movies...

'The Courtship Of Eddie's Father' At Music Hall

By Gifferto Pereszl

The Courtship of Eddie's Father was something of a letdown. I expected another display of Vincente Minnelli's talent for the sophisticated comedy, in the tradition of "Designs of Women" and "The Reluctant Debutante," but the film was not much of a sophisticated comedy. The script, a rather mediocre one, was a mixture of humor and sentimentality that did not always blend. Thanks to Miss Jones' ability to handle the sophisticated comedy, in the tradition of "Designs of Woman" and "The Reluctant Debutante," the film is vastly superior to the average American in Paris,' 'Meet Me In St. Louis,' 'The Bad and the Beautiful' - received wide acclaim. One reviewer wrote that the film was an "outstanding example of the new Hollywood studio." The reviewer praised the script, which was never very funny or touching. The story deals with the re-adoption of a small boy, Eddie (Ronny Howard), by his widow father (Glenn Ford) into social life. Eddie dislikes the woman his father plans to marry (Elsa Mer- rill) and likes a young divorcée who lives in the apartment next door (Shirley Jones). Save for iso- lated moments (Shelley Stevens emerges as an able, unconventionally, the script is never very funny or touching.

It is part of Minnelli's trade to make good films from poor basic material - "Taxi and Sympathy" and "Home from the Hill" are only two examples. It is remarkable how he patches up the deficiencies in the script. The ending, for instance, depicted an implausible reconciliation between Mr. Ford and Miss Jones. Minnelli makes a splendid scene out of it. The camera, centered on Eddie, moves from one apartment to the other, and we never hear what they are saying. Minnelli's pictorial compositions are always a joy to watch. He is a master of what might be called cinematic kinematics - the relative motions of the camera and the various persons and objects, in interaction through montage, camera movements and movement within the frame. This gives an unusual fluidity to the style and makes his films, to taste, always likeable. Furthermore, he is an expert at constructing scenes - the search for Eddie and the several arguments between Mr. Ford and Miss Jones are excel- lences.

'The Courtship of Eddie's Father' is not as decorative as the usual Minnelli product, but the imagery is often delightful. We have several sequences that are outstanding - a masterful use of color is present throughout. These techniques result in a splendid mise-en-scene of a mod- erate subject. The outcome is not wholly satisfactory, but never- theless enjoyable film.

Irish Play Opens At Loeb Center

"June and the Paycock," by the Irish playwright Sean O'Casey, will open at the Loeb Drama Cen- ter March 22, and will continue through March 27, 28, and 29, at 8:30 pm. A tragedy played out by com- mitted, the play is the story of a poor Irishman and his family who learn they are to inherit a large sum of money. They begin to lead their lives in expectation of the inheritance, but the money never comes.

The Irish Play, "June and the Paycock," is a good film. It is the typical movie that critics hate and people love. In some ac- counts it is a 'mediocre' film; it is far from being among Minnelli's best - "Some Came Running" was a masterpiece. At any rate, 'The Courtship of Ed- die's Father' is a good film.

Sr. House Orgy: Gladiatorial Combat, Slave Auction

Treated Senior Resident Mahmoud saluted the Kame- on Orgy Party last Friday night. The group featured a slave auction, an assassination, and battling gladiators. (Left) John M. and Bob Schneider battle to the death.本期 Dor '64 enjoys the better things in life. - Photos by John Toroko

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