

movie...

Rewritten 'Minsky's' a mess

By Robert Fourer

"The Night They Raided Minsky's" was supposed to be a super-nostalgic look at burlesque in the twenties. It was supposed to star veteran actor Bert Lahr, as an old-time comic who was once "top banana." And it was supposed to be about an innocent girl that he brings to Minsky's Burlesque after she runs away from home, who is persuaded unawares to appear on stage as a trick to foil a police raid, and whose appearance accelerates the charges the old man is incapable of understanding.

Bert Lahr's unfortunate death put an end to that film, however. None of his important scenes with the girl had been shot, and the producer (Norman Lear) was unable, or unwilling, to find a suitable replacement. His only recourse was to rewrite the script, salvaging what could be of the original intentions, and playing up the

Making the scene

A work by MIT music professor David Epstein will be performed in a concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players Wednesday, January 8 at 8:30 pm in Jordan Hall. His String Trio will be performed by Joseph Silverstein, concertmaster of the BSO, Burton Fine, principal violist, and Jules Eskin, principle cellist.

The MIT community players will open its 36th season with six performances of Jean Anouilh's *Antigone* at MIT's Kresge Little Theater beginning January 10, 1969. Performances of the celebrated Anouilh play will also be given Saturday and Sunday January 11-12 and Thursday to Saturday January 16-18. The play will be directed by Jim Cooke, and stars Marie Philips and Erik Goldner. All performances begin at 8:30, except Sunday which begins at 1:30; ticket information may be obtained by phoning 864-6900, ex. 4120.

NCAA to ponder new proposals

The RPI Athletic Department, in an attempt to bring to a final decision the controversy over eligibility of college freshmen to participate in varsity sports, has proposed three different amendments to be considered at the annual NCAA gathering in Los Angeles this month.

Amendment A: To make freshmen ineligible for all NCAA events and to count participation by a freshman on a varsity team as one of three permissible seasons of varsity competition.

Amendment B: To make freshmen eligible for all NCAA events in all sports.

Amendment C: To make freshmen eligible for all College Division events, but not University Division events; and freshmen would be eligible for three subsequent seasons of participation in both divisions.

In addition, an amendment was submitted by the ECAC, the Big Ten Conference, and Pacific-8 Conference intending to rule freshman students from institutions with more than 1250 undergraduate male students ineligible for all NCAA events, and freshman students from all institutions ineligible for National Collegiate Championship events.

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Godard's "LES CARIBINIERS"
3:45, 6:35, 9:40
Plus "LE PETIT SOLDAT"
2:15, 5:00, 8:05

Camus' "THE STRANGER"
5:30, 7:30, 9:30

remaining major characters, especially Jason Robards and Norman Wisdom as Minsky's new star comics. Understandably, the shooting was confused, and the changes were mostly just a matter of clever editing.

Just a mess

The result, finally, is just as much a mess. It vacillates between an almost serious love story and a straight-out farce, with burlesque more the background than the subject. What's left of the original intentions is mostly the long introductory sequence, and in the advertising. Admittedly, there are plenty of well-staged recreations of burlesque numbers and routines, and many funny shots of stereotypes of the

period; but they no longer bear any relation to the picture's plot or purpose. Any intended subtleties have become hopelessly lost in the struggle to fabricate an understandable succession of events.

So, without any preliminary explanation, the film is so haphazard one might seriously doubt the competence of everyone involved; and even with an explanation, there isn't much left to enjoy. There are some good comic scenes, though others could be better, and the photography and acting are not lacking. But, with most of today's film audience born somewhat later than 1925, you can't stake everything on nostalgia.

movie...

O'Toole, Hepburn shine in 'The Lion in Winter'

By Robin Hood, et al.

"The Lion in Winter" is the story of the struggle between Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine, his wife, to determine the succession to the throne after Henry's death. It is the story, too, of the betrayal of brother against brother. Set in 1182, some years after the death of Thomas a Becket, it begins at Christmas, as Henry is holding court. He releases his wife from her prison, and calls his sons to him.

We then meet his sons for the first time: Richard, who, having vanquished a foe, is trying to work up the courage to kill him; John, who is being instructed by his father in the arts of swordsmanship; and last (and even in this we see a hint of the future), Geoffrey, directing several ranks of mounted soldiers against a troop of foot-soldiers.

They all come to the castle, and the struggles begin: Eleanor and Richard against Henry and John, Jeff and John against Richard, Richard and Jeff against John. Winner take all, and the winner in Jeff—except that the winner is none of them.

The intrigues all take place to the background of the battles of Henry and

Eleanor. While fighting for Henry against a young ward, or for Richard against John, we see Katharine Hepburn at her best. Ranging in passions from proud arrogance to bitter defeat, she is still the queen.

Pitted against her is Peter O'Toole as her husband, Henry II. Loving father and husband, lusty Englishman and King of England, he epitomizes the legends of that time.

The interplay between Eleanor and Henry is, unfortunately, practically the whole movie. Not enough time is devoted to the sons, though they do have a few moving moments, like those between Richard and Eleanor, or Richard and Henry. John is played well, properly pitiful. It is, in fact, difficult to conceive of John as the future King of England he became. The truly masterful son is Jeff: eternally the overlooked son, neither his father or mother cared for him.

The title, if you're interested in the historical angle, comes from the fact that Henry II added the lions to the coat of arms of England.

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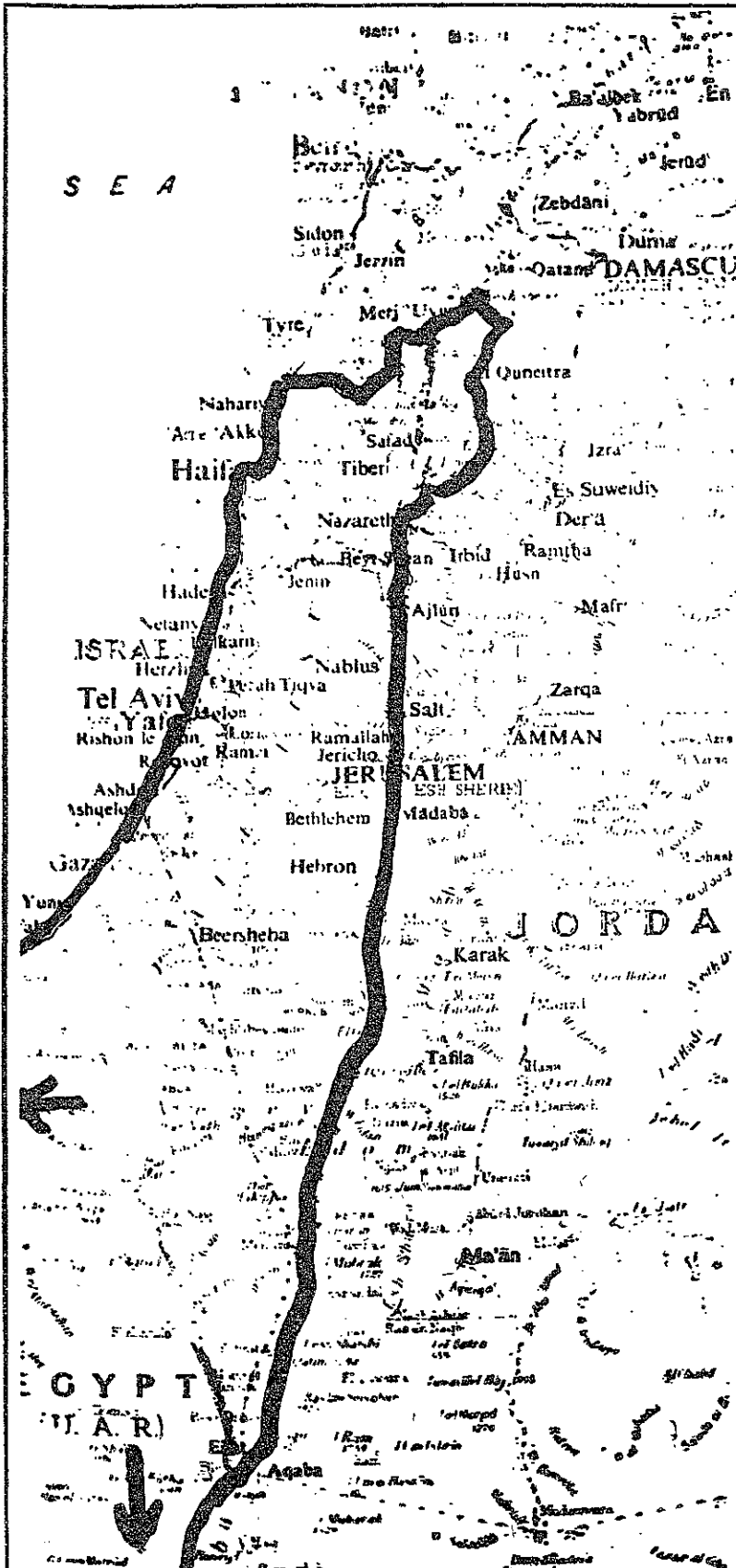
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