



second runs Tom Panzenhagen

"The Compleat Beatles" (1984), a Sunday night on Ch. 4. Originally 101 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes.

This Beatles biography may be thorough but it's hardly complete. First the bad news: The documentary does not include interviews with the Beatles themselves. No doubt the lads from Liverpool — Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison (John Lennon was murdered in 1980) — didn't want to be bothered, so perhaps the producers shouldn't be taken to task for that. They supplement the film with comments from friends and associates and assorted hangers-on, but these second-hand testimonies become tedious after a while. And the many speculations about matters ranging from the Beatles' inspirations to their breakup beg an authoritative voice.

Secondly, there's not enough footage of Beatles concerts. A rare clip of them performing at the Cavern Club in Liverpool, circa 1960, for instance, is cut short. Ed Sullivan is seen introducing them to an American television audience in 1964, but footage of their appearance on his program is missing. We hear parts of several Beatles' songs set against visual collages of their careers, but clips of actual performances, which would have enhanced their biography, are not to be found.

Now for the good news: There is enough vintage film footage and classic

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

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

old photographs of the Beatles — a.k.a. the Quarry Men, Johnny and the Moondogs, and the Silver Beetles — to enthrall even the casual Beatles buff. Pictures and clips dating from the mid-1950s meld with longtime Beatles musical producer George Martin's running commentary of their formation and early trials and tribulations.

Original Beatles Stuart Sutcliffe and Peter Dinklage are fondly remembered and the band's early days in Liverpool and Hamburg, Germany, are documented. Beatle trivia — their first recording was a rock version of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" — finds its place, and interviews with the Beatles taped 19 years ago are well interspersed.

Their careers and life-styles are detailed right through the 1960s, and the many factors leading to their breakup are neatly presented.

Sure, it would be nice to see the Beatles together again, and this film makes one lament the fact that their time to-

gether was relatively short. Since a reunion's quite impossible now, though, "The Compleat Beatles" may be the next best thing.
Rating: \$3.45.

"That's Entertainment II" (1976), 1 Wednesday night on Ch. 50. Originally 133 minutes. TV time slot: 144 minutes.
What's "That's Entertainment II" got that the original "That's Entertainment" didn't have. More comedy, for one thing; drama, and plenty of music. While the first issue was an all-singing, all-dancing review of MGM productions, "II" also offers clips of such great performers as Jack Benny, the Marx Brothers and Laurel and Hardy, Greta Garbo and John Barrymore, and, of course, Judy Garland, Jeanette MacDonald, Nelson Eddy et al. Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire introduce the acts.
Rating: \$3.25.



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