

Boredom on the Orient Express

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

All the bad reviews about "Murder on the Orient Express" were absolutely right. It is boring, it drags unmercifully, and there is

little or no acting throughout the film.

The mystery is not one of Agatha Christie's best but the film makes it appear to be one of her worst. The

opening scenes depict the kidnapping of Daisy Armstrong, the small child of a wealthy New York family. In the book the kidnapping was not brought out until

almost the end, so one is kept in suspense until Poirot is ready to solve the crime. Unfortunately the film treatment almost completely destroys the suspense and with it the plot.

On the plus side for the film one must mention the costumes and the cinematography. The costumes are truly gorgeous, the train is the ultimate in luxuriousness and the brief scenes of landscape beyond the train's windows are very pretty. The filming is very good - there is a smooth flow maintained throughout the movie and many of the facial closeups are great.

The cast list reads like a Who's Who of the film industry but don't expect any great acting. The actors and actresses have all proved their worth in the past and one cannot blame them for this fiasco. Somehow I feel the director and the scriptwriters must be faulted for making so many good people look so bad. Albert Finney as Hercules Poirot is a desecration to the little Belgian as Agatha Christie has portrayed him. Of course, all Christie buffs must be expected to make allowances for any actor portraying Poirot because they will all have their own image of the little detective. However, Finney as Poirot could not possibly have anything in common with anyone's image of Poirot. Finney is so made up that

one keeps waiting for his face to crack and fall off; everytime he laughed I got very tense just waiting for this to happen! The only similarity between Finney and Christie's Poirot is the Mustache that spreads half way across Finney's face.

Wendy Hiller as the Princess is rather good and really the only person in the whole film who carries her role off well. She too is excessively madeup but this in no way detracts from the character, but is, in fact, an asset. Lauren Bacall was great chewing gum and to see her doing this at all was in itself a treat. Ingrid Bergman as the religious zealot was very good but then again it would be extremely hard for any director to destroy Bergman's acting abilities.

Anthony Perkins was a passably convincing McQueen but was a little too nervous and excitable for my liking. The other members of the cast do not deserve mention so I won't waste time and energy on them.

Actually the movie could have been done quite well if they had cut it down to about forty minutes - at least then it wouldn't have dragged. It was entertaining in spots and certainly the visual aspects of the movie were worth seeing but not for \$2.75! This time next year the film should be on TV so find a friend with a color set and see it then.

**Long distance
rates
come down
when you dial
direct!**

especially during

**Moonlight
Saving
Time**



Save 50% after 10 p.m. or 30% after 6*

Real savings are that easy on calls you dial yourself** - it's just a matter of timing.

MT MARITIME TEL&TEL

*Applies to calls you dial yourself within Nova Scotia without operator assistance. (Minimum charge 20c) Similar savings are available on calls outside the Province.

**If Direct Distance Dialing is not available in your area, the operator will place your station-to-station calls at the same dial-direct rate. See the Call Guide pages of your phone book for further information.

Ars Antiqua at the Cohn

The internationally famous group ARS ANTIQUA DE PARIS are coming to Halifax. Dalhousie Cultural Activities - present ARS ANTIQUA DE PARIS as part of the free Sunday Afternoon concerts, on Sunday, March 23, in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Dalhousie Arts Centre at 3:00 p.m.

Ars Antiqua de Paris is composed of a singer and three instrumentalists, performing music that antedates the 18th century. With a counter-tenor voice and ancient instruments, the group is reviving numerous early works composed for such an ensemble. The musicians use the following instruments; lute, vihuela, regal, krummhorns, bagpipes, bambardes, bells, percussion and psaltry. Ars Antiqua de Paris has

already participated in many major music festivals and regularly tours in the United States, Canada, South America and the Far East. In addition to their activities within the group, the musicians of the Ars Antiqua have numerous outside interests. Michel Sanvoison, soloist and recorder teacher, has published works of ancient music especially of the 17th century. Kleber Besson plays numerous recitals in Europe as well as teaching guitar and lute. Philippe Matharel makes his own instruments. Joseph Sage, counter tenor, is one of the few frenchmen capable of singing in the three octave range of the conter-tenor. He has recently recorded the role of Cherubino in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro for German television.

