



Second runs Tom Panzenhagen

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

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

"Looker" (1981), 9 p.m. Friday on Ch. 4. Originally 94 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes.

"Looker," widely panned when it was released, is a sleeper. That's not to say it's a very good film, but it is an interesting film with an intriguing self-premise that touches upon subliminal suggestion and manipulation by electronic media. Albert Finney, Susan Dey, James Coburn and Leigh Taylor-Young co-star. Just don't expect too much.

Rating: \$2.80.

"Love Among the Ruins" (1975), on Ch. 7. Originally 100 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes. Katharine Hepburn and Lawrence Olivier offer an actors' workshop in this curiosity piece of a movie that teamed the two acting greats for the first time. George Cukor's direction enhances their flawless performances, yet "Love Among the Ruins" lacks an emotional center and, while novice

performers may glean more than a few pointers, the film will leave most viewers cold.

Rating: \$2.50.

"High Plains Drifter" (1973), 9 p.m. Monday on Ch. 7. Originally 105 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes.

Clint Eastwood's spaghetti western cycle culminates with this film directed by Eastwood himself. But don't look for the standard fare. "High Plains Drifter" — a most bitterly ironic film — has more in common with the actor's "Dirty Harry" films than with his shoot-'em-up, Italian predecessors. Be forewarned: "Drifter" is a message picture but, with that, plan also on being pleasantly surprised.

Rating: \$3.05



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"The Hustler" (1961), 11:40 tonight on Ch. 9. Originally 135 minutes. TV time slot: final program on Ch. 9 schedule.

The worst thing about "The Hustler" is that it convinced some people that Jackie Gleason can act. Gleason fits the bill as pool player Minnesota Fats, but he's no actor. The best things about it are the performances of George C. Scott, Piper Laurie and Paul Newman, all of whom can act, and the script and direction of Robert Rossen. Rossen, a Hollywood veteran who died in 1966, wrote such films as "The Roaring Twenties" (1939) and "A Walk in the Sun" (1945), and he wrote, directed and produced "All the King's Men" (1949) and "The Hustler."

Rating: \$3.30.

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946), 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Redford Theatre, 7330 Lehigh at Grand River, phone 537-2550, \$2. Running time 120 minutes.

Frank Capra — fresh from war and such propaganda films as "Prelude to War" and "Know Your Enemy: Japan" — set out in 1946 to make a film that celebrates life. He succeeded. "It's a Wonderful Life" may have darkly pessimistic moments, but ultimately it's one of the most brightly optimistic films of a generation. James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers and a young and very beautiful Donna Reed star.

Rating: \$3.40.

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