



the movies
Dan Greenberg

Geraldine Page is good reason to see 'Trip to Bountiful'

Critics are okay if they agree with you, but otherwise they have a pretty bad name.

It's no wonder, considering the shabby material that passes for film criticism in national magazines. In fact, you gotta wonder if they screen the movies they review.

People magazine recently (Jan. 20) made a half dozen errors of fact in its review of James Garner's new film and panned the marvelous "The Trip to Bountiful" (PG) without even getting the plot straight, all on the same page.

In a marvelous performance, acting at its very best, Geraldine Page captivates audiences as Carrie Watts, an elderly woman living in 1947 Houston with her son and daughter-in-law. All Carrie now wants from life is to return to Bountiful, the small town where she grew up and lived most of her life.

Her daughter-in-law, Carlin Glynn, is a consummate bitch who won't hear of the trip. She won't do anything for her mother-in-law — in fact, for anyone except herself. Selfish is a mild description. Excellent is the word for Glynn's rendition.

THE WEAK SON (John Heard), just getting back on his feet after illness and job loss, won't take momma home either. He can't face down his wife nor can he face up to his own difficult memories of his childhood on the old homestead in Bountiful.

The entire film turns on those problems and those relationships. People magazine doesn't understand people and merely notes the kids' implausible claim of poverty as the reason for not taking Carrie back to Bountiful. The richness of the film lies in its interpersonal relationships (and excellent acting), with money only a peripheral matter.

Well, Mother Carrie is a woman of great inner strength so she "runs away" to Bountiful. It's not easy because neither train nor bus go there anymore — there's nothing there. Her bus ride to Harrison, the nearest stop, is an engaging adventure.

Geraldine Page's characterization of this woman of valor is indeed compelling. She is alternately weak and vacillating, strong and determined, a very appealing human being.

The film is theatrical in the sense of being staged and shot in limited spaces with the camera generally representing the best seat in the house before which the action is played out chronologically. That is unlike the more typical film technique which allows the camera its natural mobility in time and space.

Page's acting is appropriately theatrical and her every nuance and inflection touches the audience's emotional regard for this kindly old woman harassed by her daughter-in-law and "unsupported" by her son.

ON THE BUS TRIP, Carrie Watts befriends, and is befriended by, a young woman (Rebecca DeMornay) traveling to live with her parents while her soldier-husband is overseas.

Looking like a pristine Leslie Caron, DeMornay projects a sweet, loving character in rich counterpoint to Carrie's shrewish daughter-in-law. DeMornay demonstrates her acting ability, appearing as far from her "Risky Business" hooker role as one can get.

Adapted by Horton Foote from his play and television script, the scenario effectively reconstructs the '40s in Texas and paints a warm canvas of human love and regard for others. Both Foote and Director Peter Masterson are Texans and that, no doubt, adds up the film's proper atmosphere.

Fred Murphy's photography, the scene design and the antique cars and buses combine to capture the flavor of rural Texas four decades past.

In particular, one scene remains vividly in mind: As the bus leaves Houston, an aerial shot shows it sweeping into a tunnel-bridge whose pitted old reinforced concrete has just the right look — and an old coupe sweeps out of the tunnel in the opposite direction.

This fine, sensitive film portrayal of a woman of character will engage all your sensibilities and you will love Carrie Watts for her warm, human strength. You'll probably fall in love with Geraldine Page for bringing Carrie to life so vividly.

5 women named Young Artists winners

Oakway Symphony Orchestra named five women as winners in the 1985-86 Young Artist Competition held recently at Madonna College in Livonia.

The musicians, three instrumentalists and two vocalists, will be presented in concert with the Oakway Symphony under the direction of its conductor, Francesco DiBlasi, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

First-place winner is Margaret Parkins, a Birmingham cellist, who is a

master's degree student at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Parkins holds a bachelor of music degree from the Eastman School of Music. At the concert, she will be awarded \$600 from the Arts Foundation of Michigan.

Andrea Azar, violinist, won the second award of \$400, also given by the Arts Foundation of Michigan. She is a student of Camilla Wicks at the University of Michigan School of Music.

THIRD PRIZE of \$200, presented by the Oakway Symphony Society, was awarded to clarinetist Jane N. Carl, a U-M student who studies with Fred Ormandy.

For the first time this year, a special vocal award from an anonymous donor has been named in the amount of \$300 in memory of Neida Clausen DiBlasi. This award went to soprano Marie L. Radcliffe of Berkeley. Radcliffe is a student of Carolyn Grimes at Wayne State University.

A second vocal award of \$200, named in memory of Edward Bielaczynski and presented by Adele Barrett Bielaczynski, went to April McNeely of Mount Clemens, also a soprano. McNeely is a student of Alice Engram of Birmingham, who for 20 years was chairwoman of the voice department at Oakland University.

Concert tickets may be obtained at the door or by calling 355-9280. General admission is \$7, with senior citizen and student tickets \$4.

Separate Checks band playing at Flood's

Scott Wilkie of Birmingham and his band Separate Checks will perform Friday-Saturday at Flood's in downtown Detroit.

Two songs written by Wilkie are being played on Alan Almond's radio show on WMJC. One is "Song for Sherril," featured nightly at 10. Another is "Skyline," among the most requested songs on Almond's Leslie Lee.

Detroit-premiere run continues

In celebration of Black History Month, the Detroit Center for the Performing Arts is presenting the Detroit premiere of "Colored Peoples Time" by Leslie Lee.

Performances continue at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through Feb. 15 at the Eastown Theatre in Detroit. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$7 in advance and \$6 for students and seniors.

Wilkie also wrote the music played as background on the television broadcast of the U.S. Open golf tournament last year. A feature story on Wilkie has been presented on WXYZ-TV's "Good Afternoon Detroit."

A new album by Separate Checks, called "Table

for Five," will be released this spring. The group plays a fusion/pop rock style.

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- upcoming things to do**
- **JAZZ MUSIC**
Donald Walden and the Detroit Jazz Orchestra will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Oakland Community College Smith Theatre in Farmington Hills. Directed by Donald Walden, the Detroit Jazz Orchestra is the only civic repertory jazz orchestra in the nation. Tickets are \$9 and \$10. An optional pre-concert dinner, prepared by the college's award-winning Culinary Arts Department, also will be offered. Dinner-concert combination tickets may be purchased through Friday, Jan. 31, for \$16.50 or \$17.50. For reservations, call the theater's box office at 471-7708.
 - **MUSICAL SEASON**
The Allen Park Dinner Theatre has announced its 1986 musical season of productions by TAP Ltd., Theatre Arts Productions, Farmington Hills. The schedule offers revues, performed Friday-Saturday following dinner at the Allen Park Motor Lodge. "Be-Bop to Blues," a musical revue of the '30s and '40s, continues through March 1. Other revues will include "An Evening with Oscar," highlighting more than 50 years of Academy Award-winning songs, March 14 to May 31; "Fireworks — Strike Up the Band," a patriotic tribute to the Statue of Liberty, June 6 to Aug. 30; "Bravo — Broadway," popular and lesser-known show-stoppers of the Great White Way, Sept. 5 to Nov. 22, and "An Olde Fashioned Holiday Revue," an annual celebration of the holiday spirit in song, Nov. 22 to Dec. 27. For further information, call 388-1300 or 855-4293.
 - **YOUTH CHORALE**
The Southern Michigan Youth Chorus has begun rehearsals for its 1986 British Isles Concert Tour. This is the 19th annual tour of the Michigan-based chorale. Room still remains for a few singers and also adults interested in traveling with the group. For an audition date or further information, call 651-3025.
 - **FILM PREMIERE**
CHAIM, Children of Holocaust-survivors Association in Michigan, will sponsor the Detroit-area premiere of a new film, "War and Love," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Northland Theatre in Southfield. The film is an adventure-love story that takes place during the Holocaust. Proceeds will go to the Holocaust Memorial Center. Tickets are available by calling Art Kirsh at 557-6889.
 - **POGO BENEFIT**
"A Tribute to Pogo" and a benefit for Pogo, who played cocktail lounge piano for six years at the Kingsley Inn, will be 4-9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, at the Kingsley in Bloomfield Hills. Three bands will play at the event. Two bands that have been announced are the Sterling Band of Livonia and Dick Murphy's Band. Tickets at \$10 may be purchased in advance at the cocktail lounge or at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.
 - **NEW REVUE**
The "Peanut Butter & Jelly Revue" will be Wednesdays and Fridays beginning Feb. 5 at Archibald's in Birmingham. Wednesday evenings will feature Archibald's Peanut Butter & Jelly performers, with arrangement created by Robert Leider of Bloomfield Hills and Rebecca of West Bloomfield, the show's accompanist. Two shows nightly offers vocals by Elizabeth Porter of West Bloomfield and Nick Beasanski of East Detroit. "The Peanut Butter & Jelly Revue" will feature jazz and tap-style dances at 9 and 10:30 p.m. days, Becky Frazer and Jan Wintham, owners of Dance Collective of Orchard Lake, will appear in the Friday shows. For further information, call Archibald's at 842-9400, or TAP LTD. of Farmington Hills, which is producing the show, at 855-4293.

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