



LOUISE SNIDER

## Film captures Guthrie mood

There are some things and people that seem uniquely American, like Edward Hopper's paintings and Walt Whitman's poems. "Bound for Glory" (PG) is a movie which catches that same kind of unique, native feeling. It is the story of Woody Guthrie: Folk singer, writer, lover, fighter, rambun man.

Our folk song minstrels are unknown to most people. Guthrie wrote more than 1,000 songs between 1936 and 1954. Every school child knows "This Land Is Your Land," but not many know that Woody wrote it. He probably wouldn't have minded this anonymity. Personal fame and riches weren't his top priorities.

Robert Getchell's script, based on Guthrie's autobiography, wisely concentrates on Guthrie's early career, rather than attempting to chronicle his life.

The movie covers the four-year span when he walks out of Pampa, Texas in the '30s, an itinerant sign painter, to find work in the promised land—California. These were crucial years when Guthrie's musical talents and social consciousness were developing simultaneously and reinforcing each other.

THE MEMORABLE images of the trek to California and the squalor of the migrant workers' camps are almost too beautifully photographed for the eartheness of the story. Haskell Wexler is a magician with a camera who can make gritty scenes grandiose and picturesque.

The film vividly records the hope, misery and drama of the Depression years and the migration out of the parched plains. We see the dusty desolation of Texas, the caravan of overloaded Ford's lurching toward California, the hobos and bundle stiffs roasted by the Pinkertons, and the clashes between the strike breakers and the union men trying to organize farm pickers.

The faces in this movie are marvelous. Each person seems to have stepped out of a vintage photograph by Walker Evans or Dorothea Lange. David Carradine with his gaunt frame, wide smile, and loping gait is outstanding as Woody Guthrie. His rancid voice and homely gestures reveal the compassionate, contradictory and optimistic nature of the man.

Hal Ashby's direction controls the sweeping panorama of the film and also elicits excellent individual performances from Melinda Dillon as Guthrie's wife and Ronny Cox as his show-biz mentor.

This is a movie of the Depression, of the dust bowl years, but it is not a depressing movie. On the contrary, it is a glowing tribute to the strength and optimism of a true man of the people.

JUST WHEN it seemed that Guthrie's folk singing and writing career would get a major boost with his performance on a national radio broadcast, he walked out on everything. He walked out rather than have to kowtow to sponsors, omit controversial songs and not be his own man.

The candidness of this film makes it engaging and moving. Guthrie was not a perfect being. He could neglect his family, fool around with other women, be spiteful and stubborn. But he couldn't ignore the dictates of his own conscience. More than anything else, that makes a person "bound for glory" in any age.

## GLIMPSES

### NEW RELEASES

**THE CASSANDRA CROSSING** (R) A ridiculous melodrama about a plague-ridden train, a shaky bridge and a staunch colonel who has to make "tough decisions." Big names in this big turkey.

**THE FARMER** (R) Gary Conway produced and stars in this violent movie. An ex-GI with a mortgaged farm and no cash becomes a hit man for money and revenge.

**FREAKY FRIDAY** (G) Disney movie about a mother and her teenage daughter who changes roles (and bodies) for a day. Lots of fun and a little insight as each learns about the other's problems.

**FUN WITH DICK & JANE** (PG) Jane Fonda and George Segal in a snappy social satire about an unemployed engineer and his wife who turn to crime when he can't find a job and they flunk welfare.

**THE LAST TYCOON** (R) Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's last novel, this is a sensitive but enigmatic movie about a film producer (Robert De Niro) during the '30s. Good visual re-creation of the era in Hollywood.

**NETWORK** (R) Farce satire attacking the television industry and mass media generally. Top performances by Peter Finch, Faye Dunaway and William Holden in fast paced, grimly humorous film.

**ROCKY** (PG) Human warmth and exciting drama combine in this stirring film about a no-name boxer who gets a chance at a title bout. Acting accolades to entire cast and especially Stallone as Rocky.

**THE SENTINEL** (R) Another yarn where supernatural horrors unravel in a New York brownstone where the forces of good and evil clash.

**SILVER STREAK** (PG) Gene Wilder, Richard Pryor, Patrick McGowan and Jill Clayburgh make tracks in this comedy-thriller about murder and mayhem on a train, and sometimes off.

**A STAR IS BORN** (R) Long-awaited remake with Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson as rock stars (rather than movie stars) whose careers head in different directions.

**VOYAGE OF THE DAMNED** (PG) Moving story of a historic incident about a ship filled with Jews expelled from Hitler's Germany who are denied haven in free countries.

### BACK AGAIN

**COUSIN, COUSINE** (R) A delightful romantic comedy enacted by a relatively unknown but sparkling cast. The mature lovers conduct their romance against a lively background of family action. In French with English subtitles.

**HARRY AND WALTER GO TO NEW YORK** (PG) James Caan and Elliott Gould are neo-doo-wop vaudevillians who bomb in New York.

**SEVEN BEAUTIES** (R) Giancarlo Giannini stars in Lina Wertmüller's tribute to man's instinct for survival. Set in Italy between the 1800s and the end of World War II, it's an outstanding film of Shakespearean breadth.

**SWEET AWAY** (R) Beautifully photographed film of a man and woman stranded on a deserted island. Action and dialogue are acrid, clear reflections of male-female, capitalist-proletarian relationships.

### MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.  
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.  
R Restricted. Adult may accompany person under 18.  
X No one under 18 admitted.

## 'Pajama Game' scheduled

The Ridgedale Players will present "The Pajama Game," a musical comedy by Abbott and Bissell with music and lyrics by Adler and Ross on three consecutive weekends, March 18-20, 25-27 and April 1-3.

Joan Schmidt of Birmingham, who was recently in the Village Players production of "Company" and has worked with the St. Dunstan players on several shows, is musical director for the Ridgedale production. Birmingham resident Patricia Cartwright has worked on many of Ridgedale's past productions, and is the choreography director in "The Pajama Game."

Her husband Pete Cartwright, their son Ed and Cymdi Mason are appearing in the show.

The play, produced by George Hilton with associate director Mary Jo Maples, tells about a pair of lovers who are caught in the middle of a labor-management dispute at a mid-west pajama factory.

THE SHOW is highlighted by such hit numbers as "Hey, There," "Steam Heat" and "Hernando's Hideaway." Performances are at the Ridgedale Playhouse, 8501 W. Ten Mile in Oak Park. Curtain times are 8:30 p.m. on

Fridays and Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Sandwiches and coffee will be served after each performance and are included in the ticket price.

For ticket information, call Mrs. Eileen Rosenthal at 546-1078.

The Ridgedale Players is a privately owned, self-supporting, non-profit organization. No member receives any pay for his contribution to the group, and membership is open to anyone who shares an interest in theater.

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