

the movies

Louise
SniderThoughtful drama
approaches theme
of officers' training

Before getting into the specifics of "An Officer and a Gentleman" (R), I'd like to ask you to recall all those movies you have seen about a recruit going through the rigors of basic training. They generally follow a similar pattern.

First we see the men losing their civilian identity and their individuality. They're issued the same clothing and given the same haircuts. Then we observe them going through the punishing physical demands of training.

Of course, all along they are being bullied, abused and whipped into shape by a super-mean, super-tough, but doing-it-all-for-their-own-good sergeant.

Finally, there comes the time when the hero rebels or cracks or otherwise is in danger of failure. This leads to the resolution. The crisis is overcome and the hero, along with most of his peers, successfully completes the training.

THESE MOVIES VARY just in details, according to which branch of the service is being featured. Often, they are just pieces of puffery for one of the services. Sometimes they are comedies, as in "Private Benjamin" or "Stripes."

Occasionally, they are even serious dramas. "An Officer and a Gentleman" is a serious drama.

It follows the plot principles outlined above, but it also differs in some important ways from other movies of its kind. It shows much greater interest in developing believable characters — people who have values, aspirations and passions that influence their actions. Also, it develops a credible love story that has a spontaneous and earthy quality to it.

Zack Mayo (Richard Gere) is the principal character. His experiences through 13 weeks of Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School provide the structural framework for the movie. Debra Winger plays his girlfriend, Paula. It's another impressive performance for Winger, who previously was seen as the female lead in "Urban Cowboy" and "Canney Row."

DAVID KEITH PLAYS Zack's friend Sid. Lisa Blount is Paula's friend, Lynette, and Louis Gossett Jr. is the tough sergeant, Foley. There is a feeling of authenticity about "An Officer and a Gentleman" that undoubtedly stems from the writer's own experience in the military. Douglas Day Stewart, who wrote the script and served as associate producer, did graduate from Naval Officer Training.

He gives us an insider's view of the training program that is interesting in itself. It is the attention to the human relationships, however, that makes this movie above average for its kind.

ZACK DOES not appear to be officer material. He is a street-fighter type and a loner. He does not give of himself or show concern for others. There is no doubt about his physical prowess, but his mental attitude and his leadership qualities are in doubt.

Similarly, his girlfriend, who works in a paper factory, does not outwardly seem to fit the role of an officer's wife. Nevertheless, it is Paula's genuine interest in Zack as a person, along with the friendship he develops with another candidate, Sid, that awakens new feelings in Zack that affect his career and his life.

The director, Taylor Hackford, gets excellent performances from the entire cast and develops the story in a way that gives the movie an absorbing, realistic quality.

Meadow Brook begins 7th week

Kris Kristofferson and Andy Williams headline the seventh week of Meadow Brook Music Festival on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Kristofferson and special guest star Billy Swan will bring their country sounds to Meadow Brook at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Sergio Comisón, music director of the Baltimore Symphony, will lead the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in two concerts, at 8 p.m. Thursday and Sunday. DSO principal violist Nathan Gordon will perform the Walton Concerto for Viola and Orchestra with the DSO on Thursday night, and young violinist Shlomo Mintz will perform Bruch's Concerto No. 1 in G on Sunday night.

Andy Williams fans may hear him sing "Moon River" and "Days of Wine and Roses" at his concert at 8 p.m. Friday.

OTHER THINGS and Company dance troupe will perform in the last of the children's concert series, at 11 a.m. Saturday morning. Carol Halstead, head of the Oakland University Dance Department, directs.

Tex Beneke will take the audience back to the big-band era of the '40s at 8 p.m. Saturday. He will be joined by Johnny Desmond, Helen Forrest and Paula Kelly with the Modernaires.

All concerts are held in the Baldwin Pavilion with entrances on Walton Boulevard and Adams Road. More than 7,000 people can be seated in the pavilion and on the lawn. The grounds are open two hours before evening concerts for picnicking or dining at Trumbull Terrace.

For tickets, dinner reservations or program information, call the festival box office at 377-2010. Tickets also are available at Hudson's and other CTC locations, Sears and Discount Records.



Tex Beneke and his orchestra recreate the big band era Saturday night at Meadow Brook Music Festival.



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Singing stars Helen Forrest and Johnny Desmond will be part of Saturday's nostalgia night. Paula Kelly and the Modernaires complete the musical program.

2nd 'classics' concert offered

A second "Hooked on Classics" concert has been scheduled for Aug. 22 at the Meadow Brook Music Festival because of exceptionally high ticket sales for the Aug. 21 performance, according to a Meadow Brook spokesperson.

A laser light show, produced by Laser Media, is being added to both "Hooked on Classics" shows, which feature Louis Clark, conductor and ar-

ranger of the multi-million-selling record album.

The "Hooked on Classics II" album has just been released.

Tickets are available at the festival box office on the Oakland University campus near Rochester (call 377-2010 for charge card orders) and also at Hudson's and other CTC locations, Sears and Discount Records.

Oakland County 4-H Fair

august 2-7 1982

- Figure 8 Race - Tuesday, 8 p.m.
- Country Western Concert - Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
- Demolition Derby - Thursday, 8 p.m.
- Performing Arts Troupe - Friday, 7 p.m.
- Western Rodeo - Friday & Saturday, 8 p.m.
- Meet Chuck E. Cheese and WWW disc jockeys Saturday

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what's at the movies

ANNIE (PG). The successful Broadway musical is expanded and brought to the screen by director John Huston, with talented Aileen Quinn as Annie and Albert Finney and Carol Burnett.

THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS (R). Bart Reynolds and Dolly Parton co-star in the Broadway musical hit about the legendary Chicken Ranch whorehouse in Texas. Screen version has a romance between the sheriff (Reynolds) and Miss Mona (Parton).

BLADE RUNNER (R). Harrison Ford is a detective hunting four defective human replicants who have become killers. Set in Los Angeles in the year 2020.

DINER (R). Comedy drama set in 1959 about five friends and their difficult transition into manhood.

E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL (PG). Steven Spielberg's best film yet, and probably the best film of the year, develops story of an alien being stranded on earth and befriended by a young boy.

FIREFOX (PG). Clint Eastwood is an American pilot of an espionage mission to steal the Soviets' most sophisticated warplane.

GREGORY'S GIRL (PG). Romantic comedy about an unlikely 16-year-old romance whose recent infatuation with the opposite sex has caused him to relegate any other considerations unimportant or positively nonexistent.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S SEX COMEDY (PG). Woody Allen returns after a long hibernation with a light period comedy. Stars Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Jose Ferrer, Julie Hagerty, Tony Roberts and Mary Steenburgen, written and directed by Woody Allen.

NIGHT SHIFT (R). A mixture of broad humor and human comedy centering on friendship of two average New Yorkers who come up with a one-in-a-million chance to strike it rich. Stars Henry Winkler, Michael Keaton and Shelly Long. Directed by Ron Howard.

POLTERGEIST (PG). Steven Spielberg film is a succession of special effects as suburban family is terrorized by spirits in their home.



Charles Lumley III (Henry Winkler) and Belinda Keaton (Shelley Long) encounter unconventional problems in "Night Shift," which opened Friday at Detroit-area theaters.