

SCREEN REVIEW

By Ray Treadwell

"JESSE JAMES"

Unfortunately this is a picture that has too much blood and thunder Western material in it to ever be classified as a picture of the year but in spite of this it comes much nearer to being something from real life and more worth going to see than some of the other pictures turned out by the leading studios in which the leading roles are taken by singing opera stars who sing classical music and shoot down men at the same time.

Tyrone Power plays the part of the notorious outlaw who performed the first train hold-up and looting in history, Henry Fonda plays the part of his brother Frank, Nancy Kelly is Zee, his wife, and Randolph Scott is Will Wright, the most famous United States Marshall of the time, who in real history killed 12 men of the James gang but never succeeded in capturing or killing either of the James brothers.

The picture was actually filmed in part of Jesse James' old stomping ground and much of the equipment used in the film actually belonged to the James boys and was used by them. Included in this equipment are the boots and guns used by both Bob Ford, the man who killed Jesse James and Jesse James' own artillery.

According to the film the two brothers were driven into the life of crime by the unscrupulous methods of the St. Louis and Middleton Railroad and because of their success in hold-ups and robberies of trains branched out into the bank business. Due to his love for Zee, Jesse gives himself up to the law on the promise of a light sentence but it framed by McCoy, the president of the railroad played by Donald Meek, who tries to hang Jesse but Jesse is saved by his brother Frank aided by Wright who has also been framed by McCoy.

After the jailbreak, Zee and Jesse travel throughout the country until Zee realizes that Jesse is going insane over the lust to rob and leaves him in an attempt to bring him to his senses which occurs too late because their reunion is broken by the murder of Jesse by one of the members of his own gang who shoots him in the back in an attempt to collect the reward and secure the free pardon offered by the government.

MARCH, 1939

The picture is made in technicolor, which brings out many beautiful scenes of the Ozark Mountains in which the picture was filmed, making it one of the few pictures that has been filmed entirely in the region in which the story occurred in history.

Tyrone Power restates his ability as an actor in the main role as he shows vividly the hardening of life and the increase in the lust to steal until at the end of the film he portrays a hardened outlaw with but one desire.

In brief, if you like glorified Western or action pictures this will be one of the best that you have seen; if you don't, however, this one won't decrease your hatred for them.

She: I don't like your boyfriend.

2nd she: Why?

She: He whistles dirty songs.

—Jester

HIT SONGS OF THE FUTURE

1. "Take a Bomber From One to Ten."
2. "The Daring Young Man on the Barb-Wire Fence."
3. "It Was in a Little Trenchy-Wenchy."
4. "Boom Over Miami."
5. "Scar Dust."
6. "Cannon Be the Spring?"
7. "Bomber, Bist du Schoen."

—Punch Bowl

"I have a pet rabbit and every time he crawls upon my chest I feel so manly."

"Why?"

"You know—hare on chest."

—Georgia Arch

She lay at his feet broken and torn. He gazed at her with tears in his eyes. Gathering her into his arms he kissed her unresponsive lips, he hugged her to his hairy chest, he begged her forgiveness, he tore his hair, he gnashed his bridgework, he looked into her eyes but there was no answer. Oh why, damn it, did he tear up her picture.



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