The Turning Point is pointless ballet

The Turning Point, starring Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine, written by Arthur Laurents, produced by Herbert Ross and Arthur Laurents, directed by Herbert Ross, introducing Mikhail Baryshnikov and Leslie Browne, featuring the American Ballet Theatre. A 20th Century Fox production.

By Kathy Hardin
The Turning Point is an elaborate stage show taking precedence over their music in concert. They weren’t at all disappointing to someone who knows what they are like — they delivered everything that was expected of them.

The most interesting aspect of this show was the crowd, undoubtedly the youngest audience I have ever seen at a concert. Many parents took their children to see Kiss, probably not knowing exactly what they were letting themselves in for. Some of them left quite disgusted in the middle of the show, but most managed to stick it out.

A few parents seemed to enjoy the concert quite a bit, but most seemed relieved when it was over. All the kids and ten year olds really enjoyed the show, though. Then again, the music is aimed at that age group.

This concert wasn’t too high on entertainment value. I had seen the stage show once before, and their music is performed much better on record (after the sound engineers got a crack at it, that is) than it is live. The opening act, Piper, was the pits, although they were not much worse than the average non-talented opening band. The second concert I saw was Ted Neeley, but they improved considerably after that.

The music is aimed at the Cap Centre in suburban Washington, DC.

My first concert this IAP was Kiss on Dec. 2nd. I was about to pass in the bathroom and then had a change of heart. I will review the three concerts I saw, all of them at the Cap Centre in suburban Washington, DC.

The most interesting aspect of this show was the performance of the lead singer, Steve Tyler. He was the most interesting aspect of this show, especially his voice. Although he was not as good as his voice in concert, he was infinitely superior to Tyler. His voice is particularly strong beat, and the group performs much crisper than any in rock music today.

Golden Earring was as good as they had been two weeks earlier, possibly a bit better. They performed virtually a capacity crowd, so many that the scene should have been longer and the build-up bigger. The continuity of this central theme is continuously being broken by stummng, yet nothing else seems to be wrong.

The action of the film is interpreted by a sub-plot concerning MacLaine’s teen-aged daughter, played by Leslie Browne. She is a budding ballerina, with the talent to follow Bancroft’s path, yet is tempted into an affair with the dissolute Roman dancer (Mikhail Baryshnikov). This echoes the past complexity of her mother’s decision to give up her career for love, but that parallel is also not sufficiently developed.

MacLaine’s and Bancroft’s performances are both very similar despite the script’s occasional weaknesses, and although Bancroft’s acting is almost non-existent, he makes his amorous intentions towards Browne quite clear, and his emotional scenes are very moving.

The ballet sequences, both on and off stage, are the movie’s finest points. They are filmed at angles which would rival those of any Osiris ballet painting, and the close-ups of dancers, both in rehearsal and in performance, show the highly perfected skills necessary for the ballet not always evident to the ordinary viewer.

If a ballet and its technical aspects are your forte, this film should not be missed. If you are willing to sacrifice a better-developed complex storyline to see that which most people would pay $15 a ticket to see at the American Ballet Theatre, The Turning Point offers you quite a lot.

But if you want a more poignant and realistic script for what could have been an excellent story, you should think twice about seeing a movie with unfilled plot potential.

MOVIES
Saturday Night Fever — Good dance scenes, but very mediocre otherwise. A 20th Century Fox production.

AROUND MIT
Street Rat — Cheap beer, and the music has been improving. There was a pretty good towel last Friday. Probably worthwhile dropping by, Friday, 8:30-2 am at the Salsa.

LSC
Fantastic Planet — An unusual fantasy film with mediocre though interesting animation. Probably worth seeing, especially if you like fantasy, Wednesday, 7 and 9:30 in 26-100.

The Tech’s movie rating scale: excellent: well good average bad poor: the absolute pits.

Kiss gave a predictable performance last December at the Capital Centre in Largo. Md.