Critic's Choice

Dreyer's 'Joan of Arc' a great film masterpiece
By Gilberto Perez-Guillermo

Carl-Theodor Dreyer, one of my best-known filmmakers, has made a remarkably rich contribution to the very few cinema artists who have resolutely refused any compromise, preferring to remain inarticulate if they cannot express themselves successfully to the fullest. Dreyer's films, with their haunting beauty, their mystical fervor, their deliberate slowness, their emphasis on detail, have never failed to find financial backing for their deliberate slowness, their extraordinary flow of emotions, sustained by the beautifully balanced aura of images, which suggest the majestic, larger-than-life nature of the trial and martyrdom of Joan of Arc. Into this extraordinary whole, Dreyer has integrated a range of details, ranging from the motives of Joan's judges, to the consequences of her death, which are splendidly suggested in the final sequence. There is no doubt, "Joan of Arc" is one of the supreme masterpieces of the screen.

Jean Renoir's "A Day in the Country" (at the Brattle, and at the BU Student Union, Friday at 6:30, 9:00 and 10:30) is probably the best short film ever made, a lyrical, nostalgic expression of Renoir's love of nature and simplicity, its creation of the atmosphere and sensations of real life, muted it one of the more successful neorealist films, and certainly the most popular one.

Vittorio de Sica's "The Bicycle Thief" (at the First Parish Cinema, May 10 at 9:00 p.m.) may be a trifle over-sentimental, but it is mostly constructed with genuine feeling, and its directness and simplicity, its creation of atmosphere and sensation of real life, muted it one of the more successful neorealist films, and certainly the most popular one.

The LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Spring Festival at MIT continuing; Band, Symphony, Glee Club to play

The Spring Festival of Music at MIT will continue this weekend with performances by the Concert Band, the Symphony Orchestra, the Brass Choir, and Glee Club. MIT has again commissioned an original concert band work for the occasion: Jerome Abinuous, "Transcendental Expression." The world premiere of this symphonic work was pured on Saturday, May 9 at 8:30 p.m., in Kresge Auditorium. The work features an organ part written especially for Saturday's organist, Zuena Norcia. Also on the program for Saturday are Decca's 'Orthodox Overture' and 'An Elisabethan Suite' for strings and four horns composed by John Barbirolli, played by the orchestra, and 'English Ayres and Dances' by Holborne, played by the Brass Choir. John Carley directs the band and the orchestra; the Brass Choir is led by William Traphagan.

Sunday's concert, by the Glee Club, the Wellesley College Choir, the Cambridge Festival Orchestra, and the Festival soloists, will be Paree's 'The Fairy Queen,' with Klaus Limpert conducting. The concert will begin at 3:00 p.m.

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Movie Schedule

Wednesday, May 6 through Thursday, May 7

BOSTON CINEMA

STANDUP COMEDY

"The Hole In The Wall," 8:30, 10:30

"The Iron Mask," 7:45, 9:45

"The Pink Panther," 7:30, 9:30

"The Longest Day," 7:50, 9:50

"The Seven Faces of Dr. Larch," 7:50, 9:50

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PARK SQUARE CINEMA

"The Longest Day," 7:30, 9:30

"Flight from Ashiya," 7:10, 9:10

"The Seven Faces of Dr. Larch," 7:50, 9:50

"The Seven Faces of Dr. Larch," 7:50, 9:50

EXETER CITY CINEMA

"The Longest Day," 7:30, 9:30

"Flight from Ashiya," 7:10, 9:10

"The Seven Faces of Dr. Larch," 7:50, 9:50

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Lectures and Films

"Letters of the Field," 4:00, 6:00

"Dr. Strangelove," Mon-Sat. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

"It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World," Mon-Sat. 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

"The Bicycle Thief," Sun., 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

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LECfURE SERIES COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Contemporary Series

"The Mouse that Roared"
also Peter Sellers' short "The Case of the Mukkinese Battlehorn"
at first and last shows only
Friday, May 8
6:30, 9:00 and 10:30
26-100 60c

"The List of Adrian Messenger"
Saturday, May 9
5:15, 7:30, 9:45
26-100 35c

Classic Series

"The Bicycle Thief"
Sunday, May 10
8:00

Winter Lecture Series

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