

Rosy's Search Is Worth The Trip

By BETTY MASSON

Seeing the movie "Ryan's Daughter" is something like seeing your favorite work of art hung in a barn. It's worth the trip to see it, but it would have been more satisfying in a better setting. The photography of the Irish countryside is rich and vibrant. The symbolic effects speak volumes. But the photography is hung on a somewhat fragile

plot. A setting of such technical competence and sensitivity deserves better. "RYAN'S DAUGHTER" is the story of Rosy Ryan (Sarah Miles), a young girl, and her search for "something more." Her search takes place in a small Irish village inhabited by half-savages (because of the British) the young people are unemployed) barely kept in check by their priest.

Her story is set against World War I, when the Irish nationalists were seeking the support of the Germans in order to overthrow British rule.

Now playing at the Quo Vadis Theatre in Westland, and released by MGM, it is directed by David Lean, noted for "Dr. Zhivago" and "Bridges on the River Kwai."

A VERY SUBDUED Robert Mitchum plays the village school-master, the only person who realizes that there is a world beyond the tiny Irish village in which Rosy tries in vain to find fulfillment.

Against his better judgment (it's a sin to waste her youth), he marries Rosy, and on her wedding night shows her that sex is no release from the stultifying village.

Rosy quickly meets and hurries into an affair with a British officer (Christopher Jones), who only registers emotions caused by shell-shock.

After exchanging a few words, they meet in the woods...where they don't appear to converse at all. Absolutely no effort is made to justify their romance save on the grounds of physical need, and here is where the plot is the weakest.

The love scenes seem to be thrown in merely as a sop to the current trend and add nothing to the story. More conversation would have.

IN FACT THERE are too many pregnant pauses throughout the movie, and its



MICHAEL'S MASQUERADE — John Mills plays a mute, Michael, who turns violent when confronted by Father Collins (Trevor Howard) in the movie "Ryan's Daughter." Sarah Miles plays the title role of a passionate young girl who expects more of life and love than her narrow world can offer. Set in Ireland in 1916, the MGM film is playing in the Quo Vadis Theatre, Westland.

three-hour running time could easily have been shortened to good effect.

Sarah Miles has a lovely, mobile and expressive mouth, but would have been more believable had she been given more lines. Jones could have unbent at least once. We never know how he really feels.

The viewer is asked to use his imagination in the wrong places.

JOHN MILLS, who plays the deaf-mute town idiot, does an extremely fine job with his role, as does Trevor Howard, who plays Father Hugh. A mixture of good and bad, he even strikes Rosy in

his anger at her dreams...and helps the Irish nationalists gather the rifles and ammunition needed to blast the British soldiers off their soil. The firearms have to be salvaged from the beach in the middle of a big storm, one of the highlights of the picture. Even though the plot is weak, the ending is not...it is the right one for the personalities involved and for the times.

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