

By MADELEINE HARRIS  
Special Writer for The Eccentric

LEND AN EAR

Television Makes a Contribution

Last Tuesday evening, the DuPont "Show of the Month" presented "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" by Thornton Wilder. This TV performance boasted a galaxy of stars to equal any Hollywood or Broadway production. Distinguishing themselves were Judith Anderson, Hume Cronyn, Eva La Gallienne and Viveca Lindfors, among others.

The story, set in 18th century Peru, tells of a famous foot-bridge which collapses dramatically with many of the principals aboard. The TV adaptation of Mr. Wilder's somewhat gruesome tale suggests that death rather than life is a just destiny for all of these unhappy individuals, although several innocents, as is often the case, perish too.

As a television play, this production had many merits, the first of which was the fact that it was produced at all. Relatively few literary classics have found their way onto our TV screens. We often are doomed to watch instead the anemic trashy symphony orchestras, which so often play the "Three B's" (Bach, Beethoven and Brahms) over and over again with scarcely a nod to contemporary music. In television, the great literary classics go unregarded. Plots which have withstood the test of time are covered with dust, while hack writers are hired to come up with something "interesting" which they rarely do.

In "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," we saw a powerful story, revolving about well-drawn and very real characters. The sets were effective, the costumes of the period were carefully reproduced, and

the actors obviously responded to this somber and gripping story with intense dramatic projection.

There were several gaps in continuity, created because a long novel had to be condensed into an hour and a half, complete with commercials, which thanks to DuPont's good public relations sense, were a little less deadly than usual. Because of the time limitations, certain character relationships were obviously neglected as were many important episodes of the original.

DESPIITE these limitations, DuPont deserves total praise for the effort. The company brought this Wilder classic into millions of American homes—brought it, for the most part, in a highly artistic, thoughtful manner with a sure feeling for literary and theatrical tradition.

In a word, this sponsor did not conceive of listening and watching America as a mass of 12-year-olds

who must be spoon-fed with words, again that TV can, and will, be erns and "short-cut-ups" to "keep the purveyor (to paraphrase DuPont watching." Fun's own words) of "better This performance proves once things for better living."

Random Notes About Town

**MUSIC**  
PRO-MUSICA CONCERT: Pianist Grant Johannesen, Fri., 8:30 p.m., Detroit Institute of Arts lecture hall.  
SCANDINAVIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, directed by Henri Mosco, with pianist Shirley Seguin, Sat., 8:20 p.m., Scottish Rite cathedral.  
JOSE GREGO, outstanding Spanish dancer at Masonic Auditorium, Sat., 8:20 p.m.

**THEATER**  
VILLAGE PLAYERS: The Chalk Garden, drama, Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 2, Chestnut street playhouse.  
ST. DUNSTON'S GUILD: Bus Stop, Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15—Playhouse on Long Pine road.

**MOVIES**  
BIRMINGHAM: Sad Sack with Jerry Lewis, and Hear Me Good with Hal March holds until Feb. 2 when Sad Sack and The Zero Hour with Dana Andrews and Linda Darnell share the honors.  
BLOOMFIELD: Cecil B. DeMille's classic The Ten Commandments continues with Charlton Heston, Edward G. Robinson, Ann Baxter, and Yul Brynner—until Feb. 4 when Pal Joey with Frank Sinatra, Rita Hayworth and Kim Novak moves in.  
UNITED ARTISTS: Around the World in 80 Days—a must for anyone who hasn't seen it—Cantillas, David Niven, and Robert Newton.  
MADISON: Walt Disney's Old Yeller is a sentimental tale of a family and a stray dog—good family entertainment—Dorothy McGuire and Fess Parker.  
AMARIS: Don't Go Near The Water is another hilarious yarn about Navy life with Glenn Ford, Anne Francis, and Keenan Wynn.

**FOREIGN FILMS**  
CLAWSON PLAYHOUSE: Aladdin Sun at his funniest as The Green Man with George Cole, Terry Thomas, and Jill Adams; also Alec Guinness, Jack Hawkins and Anthony Stevie in The Malta Story—Jan. 20-Feb. 4.  
THE DETROIT MUSEUM OF ART presents "The Film as an Art" in Pickwick Papers, by Charles Dickens with Noel Langley and a superb company of English actors; Feb. 4, 8:00 p.m.

**TELEVISION**  
PLAYHOUSE 90: Gentleman from Seventh Avenue with Walter Slezak, Patricia Neal, Sylvia Sidney and Robert Alda; tonight, 9:30, channel 7.  
PERSON TO PERSON: Edward R. Murrow will interview Cyril Ritchard and Anita Colby; Fri., 10:30, channel 9.  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: Leonard Bernstein and the N. Y. Philharmonic Orchestra; Sat., noon, channel 2.  
MIKE WALLACE INTERVIEW has Fulton Lewis Jr.; Sat., 10:00, channel 7.  
WISDOM—has Sean O'Casey, dramatist in a discussion of literature; Sun, 9 p.m., channel 4.  
THE LAST WORD—clever program dealing with the use of words—Garry Moore, Jean Kerr, and Dr. Bergein Evans; Sun, 3:30, channel 7.

**WIDE, WIDE WORLD** with Dave Garroway turns the spotlight on New Orleans; Sun., 4 to 5:30, channel 4.  
WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP has Eric Sevareid as host with reports "live" from the news capitals of the world; Sun., 4:30, channel 2.  
SEE IT NOW presents Edward R. Murrow in another important and timely program dealing with the life of Harry S. Truman—From President to President; Sun., 5 p.m., channel 2.  
SHIRLEY TEMPLE'S STORYBOOK presents Rumpelstiltskin with John Raitt, Kurt Kasznar, Phyllis Love; Sun., 6:30 to 7:30, channel 4.  
THE TWENTIETH CENTURY has D-Day Buildup, the story of the big allied preparation for the assault on Europe; Sun., 6:30, channel 4.  
KRAFT TELEVISION THEATRE presents The Spell of the Tigress starring Viveca Lindfors and Patty McCormack; Wed., 9 to 10, channel 4.

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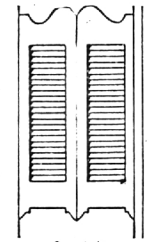


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Prices effective Monday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Feb. 2. We reserve the right to limit quantities.  
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