By Paul Schrader

Independent Activities Period is as good a time as any to catch up on your movie viewing, if you are inclined to such pursuits. There are several quality pictures in town, if the $1.25-$4.00 ticket price doesn't scare you off. Some films, at other times, are slightly less, but don't bet on it.

Newspaper listings of film times are not always the most accurate, but at least check the dailies, rather than the weeklies. And even better yet, try the theater for confirmation of show times.

The pick of the current Boston movie crop, in capsule form and approximate quality order (in this reviewer's opinion) follows.

**GREAT**

*Scenes from A Marriage*

It's really too bad this three-hour film was originally six-half-hour television episodes, because otherwise it would have been a clear shot at the kind of cinematic honors (an Oscar for instance) that it so clearly deserves.

Ingmar Bergman has written and directed this film, which weaves the story together, and breaking up that strikes close to home with everyone who has experienced such a relationship.

Lamont and Martha in "The Front Page" (2014) (for at least for me, some- what engaging entertainment.

**The Front Page**

The Billy Wilder remake of this stage and screen classic is a laugh-filled couple of hours. Interesting one-liners, however, have journalists and stupid police. A parable for our age.

I must admit at the outset a certain weakness for stories about journalism, and fond feelings for any film with either Jack Lemmon or Walter Matthau, so this film had a lot going for it before it started.

I was not disappointed, and you won't be either. If you went to Gatsby (to see the period atmospheres, you'll like Front Page for the same reasons. If you like the play, you'll like the film for it's fidelity to the original.

If you have ever wondered what things are really like in the news business, this film will give you an idea. While everything and everyone is blown to mythical proportions, the basic traits, standards, and behavior patterns are not far from the standard in the industry today. Which is more an indictment of the media than praise for the film.

**At the Avery**

*Murder on the Orient Express*

It won't open in Boston until Friday, but Murder is worth the wait. Everything reviewers have said about it is true.

If you ever felt any desire to move to Los Angeles and at the same time wanted to stop yourself, this film will help. I won't even go for a visit.

In the boozies — Plymouth

**Jerry Lewis**

I guess it's time Lenny Bruce got his due, and Dustin Hoffman's portrayal of him in the film Lenny is probably the most important step in the Bruce boomin', which saw two theater versions of his life playing New York last year at the same time. The question is simply is it all the time, especially since most of the language he uses in his nightclub act would be tame by 1971 standards. The film's plot has enough tension without the crude language. (It's worth the wait. Everything reviewers have said about it is true.

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**Blah Films**

There are, of course, more blah films this year than ever before and some might actually be attracted to them. You should go see some foreign films. Brodien gets himself some culture. But don't be surprised if you fail to love it, as many repeat viewings of a foreign film are necessary to fully appreciate a work of art that makes an otherwise blah film seem great to some.

At the Astor

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