The poster poems of a very stone house howse the very stone howse is fairy stoney fairly stoned in deed in debt in dead and alls the walls that are covered with the pretty pictures posters pastures postures posed word against world against ward against war against what against hurt hart art old century a bitter mind watching itself on the wall

jame's juice was sweeter



Films

I don't know if Candy will still be around by the time you read this; the Strand used to have a sensible short-run policy, and by now surely everybody who wants to see Terry Southern's heroine on the big screen has done so.

For the record, let me say this. *Candy* dosen't work, because the film lacks a center. In the book Candy herself underwent her vicissitudes hardly batting an eyelash; in the movie this amiable dumb-blondeness somehow is translated into a zombie-like torpor. Consequently nothing holds together, and all the film's satire is undercut by the lack of a norm against which the abnormal can shine.

norm against which the abnormal can shine. The pursuit of Candy and her family by three Mexican girls on motorcycles wearing gorgeous kinky Goyaesque outfits is practically worth the price of the film. And the ending, desultory imitation of $8\frac{1}{2}$ though it is, radiates a curious calm, as Candy finds the entire cast on a wide field set up in loose encampments, each beneath an inscrutable banner.

The scene does nothing in particular for the film, but undeniably has a glow of its own.

Otherwise, the film confirms one thing we've known for some time—James Coburn is a lot of fun—and tells us something new, to wit that Marlon Brando with long hair looks like Elizabeth Taylor.

Meanwhile, the Roxy has been hosting *The Oldest Profession*, advertised as starring that belated daughter of the early 'fifties Miss Raquel Welch.

Actually, this turns out to be a six-part Franco-Italian compilation, three parts of which are directed by people I've not heard of, for reasons which, having seen their segments, I understand.

One of these is a competently carried-through romp set in Ancient Rome; the remaining two are the dregs. The latter of these involves Miss Welch, if "involves" is the right word.

That leaves three episodes directed by more-or-less wellknown French directors. Two of these are pleasant and negligible. Claude Autant-Lara contributes a vignette about Parisian prostitutes operating out of automobiles. Philippe de Broca proves that a Frenchman can make a film set in the 1789 Revolution with absolutely no political point; he shows off Jeanne Moreau very prettily.

Which leaves the reason I went to the Roxy in the first place: the final episode, directed by Jean-Luc Godard.

It is the Godard of *Alphaville*; a traveller arrives at an airport in the future (good old Orly, natch), and is given a woman for his pleasure as a matter of course.

She does not satisfy the traveller, who demands and gets a replacement. The replacement turns out to be Anna Karina, Godard's ex-wife, in what must be about her last appearance in a Godard film, looking unbelievably stunning.

I won't reveal the film's punch-line. It's only a slight sketch, but the hand of the Master is evident; all Godard afficionados should grin and bear the rest of the show to see it; or perhaps they should just arrive very late.

. . .

At the Roxy I was handed a brochure promoting the Joseph Losey film coming to the Rialto, *Secret Ceremony*, with Mia Farrow and Elizabeth Taylor.

If you are handed such a brochure, DO NOT READ IT!

But save it, treasure it, because after you've seen the film it ought to strike you as the funniest thing since Spiro Agnew. I saw Secret Ceremony in Vancouver this Christmas; it is rather a splendid film in its own ornate way, and it deserves better than the ham-handed treatment the studio publicity boys are apparently determined to give it.

-John Thompson

