

LEGIT REVIEW

The Widow's Blind Date (L.A. Actor's Theatre; 88 top)

Israel Horovitz, a product of the 1960's New Wave playwrights whose credits include such one-acters as "The Indian Wants The Bronx," "It's Called The Sugar Plum," "Morning," "Rats," etc., has written a full-length work, "The Widow's Blind Date," which is just another one-acter expanded beyond endurance.

Los Angeles Actors' Theatre is presenting the world premier of this contrived and gratuitously violent play, William Bushnell directing.

Show deals basically with revenge (a la Duerrenmatt's "The Visit") of a successful girl from a small New England town upon two of the men who "took ad-

vantage of her" in a high school gang rape.

Archie, played extremely well by Frank McCarthy, is a mental midget and works in a baling room of a waste paper company. He's simple and kind, but doesn't take any guff from anybody.

George is an intellectual equal but is far cruder — obsequious until he gains a position of advantage, then he becomes ruthless. Charles Parks portrays him excellently.

Margie, who was "easy" in high school, but managed to break away from the small town and achieve success as a magazine writer, has come back home for her husband's burial. Patricia Mattick is rather weak in her performance.

When Margie calls Archie for a "date," George gets jealous, but when she arrives, Margie pits the two men against one another and they all play cat-and-mouse games, hiding behind the distance of time and faulty remembrance. Show laboriously builds to the climax when Margie gets her revenge, leaving Archie with a promise that she'll get back to him later.

Show is a one-idea tale that could be achieved in an average one-act length. All the padding is puerile and ponderous. Bushnell keeps the pace up, but there's little to hold audience attention.

Barbara Ling designed the set which is made up entirely of one baling press and a lot of newspapers. She also lighted it flat and designed the simple, ordinary costumes.

Women's Org Will Laud Fox' Lansing

Sherry Lansing, president of 20th Century-Fox Films, will be one of 10 honorees at a testimonial dinner given by the Women's Equity Action League in New York tomorrow.

Lansing will be beribboned as one of the nation's 10 outstanding women executives.

Christina Galante, chairwoman of the California Motion Picture Council, will convey a message from Gov. Jerry Brown commending the group for recognizing the impact of the entertainment industry on the nation's economy via its recognition of Lansing.

Galante will stay on in New York for a week of huddles with New York production firms in an attempt to persuade them to film in California.

Her New York push is another in a series of efforts to beef up the profile of the state agency.

UA Slates Two Sets Of Int'l Sales Huddles

New York, Oct. 7 — United Artists will hold two sets of international sales conventions, with the first scheduled to start Oct. 19 and the second Oct. 27.

The meetings will include managing directors, advertising-publicity directors and administrative supervisors from UA's overseas offices who will meet with top UA executives headed by Norbert T. Auerbach.

The first group of meetings will be held in San Francisco with UA execs from Latin America, the Far East and Australia involved. The following week, directors from UA's branches in Europe and Africa will gather in Athens.

The purpose of the meetings is to view upcoming product, discuss sales and formulate advertising strategies. Additionally, current administrative policies will be evaluated.

Attending the convention in addition to Auerbach, will be internal sales v.p. Michael Williams-Jones; international distribution vep Fred Hill; international administration vep Bill Fishman; Melvin Weinhaber, v.p. and executive assistant to Auerbach; William Stewart, European controller; and James J. Anthony, sales supervisor for the Eastern Hemisphere.

Two PGs were held in New York last week, the first by the Motion Picture Association of America's Education & Exchange Administration.

One PG, Two R Tags Handled Out

Two PGs were held in New York last week, the first by the Motion Picture Association of America's Education & Exchange Administration.

	Box Score	PG	R	Total
1st	28	21	1	50
2nd	25	21	1	47
3rd	107	48	1	156
4th	35	48	2	85
5th	33	48	2	83
6th	77	68	4	149
7th	21	37	2	60
8th	33	82	7	122
9th	124	87	2	213
10th	174	76	8	258
11th	46	118	6	270
12th	33	119	0	248
13th	338	857	1412	2780
14th	581	1890	2182	5153

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John Pearson International of BevHills will handle international distribution of the Country Music Association awards show, which will be broadcast by CBS domestically on Oct. 13.

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NATO CONVENTION SKEDS PANELS AND LINES UP HOSTS FOR EVENTS

The question of whether or not coexistence between exhibition and home video entertainment is an increasingly limited possibility will be explored by a panel at the annual convention of the National Association of Theatre Owners in New Orleans.

Addressing the question on the closing day of the meet, Oct. 22, will be a symposium including Burt Harris, chairman of Promiere, a pay-cable consortium of major film producers; distributors and Getty Oil; Theodore Levitt, a professor at Harvard Graduate Business School; Bruce C. Corwin, president of Metropolitan Theatres; Ralph Kuhns, senior vice president, Bank of America; and Norman Goodman, president of the Division of Tele-

Short Work Shows, Promotional Goodman Leads Oct. 21

National Association of Theatre Owners' annual convention this month, will feature Alan Goodman, president of United Artists Eastern Hemisphere, and Eugene Goodman, senior vice president of domestic United Artists Corp., for their contributions in promoting short films in the nation's theatres.

Breakfast Oct. 21 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, per NATO president Alan Friedberg.

UA, for three years "has produced exhibits with Showcase through branch offices," Goodman said, "and we see this as a good way to encourage the new talent that is vital to the growth of our industry."

The Short Film Showcase, under the direction of Alan Mikosky, is administered by the foundation for Independent Video & Film in New York and supplies some 19 subjects without charge to owner/operators of more than 4500 screens.

National Education Association assistant director Catherine Wyler will present the awards.

Atlantic Promoting Pic Line-Up At NATO Confab

Atlantic Releasing will ballyhoo what proxy Tom Coleman calls its biggest product line-up ever at the NATO convention in New Orleans.

Company will stage a "Female Mud Wrestling Contest" Oct. 20 to hype its "Below The Belt." Also being pushed are "The Attic," the Australian "Caddie," "Loose Shoes," "The Hound Of The Baskervilles" and the already released "Rude Boy," "Claire De Femme" and "The Getting Of Wisdom."

Accompanying Coleman to New Orleans will be v.p. Mike Rosenblatt and national sales manager Ted Goldberg.

Prompter Corp., and Lawrence B. Hilford, senior v.p., Columbia Pictures Inc.

Exhibition recently has had more adherents of the if-you-can't-hok-'em-join-'em school of thought. Among those with financial feet in both worlds is Corwin, whose company has been moving aggressively to shore up its theatre operations with cable-tv ownership.

Boston exhibitor Philip Lowe, president of the National Association of Concessionaires, will moderate the discussion.

Director William Friedkin will offer a filmmaker's insight the opening convention day.

Under the theme "Enhancing the Motion Picture Experience," another panel discussion Oct. 21, will report on technical advancements and/or systems, and what new avenues in terms of increased profits, improved atmosphere and better hostesses look for.

Participants will be Charles A. Jones, National Cinema Supply Co.; Rex E. Alden, Society of Motion Picture Technicians & Engineers; Douglas N. Amos, chairman of the NATO technical advancement committee; and Arnold Brown, National Film Service.

Also on the panel will be John Donlon, v.p. Technicolor; Sol Lomita, United Artists Corp.; Kenneth Mason, chairman, Interoceity Council; and John Pytlak, SMPTE projection committee.

Harmon Rifkin will moderate.

Another Oct. 21 forum, focusing on advertising, will invite the views of Jack Mitchell, George Kiefer, Jules Landefeld and David Weiss, moderated by Don Baker, chairman of NATO's advertising committee.

Filmways will host the opening day luncheon, Oct. 20. Columbia Pictures will pick up the dinner tab that evening. United Artists will host the Oct. 21 breakfast, MGM that day's luncheon, and Golden Harvest Film that night's dinner.

Avco Embassy will be breakfast host Oct. 22. Eussa Vix will be luncheon host. Avco Embassy will be back hosting an evening reception, and Coca Cola will, as usual, host the climactic awards banquet Oct. 23, at which Angie Dickinson and Burt Reynolds will be honored as stars of the year.

Showmanship Honor For Charles Schnee

Charles H. Schnee, pioneer of fantasy-adventure pic and producer of MGM's upcoming "Clash Of The Titans," will be handed National Association of Theatre Owners' Production Showmanship Award at the convention in New Orleans, reports NATO prez A. Alan Friedberg.

Schnee will be honored in a special ceremony on Oct. 21 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel "in recognition of 25 years of providing exhibitors with innovative and highly explicable product."

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