



second runs

Hugh Gallagher

"Monkey Business" (1931), 1:30
Friday night on Ch. 50. Originally
77 minutes. TV time slot: 87 minutes.

An early Marx Brothers outing with Groucho, Chico, Harpo and Zeppo as stowaways on an ocean liner. The three comic Marxes were the most inventive of all sound comics, and this is one of their best efforts. Ignore the plot, if you can figure it out at all. Plot means nothing. The Marx Brothers were absurdist comedians and this is a masterpiece of their art. Of course, the swift wordplay indicates the contribution of that New York intellectual and Marx collaborator S.J. Perelman. But it is pure lunacy that the Marx Brothers do best and the combination of visual slapstick and verbal briolet make them a treat that never grows old.

Rating: 3.25.

"The Great Race" (1965), 1:30
Saturday night on Ch. 50. Originally
150 minutes. TV time slot: 170 minutes.

Whatever happened to comedy? This Blake Edwards film, like the Stanley Kramer "It's a Mad World," is a labored attempt to do what the Marx Brothers and, before them, the great silent comedies did so effortlessly. It's too long, too predictable, too forced. An amusing moment here and there doesn't make up for the tedious intervals. Blake Edwards has done

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

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

some amusing films, though even the Clouseau series is overrated, and stars Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon made one of the few comedy classics of the '60s — "Some Like It Hot." But this is not a classic.

Rating: 3.2.

"Desperate Characters" (1971), 2
Wednesday night on Ch. 4. Originally
88 minutes.

This is an extremely depressing film about life in New York City. It is the grim tale of a couple trapped in their crime ridden but fashionable neighborhood, trapped in their marriage and trapped in their own unhappiness. Frank Gillroy never lets up in his film version of his play. There is no levity, no balance. Shirely MacLaine and Kenneth Mars give fine performances, but the film never comes alive, and for all its grimness it never attains the profundity of Swedish director Ingmar Bergman's bleak films. A real downer.

Rating: 2.25.

Audience joins in enthusiastically

Performances of the Plymouth Theatre Guild production of "For Her C-h-e-i-d's Sake" by Paul Loomis continue at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at Central Middle School in Plymouth. For ticket information, call 455-3263.

By Bob Welbel
special writer

It's audience participation time at the Plymouth Theatre Guild. It's time to boo and hiss the villain — and cheer for the heroine. Yes, it's time to escape reality and plunge gleefully into the fun of an old-fashioned melodrama. "For Her C-h-e-i-d's Sake."

A small but enthusiastic opening night audience was into the spirit of things — thanks to a really marvelous performance by Tom Hinks as the villain, Gaylord Duckworth.

Our Mr. Duckworth is a devious and

devilish attorney, who attempts to rewrite the will of Marmaduke Paine and claim the estate of the deceased for himself (along with a beautiful young dame). In fact it seems that Gaylord is romantically linked with every woman on stage at one time or another. You see, the dastardly Duckworth believes everything is fair in love and finance.

And from beginning to end, it's obvious Tom Hinks understands that melodrama is rather like cowboy farce. And he has the panache and acting technique to exploit every scene to the maximum. Such as when his Gaylord spryly says, "Thank You" to the audience after especially strong boos and hisses.

THE SUPPORTING cast appear to be good performers. In terms of pure acting technique, however, cast members generally need improvement in the all-important style of melodrama



Bob Welbel

— to let loose of reality and play the shallow characters to the hilt and get the most from the unreal and contrived situation.

Special mention goes to Sylvia Lams for her strong role as Marcela Paine, the head of the household, and to Rachelle Rooka as Pansy Paine, the heroine with a child to support.

Gerry L'Heureux as the boiler tells some great stories. Robert Hegan is good in two roles, first as Hilary Paine, then as Basil Barrington. Rick Edman looks just right as the fair-haired hero, Fairfax Kisselberg.

Also appearing are Kathleen Elster, Anne Marie Furie, Norma Kapell, Julie Hauer and Holly Hilsong.

Dennis Coleman designed an elegant and tasteful set. Excellent set decorations and props give the feeling of wealth so vital to the play.

Sue Suchta's costumes and Mary-Joe Cobiello's makeup also contribute to the style of the show and are unforgettably well done.

In his first try at directing, Tabbi Hilsong has fashioned a well-paced show that looks good and is loaded with laughs.

Composer gives pop music workshop on campus

A "Pop Workshop" will be given by award-winning arranger/composer/songwriter David Van De Pille on Saturday and Sunday at Wayne State University in Detroit.

The workshop will be 1-3 p.m. each day at the

Main Music Building, 8451 Cass. There is an admission fee. For further information, call 559-3350 or 577-1795.

Given in cooperation with the university's School of Music, the workshop is a two-day lecture/demonstration on writing and arranging popular and jazz music.

The workshop is open to students, amateurs, professionals and music lovers — anyone who reads music and has a basic knowledge of harmony.

Highlanders appear in concert

Her Majesty's Royal Marines and the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, with special guests the 1st Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum Corps, will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Cobo Arena in Detroit.

The Fife and Drum Corps will open the show at

7:30 p.m. Tickets at \$7.50, \$10.50 and \$12.50 are available at the Joe Louis Arena box office and all Ticket World outlets. The Cobo Arena box office opens one and one-half hours prior to showtime. To charge tickets by phone call 567-7500.

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