

### 'Rocky' packs one-two punch

The premise of "Rocky" (PG) is wildly unbelievable, an unknown, 30-year-old club boxer gets a shot at the world heav-yweight championship. Yet this is the kind of sentimental saga that everyone loves.
"Rocky" is a movie that harbors a treasury of myths: The success story myth, the gentle giant myth, the ugly duckling myth. To paraphrase a song, it's comier than Kansas in August. It's also a wonderfully stirring and optimistic movie.
The performances are convincing, and the story develops with increasing momentum. Given this one-two punch, it's not difficult to suspend belief and empathize with the dreams and despair of Rocky.
Rocky is the American Dream, urban version, 1970s. He's 'Joo'. without the prejedices, Horatio Alger without the makeralism Rocky is a romantic idealist; he walks unscathed through the soamy glettoes the sweaty gyms. He loves animals: finds beauty in a shy, awkward girl; tries to straighten out a brassy teenager, and is genuinely humble.

ON A GOOD night when Rocky wins he makes \$60.

out a brassy teenager, and is genuinely humble.

ON A GOOD night, when Rocky wins, he makes \$50 minus deductions for pummeling other losers like himself. For regular eating money, he works as a musclemain for a loan-shark operation. He's the collector, big and feroclous looking. Who would ever guess he's a softle? Against all odds. 'Freak luck' as everyone tells him. Rocky is tapped to meet the world champion in a title bout. The original challenger broke a bone in his hand. All other suitable candidates are unavailable or unwilling. So the promoters get down to the dregs. Rocky Balboa, the 'Italian Stallion' as he calls himself.'

The title holder, about as modest as Muhammed AE, hypes this as a Bicentennial Match to be held in Philadelphia. He selected Rocky as an opponent because he fit the publicky requirements: An unknown local fighter, white, and of Italian lineage (and Crins' Columbius was Italian, the black champ reminds us).

Rocky trains hard and zealously. The night before the

minds us). Rocky trains hard and zealously. The night before the fight he despairs. He's not in the same class as the champ, he says. the champ's too good. All he asks is that he can "go the distance." last 15 rounds. No one else has ever done that with the champ. Rocky ultimately proves what winning is all about. Decent and honest, he doesn't lie, even to himself. When his gulfriend reflectively played by Talia Shire's asks him why he fights, he explains that he's dumb, that his parents told him he had no brains so he better develop his body. "But why do you fight:" she persists. "Cause I can't sing or dance." he answers.

answers.

STALLONE plays Rocky in such an uncanny, natural way, it's almost no surprise to discover that he literally created the character. Stallone wrote the script, but it's his own interpretation and physical presence that make Rocky unforgetable.

He combines the massive build and bulging muscles of a heavyweight with a poetic Roman face. He looks like one of Picasso's classical figures of the 190s.

It's difficult to assess Stallone's performance, or rather his acting ability, because the actor and the character seem inseparable. His performance as Rocky is excellent—the way he walks, the pening of his speech, the host of individual mannerisms he uses—all combine to flesh out the character and make him believable.

Is Stallone a one-role actor? Can he play anything else other than a plodding gentle giant? We'll have to wait for tuture movie roles to find out.

Regardless of what that answer might be. Stallone as Rocky is the most engaging character to appear on the screen in the past, year.

# **LIMPSES**

#### NEW RELEASES

THE ENFORCER (R). Violence and gun play in the "Dkty Harry" manner as Clint Eastwood shoots it out with a terrorist gang in San Francisco in this third film in the

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series.

KING KONG (PG). The big ape is back again with his saries
old destructive but sensitive personality. Jessica Lange
plays the love in his life. Revised version with some
tongue-in-check dialogue.

NETWORK (RS). Fierce satire attacking the television industry and mass media generally. Too performances, by
Peter Finch. Faye Dunaway and William Holden in fast
paced, grintly humorous film.

NICKELODEN (PG). Director Bogdanovich recalls the madcap, early days of movie making. Ryan and Thum
O'Neal. Burt Heynoids. Stella Sevens and Jake Hitchcock
survive the perils and have some fun.

THE OUTER SPACE CONNECTION (G). Rod Seeling narrates film version of popular book cling "dvidence" that
beings from outer space visited earths. More clowing
THE PINK PARSHOT CHARLES AGAIN. More clowing
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SILVER STREAK (PG). Gene Wilder, Richard Pryor, Ra-trick McGoohan and Jill Clayburgh make tracks in this comedy-thriller about murder and maybem on a (rath, and sometimes off.

sometimes of.

STAR IS BORN (R). Long-awaited remake with Barter
Streisand and Kris Kristofferson as rock stars (rather than
movie stars) whose careers head in different directions.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE
G General audiences admitted.
PG Parental guidance suggested. All again
R Restricted. Adult must accompany perso
X No one under 18 admitted.

## Audience reaction is shock, disgust

nat. in was the last time (if ever) When was the last time (if ever) you saw members of the audience throw their programs at the actors on stage and then walk out? It happened Wednesday night, a Meadow Brook Theattre-goer reports. He also said a woman in the audience yelled out. You call this work of the property of the stage of the work of the property of the propert

According to the same amazed theater-goer, Mike Karagozian of The Rochester Eccentric, "People started walking out, things started heating up, I think, when Teddy ripped off the woman's blouse."

THE SCENE in the controversial play by Mark Medoff is one of high impact. The violence-prone Teddy, who has been abusing the patrons of a small-town diner both verbally and with vicious pranks, tears open the front of a blouse worn by Clarisse (Lynne Bradford). He also prods her both the property of t

diner.

Teddy's language is frequently mocking and crude, and his gestures and comments equally vulgar. The

widence in America among other themes.

The story exposes the weakness and strengths of the diners' patrots, as they come to grips with the shocking situation.

Meadow Brook Theatire, the professional theater on campus all Odkannd Ughversity in Rochester, has generally stuck to the classics and not faced the dilemma of audience reaction to fake contemporary drama.

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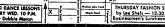
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