A Dutch Landscape

Same Time, Next Year

By Al Sanders


The major complaint against Same Time. Next Year will be that it is nothing more than a stage play recorded on film. Yet this should not keep anyone from enjoying the entertaining comedy dealing with the effect of twenty-five years on a love affair.

Given the nature of Bernard Slade's popular stage play, incorporating the added freedoms of the screen into his film adaptation would be difficult indeed. Only two players have major speaking roles and the action takes place entirely in the same hotel room. The cameras do take an occasional peek outside for some breathtaking views of the Northern California coast, but the true strength of Slade's screenplay is his dialogue. Realizing that the story did not adapt itself to majestic cinema, the producers wisely avoided forcing it.

Ellen Burstyn and Alan Alda star at the couple who meet by chance at the Sea Shadows Inn in 1951 and end up spending the night together. Both are happily married at the time — not to each other — and feel guilty about their transgression, but not so much so as to keep them from returning to the Sea Shadows once a year on the same weekend. We are treated to six such meetings, spaced roughly at five-year intervals.

Movie Movie is Good and Bad

By Shawn Wilson


"The first movie that's really two movies." This advertising slogan refers to the fact that Movie Movie is a double feature in one piece; two separate cliched plots grafted to form a breezy spoof of the run-to-form film fare of the 1930's. It seems logical, then, to give the movie two separate ratings.

The first story is "Dynamite Hands," the perennial tale of the kid from the slums of New York. The kid (Harry Hamlin) who is saving to be a lawyer, is told that

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