second runs
Tom Panzenhagen

"The Greatest Story Ever Told" *(1965), in two parts at 1 p.m. today and Friday on Ch. 50. Originally 141 minutes. TV time slot: 240 minutes.*

Hollywood salutes the Bible, starring Max Von Sydow, Charleton Heston, John Wayne, Sidney Poitier, Carroll Baker, Angela Lansbury, Jose Ferrer, Dorothy McGuire, Van Heflin, Claude Rains, Shelley Winters, Ed Wynn and — er — a host of others. If that sounds like this George Stevens' film manages to trivialize the old and new testaments, you're right.

Rating: $1.19.

Footnote: Prints of "The Greatest Story Ever Told" that run longer than 141 minutes are in limited circulation. Ch. 50 either has one of those prints, or it's allowing for an awful lot of commercial time.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

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

"The Bible" *(1966), in two parts at 8 p.m. today and Friday on Ch. 50. Originally 174 minutes. TV time slot: 240 minutes.*

John Huston salutes the Bible, starring Michael Parks, Richard Harris, George C. Scott, Stephen Boyd, Ava Gardner, Peter O'Toole, Franco Nero and John Huston as himself — oops, make that as Noah. Sorry, but it's sometimes difficult to sort out these biblical epics. In fact, Huston's "The Bible" is better, in part, than Stevens' "The Greatest Story Ever Told," which manages to be twice as supercilious as the former. But "The Bible" is episodic and sections of it are terrible, too. In other words, the films don't quite live up to the book.

Rating: $1.89.

"Ben Hur" *(1959), 12:45 Sunday night on Ch. 7. Originally 212 minutes. TV time slot: 255 minutes.*

The most compelling of this week's Easter films is "Ben Hur," directed by William Wyler. Charleton Heston overacts more than usual, but action and pathos carry the day. Also intriguing is the treatment of Christ, whose screen appearances are shrouded in shadow or filmed from long distances, creating an otherworldliness about this Jesus sadly lacking in other films. Stephen Boyd, Hugh Griffith, Martha Scott and Sam Jaffe co-star.

Rating: $3.10.

"Jesus Christ, Superstar" *(1973), 12:30 Monday night on Ch. 7. Originally 103 minutes. TV time slot: 130 minutes.*

There's nothing otherworldly about Christ in Norman Jewison's "Jesus Christ, Superstar," from the Webber and Rice musical. All the scriptured regulars, in fact — from the time they step off a bus in Galilee — are down to earth, which makes this film compelling in its own way and toe-tapping enjoyable, too. Ted Neeley and Yvonne Elliman.

Rating: $3.

"Murder in Coweta County" *(1983), 9 p.m. Friday on Ch. 2. Made for TV. TV time slot: 120 minutes.*

Rating:

5 choruses join for 'Industry Sings' concert

"Industry Sings," an annual choral event, will be presented 8 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at Ford Auditorium in downtown Detroit.

Ticket information is available by calling 532-1291.

The concert features the Gentlemen Songsters, the General Motors Chorus, the Detroit Edison Glee Club, the Ford Chorus and the Advance Medical and Research Center Chorale.

The Chorus of 250 voices from Detroit-area industry will sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah" and the traditional "Battle Hymn of the Republic," under the direction of Ken Hansen, as finale numbers of the 27th annual performance.

Edison Glee Club, founder of "Industry Sings," has been an [illegible] since 1932. The glee club performs at numerous company and community events from September through May.

The Ford Chorus was organized in 1954, the General Motors Chorus founded in 1933. The Gentlemen Songsters, although currently self-supporting, was organized in 1943 as the Chevrolet Glee Club.

The Advance Medical and Research Center Chorale will be making its debut with "Industry Sings." The group originated in 1982.

Museum schedules Swiss film

"In the White City," a 1982 Swiss film with English subtitles, will be shown by Detroit Film Theatre at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

Tickets at $2.25, $1.75 for seniors, are available through the museum ticket office and at the door. For ticket information, call 832-2730 during regular business hours.

"In the White City" was featured at both the New York and Berlin Film Festivals. In style a cinematic poem, it follows the steps of a man who jumps ship in Lisbon, Portugal, and then falls under the mysterious spell of that port city.

Werner Herzog's 1977 "Stroszek" will be featured at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21. This comedy is about the crazy-quilt lives and behavior of middle Americans, as seen through the eyes of a small band of confused, unsophisticated European misfits who have come to this country to seek their fortunes.

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