenplay by
JEAN ROLAND and LOUIS MALLE
Produced by CHRISTIANE COLODE, BRIGITTE
MALLE and LOUIS MALLE

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