

'Pop' Fizzles In Chicago; 'Night' Does A Bit Better

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ging for \$28,000 or near in second return frame at five spots after \$50,045 last week at 10 theatres.

"Ordinary People" third return frame at six sites yields \$13,000 or near after \$37,004 last week at ditto.

"The Great Santini" and "Private Benjamin" duo draws \$27,000 or near in first teaming at five spots after \$28,488 last week for "Benjamin" solo at six theatres.

"Melvin And Howard" willing \$27,000 or near in fourth week at eight theatres after \$27,329 last week at six spots.

"Altered States" down to \$22,000 or near in seventh turn at three houses after \$43,888 last week at five sites.

"Any Which Way You Can" reduced to \$10,000 or near in 12th week at seven sites after \$27,613 last week at nine spots.

Three Of Five New Frisco Pix Showing Moxie

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and Stonetown 2 produced \$10,000.

But "Dogs Of War" m.o. to the Balboa and Empire 3 proved a tepid \$2600.

"Ordinary People" legged \$6000 in 12th m.o. passage at the Spruce and Surf.

"Elephant Man" slipped to \$3000 in Vogue's 12th m.o. stanza.

"Sir Crazy" held at \$1600 in 13th turn at the Geneva 3.

"Any Which Way You Can" yawned \$1800 in 12th Serra stop.

"The Great Santini" did a decent \$3900 in m.o. to the Metro 2.

"Raging Bull" drooped to \$4600 in second m.o. session at the Alexandria 3 and Cento Cedar.

Film Assignments

"Diner," MGM: production manager, Ken Swor; production coordinator, Anna Zapplia; secretary to producer-director, Susan Moore; director of photography, Peter Sova; first assistant cameraman, George Berrios; 2d assistant cameraman, Tom Weston; camera operator, Don Sweeney; visual consultant, Gene Rudolf; art director, Leon Harris; illustrator, Petko Kudiev; first assistant director, Scott Easton; 2d assistant director, Rob Rooy; production assistant, Paul Gongaware; production accountant, Paul Roedl; assistant to production accountant, Leanne Moore; location manager, Nancy Hackerman; costume designer, Gloria Gresham; assistant to costume designer, Mary Vogt; men's costumer, Tony Scarano; women's costumer, Dee Scarano; property master, Larry Bird; assistant prop masters, Ken Zimmerman, Vinnie Vecchio; set decorator, Chris Westlund; lead man, Bill Gay; script supervisor, Betsy Norton; hair stylist, Christine George; make-up, Irv Buckman; special effects, Chuck Schulties; sound mixer, Darin Knight; boom man, Don Bolger; cable man, Charles Bond; construction coordinator, Steven Franciotti; painters, Bob Evans, Paul Campanelli; still photographer, Cay Bushnell; publicist, Judith Rheiner; researcher, Mary Cahill; grip consultant, Bill Reinhardt; key grip, Pete Papanikolas; grips, Rich Redlin, Dave Wells; dolly grip, Lloyd Barcroft; lighting consultant, Dick Falk; gaffer, John Gilgar; best boy, John Degen; electricians, Augustus Horton, Forrest Howerton; film editor, Stewart Linder; assistant film editor, Andy Blumental; caterer, Ron Welch; transportation coordinator, Mike Padovich; transportation captain, Bill Swanke; 10-ton truck driver, Ike Mizen; 40' creative truck, Gary Cruise; car carrier, John Moore; honeywagon, Jackie Crane.

San Diego Appealing Part Of Pussycat Award

City of San Diego is appealing a \$326,000 portion of a \$1,626,000 award made to Walnut Properties Inc., owner of the Pussycat Theatre in S.D. that was evicted last year to make way for downtown redevelopment.

A Superior Court jury made the award after L.A. attorney William Bitting argued that the Pussycat was an attraction rivaling San Diego's zoo and Sea World. The \$326,000 was an award for the loss of that good will.

Walnut topper Vince Miranda yesterday said his firm has three other theatres that have been condemned by the city for the redevelopment plan and suits have been filed on each of those. Theatres involved are the Lyceum, Cabrillo and Plaza.

The \$1,200,000 not being contested by the city is for the property and equipment, Miranda said.

Friars Salute To AGVA Honors Hildegard, Caesar

Supper club singer Hildegard and songwriter Irving Caesar will be awarded honorary life memberships in the American Guild of Variety Artists at the Friars Annual Salute to AGVA tonight at the Gotham Friars Club.

Hildegard and Caesar will receive the honor in light of outstanding and distinguished service to the entertainment industry. The third recipient was skedded to be Joe Smith, of Smith and Dale fame, who recently passed away. Instead a donation to the Actor's Fund will be made in his name.

Obituaries

Kiril Kondrashin

Kiril Kondrashin, 67, Russian conductor who defected to the West two years ago, died March 8 of a heart attack at his home in Amsterdam.

Conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre for over a dozen years and, from 1960, director of the Moscow Philharmonic, Kondrashin is credited with introducing more contemporary music into the Soviet repertoire and recorded two popular albums with Van Cliburn after the American pianist won the Tchaikovsky competition.

After touring in Europe and the U.S. for many years, he decided to defect in December, 1978 after having become dissatisfied with the artistic constraints placed upon him in the Soviet Union. For the past two years he had been conductor of the Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam.

Years ago honored as a "People's Artist Of The U.S.S.R.," Kondrashin began conducting in 1931 with the Children's Theatre and three years later became assistant conductor of the Nemirovich-Danchenko Music Theatre. A stint with the Malyi Theatre in Leningrad from 1936-43 was followed by his long tenure at the Bolshoi, where he introduced several new productions.

He is survived by his widow, Nolde, his second Russian wife, who would not defect with him, and three sons.

John Gnagy

John Gnagy, 74, painter whose "You Are An Artist" series appeared on NBC-TV, and later CBS, for several years, died March 7 at his home in Idyllwild, Ca.

After working as an advertising art director, Gnagy began his show of weekly televised art courses in 1946, switching in 1950 to CBS, where he remained until the mid-1960s. Since then, he has lectured around the country.

He is survived by his widow, Mary Jo Hinton, daughter Polly Seymour, son Stephen, three sisters, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jim Garner's pact to do Polaroid blurbs has been extended for two years. Charles Stern, proxy of the Charles H. Stern agency in L.A. finalized negotiations with Joseph Daly, chairman Doyle, Dane, Berbach Inc.

ATLANTIC RELEASING FORMS UNIT TO PROVIDE FEEVEE PROGRAMS

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)
operation in place," said the new ATI vice president.

Another element which figured in the thinking of Atlantic executives has been the fact that in 1977 the company's cable and pay income accounted for only 4-5% of revenues while by 1980 that figure was closer to 40%. Such dramatic changes in the sources of revenues pointed up the importance of having a firmer foothold in the new markets.

Joint Venture
For the past two years Atlantic has joint ventured its features in the cable arena with Film Gallery, a New York company which handles the ancillary market rights of much independent product.

As those rights revert to Atlantic, ATI will handle any remaining sales. But Atlantic is also in negotiations to acquire the distribution rights to about 30 films which the company will market during the coming year.

"Today you can get anywhere from \$10,000 to \$3,000,000 for a film from the arena of the cable and pay-tv markets," said Atlantic topper Tom Coleman. Coleman added, however, that the company, which had distributed a large number of foreign films in the past, will concentrate primarily on domestic product in its cable sales area.

"Up until last year the pay-tv systems were very receptive to foreign product," Coleman said. "But those markets have diminished. Now the pay-tv systems are looking more to domestic features."

Acquisition Options
Dana said that Atlantic is concentrating on a number of unique options in the acquisitions area, including buying rights to English-language foreign tv programs for sales to cable. Agreement in principle has already been reached on two Australian tv shows.

While the sales side will provide the "bread and butter" for the company in its formative stages, ATI also has an exclusive distribution arrangement with Hollywood Cable Prods. for over 50 hours of programming. The programs are expected to cost approximately \$25,000 each. The first show to be delivered under this agreement is "The Sam Diego Trillion Dollar Burlesque Extravaganza."

Hollywood Cable is a newly

formed production company of which Coleman is a principle. Financing for the company was arranged through Atlantic.

In the first year or so about one-third of the ATI product will be original programming and specials which ATI hopes to sell to pay-tv and cable systems.

In the case of "The Sam Diego Show," Coleman feels the program may have a particular appeal to cable markets as counter programming for the 11 p.m. time slot when the networks traditionally program news. In Coleman's view, an adult comedy would provide good competition and is attractive for cable buyers.

Universal Releasing Off-Net Features, Series To Pay-Tv

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Eastwood, Charlton Heston and Burt Reynolds.

Off-net series will be targeted for specific demographic groups: the "Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew" for kids, "Delta House" for teens, "Rich Man, Poor Man" for young adults.

Additionally, Universal Pay Television is adding "Smoko & The Bandit II" and "Blues Brothers" to its first-run feevee roster. Both b.o. hits will be made available immediately.

Idea is to have them augment such previously available theatricals as "The Jerk," "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "The Electric Horseman."

Universal also will release to the feevee market "Cheech And Chong's Next Movie," "Xanadu," "In God We Trust," "Somewhere In Time" and "Resurrection."

Big new pay-tv item out of Universal is a Queen concert special produced by the studio in Great Britain.

Piper Laurie To Topline 'Trials Of Mrs. Surratt'

Piper Laurie will star in Earplays "The Trials Of Mrs. Surratt." National Public Radio will syndicate hour show.

Nicholas Meyer directs from a script by Lanie Robertson. Howard Gelman is the producer.



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