

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

It is time once again for the Aspirin Awards, the least covered one in the television industry. They are given by me to honor the uneasy moments when television was at its best. They are not arranged in order. All were equally disastrous.

Worst Performance by an Actor under a Balcony (or anywhere else): Jason Roberts Jr., whose Romeo creaked through an otherwise well lubricated Telephone Hour, "The Many Faces of Romeo and Juliet." Although his age (47) could hardly be considered an asset in playing a teenage lover, it was not the cause of the disaster. It was

his deadly reading of the most familiar lines in the history of stage lovers that wins him an Aspirin. The only good thing about his performance was that he was not wearing tights.

Most Rampant Narcissist (Female): Sophia Loren, who wallowed in her own reflection on the ABC special, "With Love, Sophia."

Most Rampant Ego (Male): Danny Thomas, who seems compelled to intrude at regular intervals on his show to tell viewers what they have just seen for themselves. This man's ego knoweth no bounds.

Most Fully Stuffed Shirt: Steve Allen, who lacks the tal-

ent to laugh at himself.

Most Undernourished Series: ABC's triple-part show based on "Twiggy," the scrawny darling of the fashion model world whose picture was on the cover of every major magazine on the stands in 1967. (Jack Carter explains her absence in 1968: "A dog took her out in the back yard and buried her!")

Worst Production: "Belle of 14th Street," with Barbra Streisand—a backward step into the musical era of gaslight and a backward step in TV production as well.

Worst Drama Staged in a Graveyard: "Among the Paths to Eden," a TV adaptation of a comparatively short and simple story by Truman Capote which should have taken half an hour but was padded to the edge of the grave.

Loudest Noises: The sound engineer on "Carousel" whose work was a major irritant in an otherwise fast-paced musical drama.

Most Dangerous Wildlife (Coiled Serpents): Tim o'thy

Leary, the self-styled messiah of the psychedelic world who has "PHONY" written all over his face. He was given far more time on TV last year than he deserved. The same goes for H. Rap Brown and Adam Clayton Powell who used the medium as a soapbox for chaos.

The Most Overdressed Hostess: Aline Saarinen, NBC's art critic, who surpassed herself on "Bravo Picasso." There wasn't an inch of the lady that wasn't gilded, coiffed, flocked or flowered.

The Most Unnecessary Disincent: the embarrassing Sid Caesar-Imogene Coca-Carl Reiner-Howard Morris Revival. Caesar still doesn't know when to end a skit.

Most Disappointing Drama (Costume): Hallmark's "Soldier in Love." For the first time in 15 years George Schaefer didn't care enough to send the very best.

Most Disappointing Drama (of the Decade): "The Scene," a psychedelic disaster that opened the Danny Thomas se-

ries as a warning of others to come.

The Special Mount Rushmore Trophy for the actor and actress whose faces never changed expression during 1967 either in peril or in bliss: Robert Vaughn of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and Barbara Parkins, the girl from "Peyton Place."

Readings Scheduled For Comedy

The Long Beach Community Players will hold open readings for their upcoming production, the Neil Simon comedy hit, "Barefoot in the Park."

The Broadway comedy smash will be directed by James Brittain, who will conduct the readings at the Community Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, Monday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Orky and Clyde Join The Marineland Team

Their names don't sound like much. And they are all wet most of the time. But make no mistake — they are real killers.

Bonnie and Clyde have no choice but to take a back seat to a new twosome at Marineland of the Pacific—Orky and Clyde. For one thing, Orky and Clyde have the edge in weight alone. Orky is a 3,000-pound, 14-foot killer whale and Clyde is a 4-foot common Dolphin of 105 pounds.

Orky derives his name from his scientific designation, *Orcinus orca*, according to Marineland curator John Prescott. But a killer by any other name is just as deadly. The killer whale has renown as the fiercest beast of land or sea, with the possible exception of homo sapiens.

YOU MIGHT think that the dolphin — loveable, leaping, playful, intelligent, performing marine mammal — it not a killer. The truth is that the dolphin is the happy murderer of another of the most feared creatures on earth—the shark. Dolphins attack singly and in teams to kill sharks in all oceans of the world.

Of course there is something a little odd about the friendship of Orky and Clyde. But then, Bonnie and Clyde were not exactly the All-American duo as far as normalcy is concerned. The fact is that killer whales often prey upon dolphins in the ocean. Killer whales love the tasty meat of yummy young dolphins.

YET WHILE sharing the educational tank at Marineland — it's called the "Whale and Dolphin College" because that's where the animals are trained to perform in shows — Orky and Clyde have never been anything but friendly. Both are young animals and may not have learned the vicious animosities that exist in the ocean.

Or, they may be dove-type ocean mammals. Maybe even flower children of the whale and dolphin families.

However, the showdown soon will come. Both will perform for the public in Marineland's new Killer Whale show and garner rewards of food and applause. If Orky doesn't get top billing, Clyde had better hide under a rock at mealtime.

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