

Cheers...for Kavanagh

THE RTV Guide knows what it is about in appointing Patrick Kavanagh to the film page as weekly critic.

Since he is a poet, moreover a celebrated one, his vision must be clearer, his perception keener, than those of the usual celluloid appraiser.

If he compares the modern film with those of past decades, let us credit him with wide experience of cinema; a younger, "up-to-date" man lacks that advantage.

The grumblers who seek mere information regarding films can scan the newspapers. These certainly do a good job in reviewing and imparting sound guidance.

For those, however, who would welcome the colourful approach and original slant couched in the whimsical language of Irish

wit, RTV Guide's film page provides the answer.

To cite an example of the critic's superb handling of his subject, I refer readers to "The Small World of Sammy Lee." The idiom employed is a deliberate suiting of word to action; the verbal clothing is eminently appropriate.

Are we left in any doubt regarding the small world in question? Has Sammy Lee's pen-portrait admitted of blurred lines?

No! I have not even a small pocket-knife to sharpen on the Kavanagh grindstone. I have written merely to applaud RTV's discrimination.

EMER ROCHE,
St. Patrick's, Droghda Street,
Monasterevan, Co. Kildare.

MY friends and I are all very keen film and TV fans and we heartily agree with your correspondent "Ciner-Mama" of Blackrock Co. Dublin in his (or her) view of your Film Page by Patrick Kavanagh. Mr. Kavanagh seems intent on telling us about films now showing in London which will not repeat will not be shown in Ireland and in assuring us that films nowadays are not as good as they were in the old days. That's exactly where Mr. Kavanagh belongs ... in the old days. Films have changed; film stars have changed; Mr. Kavanagh has not. We want to read all about our favourite film and TV stars and not about the stars of Mr. Kavanagh's long-since vanished youth.

THE GOLDWYN GIRLS
Terenure Dublin.



● PATRICK KAVANAGH ... the poet's vision

dear sir

I WAS amazed to see that one of your readers, Michael O'Brien, of Youghal, Cork, is so disgusted with "Musical". I wonder what dislike he has to this programme? I think the Four Ambassadors are the best singing group I've heard and the Cabaret Dancers are tops. I also think that this is the best show I've seen on T.E. Since he also disliked "Curtain Up", the only reason I can think of is that he does not like the Four Ambassadors or the Cabaret Dancers.

ANNOYED TEENAGER,

Limerick.

☆ ☆ ☆

dear sir

I AM another critic of TE's "Beirt Eile". I am a keen lover of Irish traditional music and song, but I cannot see anything much traditional about "Beirt Eile".

The ceili music by the different bands was perfect, but the ceili dancing appeared to me to be more like ballet dancing as they all dance on their toes and the hand clapping reminded me of some of the modern dances of today.

Also, we never had much change of singers. The only singer who is tops in traditional style was the one and only Sean O Sé. What I would like to see on "Beirt Eile" is some of our countryside dances—a good half-set and some of our lovely Irish waltzes and why not give us a few of the lovely traditional Irish singers from the West of Ireland.

They are there if only some of our big Irish recording stars would step down for a while and give them a chance to be seen and heard. Also, give us a change of compere.

MRS. E. JEFFRIES,

Ballask, Kilmore, Co. Wexford.

☆ ☆ ☆

dear sir

NOW that the screaming teenagers are airing their views in your paper, perhaps you will allow a middle-ager to air his. Firstly, I wish to thank Telefis Eireann, which is really in its infancy, for such excellent programmes, overlooking the commercials, of course.

Why are they taking the one programme we all looked forward to each week off our screens, namely, "Beirt Eile"? I do sincerely hope that it is not to give way to some jungle music from some of these showbands. Heaven protect us from it.

Could Telefis Eireann arrange to bring CIARAN MAC MATHUNA on the screen each week for 30 minutes with a "Job of Journeywork", visiting some of the towns throughout the country where the provincial Fleadh Cheoil are held, which incidentally are being held for the next few weeks around the country. I endorse Mr. Byrne's Top 10. But please throw "It's a Man's World" in the refuse bin.

ED. BOURKE,

Spike Island, Cork.

☆ ☆ ☆

dear sir

I AM delighted to hear that Telefis Eireann are showing us the F.A. Cup. But why couldn't they show us the Scottish Cup, or the match between England and Brazil?

The sooner Telefis Eireann wakes up the better. They show us golf on a Saturday, we get boxing on a Friday night, we saw tennis, we are sick of racing. Why didn't we get the F.A.I. Cup or the Top Four?

We got all the big Rugby internationals. Give us some of the stars like Stanley Matthews, Denis Law, Alex Parker, Ian St. John, Harry Gregg, Alfredo Di Stefano and Bert Trautmann. Wake up Telefis Eireann before it's too late!

FOOTBALL CRAZY,

11 Glenview Tce., Ballyhooley Rd., Cork.

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