



second runs

Richard Lech

Tom Panzenhagen is on vacation.

"Abbott and Costello Meet the Killer, Boris Karloff" (1949), 8:30 a.m. Sunday on Ch. 7. Originally 84 minutes.

The title of this film conjures up all kinds of missed Hollywood opportunities. "The African Queen," for instance, could have been called "Katharine Hepburn meets the Tough Guy, Humphrey Bogart." Or how about "Moby Dick vs. the Saturnine Actor, Gregory Peck"? Anyway, neither Bud and Lou nor Boris is in prime form for this comedy, whose main focus is on bodies being carted around. Too bad Karloff wasn't on hand for the duo's encounter with Frankenstein the year before. Rating: \$1.80

"A Tale of Two Cities" (1935), 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday on Ch. 7. Originally 138 minutes.

I haven't seen this one before, but it is an MGM 1930s production with Ronald Colman in the lead, so that guarantees some measure of glossy quality. Plus, Basil Rathbone is in the supporting cast. It is unusual to see Channel 7 screening an old black-and-white film on its 4 o'clock movie. Usually the "major" stations — 2, 4, 7 — seem reluctant to show anything that's not in color and is any older than "Police Woman." But better a good black-and-white film than a bad movie printed on the latest in color film. Unrated.

"Zulu" (1964), 11:45 p.m. Saturday on Ch. 7. Originally 138 minutes.

This film about a small group of British soldiers who hold off thousands of Zulu warriors in late-19th century Africa hasn't been shown locally for a while. Could it be that scenes of blacks and whites killing each other are considered too inflammatory?

The historical setting, though, diffuses some of the racial overtones. The film is basically a variation on the Alamo theme, only this time the besieged garrison survives. Anyway, it is based on a true story and is authentic and intense. The film also offers a chance to see Michael Caine in an early role, before "Alfie" catapulted him to stardom. Rating: \$2.90

"A Yank in Vietnam" (1964), 8:30 a.m. Tuesday on Ch. 20. Originally 80 minutes.

No, this isn't a film about Joe Peppone making a tour of the front. But it is a member of the thin catalogue of Vietnam War films. Rarer still, it is one of the few — possibly the only — films to use the war as the backdrop for a programmer action story. World War II and the Korean War spawned their share of routine action movies, but things had changed by the time Vietnam rolled around. That aside, this isn't a very good

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

Bad \$1
Fair \$2
Good \$3
Excellent \$4

film. It lives up to its B-movie status all the way, providing a monotonous string of warfare scenes. Plenty of shots of machine-gun fire chomping up thatched huts, but don't look for much drama or insight into the American attitude toward the war, pre-Gulf of Tonkin. Marshall Thompson stars. Rating: \$1.05.

"I Bury the Living" (1958), 12:15 a.m. Friday on Ch. 9. Originally 76 minutes.

This seems like an episode of some early '60s TV horror series, like "Thriller," which somehow got expand-

ed into a full-length movie. Here's the plot: Every time Richard Boone, playing a cemetery director, sticks a pin on a plot in the cemetery map, the plot owner dies. This one film in which funeral pacing might have been an asset. There are fair-enough chills throughout, but a rational ending is lacking on what had heretofore been an irrational story, leaving disappointed the viewer who likes his ghost stories straight. Rating: \$1.50.

"Bedlam" (1946), 8 p.m. Thursday on Ch. 50. Originally 79 minutes.

With Val Lewton, a specialist in subtle horror, as its producer, and Boris Karloff cast as the sinister head of the famed 19th-century insane asylum, this film could not go wrong. Supposedly based on fact, the story centers on a woman's efforts to reform the treatment of the mentally ill. Karloff looks her up with the very people she is trying to help. Rating: \$3



In repertory

"The Lion in Winter," along with "Private Lives," will be presented in repertory by the Long Wharf Theatre of Connecticut when the 1981 Theatre Series is introduced at Detroit's Music Hall Center. The productions runs Jan. 13-18. For information on the entire series, which includes three more shows, call the Music Hall ticket office at 963-6943.

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