

Laredo's acclaim is well-deserved



second runs Tom Panzenhagen

"The Last Picture Show" (1971). 12:30 tonight on Ch. 7. Originally 118 minutes. TV time slot: 145 minutes.

Writer/director Peter Bogdanovich used to be a boy genius. But, as someone once said, "Genius is Hollywood's word for adequate." One suspects he was well liked a dozen years ago because he paid homage to the Hollywood establishment with epistles in book and article form about such mythic Tinseltown figures as John Ford. So what's Bogdanovich done lately? "Mask" is his latest work, then there was "They All Laughed" before that — both lackluster works that left one with the distinct feeling they could have been better. "The Last Picture Show" might have been better, too. It does successfully capture the mood of a dying Texas town circa 1951. But there's little substance beneath the convincing sets and ambience. There are, however, very fine performances to be observed, especially by Ben Johnson, Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges and Cybill Shepherd.

Rating: \$2.25.
"The Angry Red Planet" (1959). 2:50 Friday night on Ch. 7. Originally 83 minutes. TV time slot: 110 minutes.
"The Angry Red Planet" is one of those incredibly bad sci-fi flicks of the '50s that are exceptionally funny to watch today. This one was filmed in so-called Cinemagic which leaves

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

Bad\$1
Fair\$2
Good\$3
Excellent\$4

Mars looking like it was shot through a layer of Pepto Bismol. A pretty awful cast also manages to make the least of an awful script, and the special effects are hilarious, too. Les Tremayne, Jack Kruschen, Nora Hayden and Gerald Mohr star.

Rating: \$2.98.
"River of No Return" (1954). 2:30 Monday night on Ch. 4. Originally 91 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes.

Marilyn Monroe didn't get many opportunities to really act, and she's no Lady Macbeth in "River of No Return." But she does get to display some genuine ability in this story about a dance hall girl who falls in love with a widower and his young son. Robert Mitchum and Tommy Rettig are the objects of her affection. Rory Calhoun essays a really sleazy river boat gambler. The action is plentiful and very well paced by director Otto Preminger, and the scenery quite nice, too.

Rating: \$3.10.

Ruth Laredo is credited with being one of the most authoritative pianists of Rachmaninoff's music. She has recorded the complete solo works by Rachmaninoff and was engaged by the Peters Corp. to edit its Rachmaninoff edition, using original Russian texts.

Because she was born in Detroit, audiences in this area feel especially proud of her achievements.

Laredo was back last week for a special recital at the annual Peter and Clara Weisberg Concert, presented by Congregation Shaarey Zedek of Southfield. The overwhelming capacity crowd was larger than one is likely to encounter in a typical Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert.

THIS MAGNIFICENT event was free to the public. It was made possible through the efforts and contributions of many who were named and acknowledged on the stage.

One name that was omitted from the

long list, however, was that of Mischa Kottler, who was Laredo's most influential teacher before her studies with Rudolph Serkin.

Since this event was a tribute to mental and spiritual achievements, the important contribution of Kottler should have been recognized, even if it can't be measured in cash.

The program featured Russian music in general, with music by Rachmaninoff comprising only the last portion. The only non-Russian element on the program was a suite by Bloch, "Visions and Prophecies." This rarely performed work provided the "Jewish Connection."

The other composers on the program, besides the concluding Rachmaninoff, were Tchaikovsky, Scriabin and Prokofiev. With the exception of a couple of the Tchaikovsky selections, the music on that program was relatively unknown to most people in the audience.

Many in the audience weren't regular concertgoers. In view of that, the response and interest generated by



Avigdor Zarnop

Laredo's performance was most remarkable.

Laredo, whose extremely long fingers make it possible to cope with the meaty chords and enormous spans required by some of these works, has not only tremendous technique, but the musical inspiration to go with it.

THE MUSIC of Scriabin, which is like a closed book to many due to the eccentricity of the composer, was made more accessible through Laredo's playing. The most significant of his works on the program, the Sonata No. 9, made an indelible impression with its stormy twists and contortions.

Another impressive sonata on the

program was the Sonata No. 3 by Prokofiev, in which the full richness of harmony and the large scale of the sound didn't obliterate the fine and subtle nuances.

Some of the Rachmaninoff selections played were different than those written on the program. The scheduled G Minor Prelude, for example, which is among the more popular, wasn't performed. But for those who like to hear those nostalgic sounds of Rachmaninoff, this listening was one of the more profound experiences.

Ruth Laredo is indeed most impressive in her approach. The high acclaim and recognition bestowed on her are well-deserved.

what's at the movies

D.A.R.Y.L. (PG). Very special 10-year-old boy becomes the foster child of a childless couple. Mary Beth Hurt, Michael McKean and Barret Oliver.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN (PG-13). Hoboken housewife changes identities with a free spirit. Pop-rock star Madonna, who is from Rochester, makes her movie debut as Susan.

HELL HOLE (R). A bunch of unknown performers in a weird prison story.

A PRIVATE FUNCTION (R). British comedy about small Yorkshire town preparing for wedding for Princess Elizabeth and Lt. Philip Mountbatten.

SECRET ADMIRER (R). Romantic chain-reaction when an unsigned note is slipped in a high school locker.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences. All ages admitted.
P Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for preteens.
PG-13 Parents are strongly cautioned to give special guidance for attendance of children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.
R Restricted. Under 18 requires accompanying parent or guardian.
X No one under 18 admitted.

Short life

Ant colonies are female societies, in which the sole job of drones, or males, is to mate for a few moments with a young queen, then die, says National Geographic.

Orchestra's summer concerts start tonight

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra's summer at Meadow Brook Festival grounds, Oakland University, Rochester, begins this evening. Stanislaw Skrowaczewski will conduct and Maurice Andre, trumpet, is the soloist. The concert begins in Baldwin Pavilion at 8 p.m.

The program which will be repeated at 8 p.m. Sunday will include works by Berlioz, Hummel, Albinoni and Beethoven.

The Thursday/Sunday symphonic programs will continue through Sunday, Aug. 13.

The first children's concert, "Zooophantasies," will be at 11 a.m. Saturday. Admission for this concert is \$3.50. The grounds open at 6 p.m. for picnicking or meals are available at Trumbull Terrace.

Admission prices for the Thursday and Sunday concerts are \$15, \$14, \$12, \$10. For information, call 377-2010.



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