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'The Sound of Music' (20th-Fox) Wins April Blue Ribbon Award

By VELMA WEST SYKES

ANOTHER MUSICAL was chosen by members of the National Screen Council, for the April Blue Ribbon Award. "The Sound of Music" (20th-Fox), now playing on a roadshow basis, was selected as the most outstanding among current releases which was most suitable for the family. And a family picture it is, a musical version of "The Trapp Family," winner of the Blue Ribbon Award for April of 1961. Julie Andrews stars in her inimitable glowing fashion as Maria in "The Sound of Music" and Christopher Plummer costars as the widowed Captain Von Trapp who was lucky enough to get such a good governess for his motherless brood. This is a second governess role for Julie Andrews—she was a different kind of governess in "Mary Poppins," but equally lovable. And the Rodgers-Hammerstein music and lyrics make this one of the most delightful films of recent years. Robert Wise produced and directed—a career triumph.

Boxoffice gave it a special review March 8 and a regular one in the March 15 issue, which read in part: "Just as Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway musical dealing with the Von Trapp Family singers was a long-running hit, so Robert Wise's picturization, filmed in Todd-AO and De Luxe Color largely in magnificent Austrian mountain locations. will delight moviegoers of all ages and become one of filmdom's all-time blockbusters. It's ideal family entertainment . . . All the songs fit naturally into the action, including the inspirational 'Climb Every Mountain.'" Reports from key cities on first-run playings show the picture doing 285 per cent of normal business.

NSC members had this to say about the April winner, as written on their postcard ballots:

Film of Unrestrained Happiness

"The Sound of Music" is a film of unrestrained happiness for all ages. The delightful children, excellently cast, handsome Christopher Plummer and the incomparable Julie, encompassed by breathless settings, combine to make a film never
forgotten. This simple, unaffected story
was a joy to behold after some of the
more questionable themes of recent
months.—Mrs. Irvin J. Haus, 1st v.p. Fed.
of MP Councils, Milwaukee . . . A visual
delight and a refreshingly old-fashioned

film.—Jeff Millar, Houston Chronicle.

Let's bring the musical back to stay.—
Bob Battle, Nashville Banner . . . Here's a family film that's a boxoffice hit as well.—Taylor M. Mills, MPAA, New York "The Sound of Music" is sheer delight—family life at its very best and entertainment at its very best.—Mrs. Henry F. McGill, La Canada (Calif.) PTA . . . A "sound" picture in the sense of being well-constructed, as well as "sound" morally—and most of all, "sound" and sweet musically.—May Williams Ward, Wellington (Kas.) book editor.

At last a big 70mm film which is really cinematic—a wonderful family film worth seeing.—James L. Limbacher, Dearborn Press . . . A wholesome story made enchanting by Richard Rodgers' tuneful score.—Earl J. Dias, New Bedford Standard-Times . . . There's no question here. "The Sound of Music" is the only film of any consequence on the list, for the entire family.—Judge J. May, Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville.

Note how many family or age-proof items are now on the list! And news from Britain that kids are losing interest in beat records. Maybe there's a new day coming!—Dick Osgood, WXYZ, Detroit . . . We should have more like "The Sound of Music."—Anna J. Reardon, UNC at Greensboro.

POSTULANT MARIA (JULIE ANDREWS) IS SENT BY THE MOTHER ABBESS (PEGGY WOOD) TO BE A GOVERNESS



CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER, WIDOWED CAPTAIN, SHOWS HIS FAMILY TO THE BARONESS, ELEANOR PARKER



THE GAY PUPPET SCENE IN WHICH THE CHILDREN ARE MANIPULATING THE PUPPETS IN EXPERT FASHION

The Cast

Maria Julie Andrews
Captain Von Trapp
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER
The Baroness Eleanor Parker
Max Detweiler RICHARD HAYDN
Mother Abbess Peggy Wood
Liesl CHARMIAN CARR
Louisa HEATHER MENZIES
Friedrich NICHOLAS HAMMOND
Kurt Duane Chase
Baroness Ebberfeld

Brigitta	ANGELA CARTWRIGHT
	DEBBIE TURNER
Gret1	KYM KARATH
Sister Margaretta	Anna Lee
Sister Berthe	PORTIA NELSON
Herr Zeller	BEN WRIGHT
Rolfe	DANIEL TRUHITTE
Frau Schmidt	NORMA VARDEN
Franz	GIL STUART
Sister Sophia	MARNI NIXON
	EVADNE BAKER
Doris Lloy	0

Production Staff

Producer-Director ROBERT WISE
Associate Producer SAUL CHAPLIN
Assistant Director RIDGEWAY CALLOW
Screenplay by Ernest Lehman
HOWARD LINDSAY,
Russell Crouse
Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Additional Words & Music by
Music Supervised, Arranged &
From the Stage Musical by

on Stan
Conducted by IRWIN KOSTAL Production Designed by Boris Levan
Director of Photography
TED McCord, A.S.C.
Choreography by MARC BREAUX, DEE DEE WOOD
Costumes Designed by DOROTHY JEAKINS
Puppeteers Bil Baird,
Film Editor WILLIAM REYNOLDS, A.C.E.
Produced in Todd-AO (R)
Color by DE LUXE





This award is given each month by the National Screen Council on the basis of outstanding merit and sultability for family entertainment. Council membership comprises motion picture editors, radio and TV film commentators, representatives of better films councils, civic, educational and exhibitor organizations.