

### 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 slowways 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. Plots mean nothing. The Marx Brothers were absurdists before it was fashionable to be so. 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 comics did so effortlessly. It's too long, too predictable, too forced. An amusing roomful of faces 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 Clossau series is overrated, and stars Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon make one of the few comedy classics of the '50s — "Some Like It Hot." But this is not a classic.

Rating: \$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. Shirley 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: 42.25.

# Audience joins in enthusiastically

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

devilish attorney, who attempts to rewrite the will of Marcella 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 slyly 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 situations.

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

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

Also appearing are Kathleen Lister, Anne Marie Furler, Norma Kapell, Julie Heuser and Holly Hinson.

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

Sue Suchta's costumes and Mary Jo Cobello's makeup also contribute to the style of the show and are unforgettably good. In his first try at directing, Tom Hinson has fashioned a well-paced show that looks good and is loaded with laughs.

## Composer gives pop music workshop on campus

A "Proper 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.

Main Music Building, 8451 Cass. There is an admission fee. For further information, call 859-3350 or 877-4765.

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.

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GOOD THRU NOV. 22, 1985

## Jazz musicians give concert

"Roy Brooks Meets Bird-Trans-Geo Now" will be 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Detroit Institute of Arts Reception Hall.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Detroit Council for the Arts and WJZZ-FM. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at the DIA box office. For further information, call 898-8677 or 835-3814.

rector Donald Washington (flute and woodwinds) and a few of the members in an evening of uptempo jazz.

Formed in 1979, Bird-Trans-Geo Now is a non-profit organization made up of young people ages 10-20 dedicated to the development and mastering of their art through the study and play of music by such greats as Charlie Parker, John Coltrane and Roscoe Mitchell.

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## Show offers 50 years of song

Phil Marcus Esser of Livonia will open his new show, "Fifty Years," on Friday at Norm Tremonti's Restaurant, two blocks north of Greentown, in downtown Detroit.

Performances 8:30-10 p.m. follow dinner at 7. Dinner and show is \$19.95. Show only is \$9.95. For reservations, call 983-1235. The show is a musical

trip that starts with the year 1935 and continues to the present. Featured in song will be Esser, Barbara Bredius of Troy, Mary Ann Folk and Esser's newest discovery, Pamela Nelson.

Sixty songs will cover the musical history of 50 years, including the Andrews Sisters, the Beatles and Willie Nelson.

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