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THE BOOK THE WORLD COULD NOT LAY DOWN IN HOW A MOTION PICTURE.

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It's Polka Time
Polka time with Lil Wally will begin at 8:30 p.m. May 6 at the American Serbian Hall in Detroit. The event is sponsored by the Moms and Dads of St. Mary's Preparatory in Orchard Lake. For ticket information contact Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bodarka at 271-6327.

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Wally Roberts **GOING UP!**
'CURTAIN

A quick zip down the Ohio Turnpike, turn off at either Exit 10 or 11, and before you know it you are in the Cleveland Playhouse executive offices on East 86th Street and Euclid in Cleveland.

The headquarters at East 86th houses two theaters, a production workshop, a rehearsal room, and the official office of the Cleveland Playhouse organization. And what an organization it is!

For the past fifty years they have been producing some 800 productions. Their present season boasts some 15 plays of all types. Their only criteria is to do the finest in dramatic literature and keep theater alive, breathing, and vibrant.

The excellent production of "The Amorous Flea" that old Wally saw did just that and more. It was well cast, played excellently by the professional actors, and had the audience literally rolling in the aisles. No one is accomplished when one reflects that this play (The Amorous Flea) was a musical version of Moliere's French farce "School for Wives."

In fact, I've seen this play on two other occasions and enjoyed it only mildly. The Cleveland Playhouse version was a "Smash" — a real rave production. It was a sheer delight in every aspect!

Cleveland is justly proud of the Playhouse and its many activities. They subscribe in large numbers to their season (15,000 this year). Adding up the audience for an entire year, you will find that almost 150,000 people pay a moderate admission charge \$2 to \$3 for plays performed in their three auditoriums.

While we visited them, the Brooks Theater (160 seats) was having a Children's Theater play, "Winnie-the-Pooh." The Playhouse (530 seats) was holding nightly performances of "Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Rice Hensley, their highly efficient PR man, showed me the set of this play the morning after our visit to the "Amorous Flea." I was impressed with the workmanship and excellent detail.

The third theater owned by the Cleveland Playhouse organization is down Euclid Avenue about a mile at 77th Street. In 1949 the increasing demand for tickets made it apparent another playhouse was needed. The 77th Street Theater handles 550 patrons and has a "space" stage. The stage thrusts out into the audience and gives an added dimension of excitement since you are within touching distance of the actors.

K. Elmo Lowe is the current director of the Cleveland Playhouse. He became Executive Director following the retirement of Frederic McConnell who arrived on the Cleveland scene in 1921 when the group was professional.

Over its fifty year span of productions the Cleveland Playhouse has weathered the ravages of the depression, two World Wars, sound pictures, radio and even color TV. My prediction is that it will surely celebrate its 100th anniversary. An organization this competent and putting on such high quality productions need never worry about its existence.

My only gripe is that we don't have such an organization in active operation for Detroit. Where did we miss the boat? Maybe some of our civic leaders need to spend a few days in Cleveland as I did and get some of the facts. It's not too late for us to think about such a Playhouse.

Other cities around the U.S. are getting reputable companies into operation. Seattle, San Diego, Baltimore, and Philadelphia have taken the challenge and done something about it. Let's get busy Detroit and suburbs!

I'd advise all my readers to put the Cleveland Playhouse on your visiting schedule. You can always find out what their schedule is by dropping them a card. In fact, old Wally intends to announce their season every year from now on. They are only three hours away from us.

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MOVIE GUIDE

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ALSO
JOHN WAYNE
"IN HARMS WAY"
GA 2-0110
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"DARLING" Plus
LEE MARVIN in
"CAT BALLOU"
PA 6-3150

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Mich. Ave. & 18th W. of
Euclid
APRIL 27 to May 3
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"Winnie the Pooh"
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Mara of the Wilderness
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AT LIVONIA MALL

Good Acting But Won't Films Lay Off Message?

By SUE SHUAHNGSEY

"A Patch of Blue" which opens tonight at the Livonia Cinema for a three week engagement Theatre almost makes it as a classic film.

It's too bad it doesn't because all of the ingredients are there. The only problem is that the message is reiterated just a bit too often.

The story line concerns an 18 year old blind girl, Selina, portrayed by Elizabeth Hartmann, and her days in the park where she meets her second friend in life, Gordon Rolph, who is Sidney Poitier in real life.

As far as acting goes it's excellent. Miss Hartmann, Mr. Poitier, Shelley Winters (who won an Oscar for her role as the girl's mother) and Wallace Ford are all superb. The camera work and photography is excellent and the use of black and white further serves to emphasize the drugery of the protestants lives.

However, Selina's mother and grandfather, are painted as wicked and inept respectively.

Along comes Gordon, who happens to be a Negro, and he is the one decent individual Selina has met.

At lunch one day Selina tells Gordon that he is her second friend. Her first was Pearl, but her mother, Roseanne, wouldn't let Pearl and Selina play together when she discovered that Pearl was a Negro. Now really, it's Gordon's brother, Mark, spends his two scenes trying to "reason" with his brother about this relationship and... well you get the picture.

The American viewing public is not stupid and at times the film with its "message" is as smart to the public's intelligence. The sooner Hollywood learns this the happier we will all be.

It's quite natural and normal for two people—such as Selina and Gordon—to fall in love. They are both lonely and each fulfills a need in the other.

The message is also very clear. It happens to be a very good point and one well worth remembering.

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