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Film Review

'Allegro Non Troppo'—Joyful Parody

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The greatest fascination of animation is its ability to flow as free as imagination. To a good artist the blank screen is an infinity in which there are no boundaries between dream and reality, fact and fiction, thought and feeling.

In "Allegro Non Troppo" director- animator Bruno Bozzetto stays on beat with the flow, sweeping beyond parody to his own new dawn.

Though this Italian film is directly structured as a

parody of Walt Disney's famous "Fantasia," it is sufficiently joyful in its homage not to leave any copy-cat, sour taste, and so marvelously bold that it stretches mood and music into the attitudes of a modern era Disney was not around to experience.

The most stunning of the sequences in the evolution of life passage to the throb of Ravel's "Bolero." Life slithers fourth from the last drops of liquid in a soft drink bottle, the bomb blast refuse of a dead civilization. Nothing has ever slithered through more coils and convolutions into more wayward forms than Bozzetto's amoebic blobs, throwing off, within their oozing, swirling metamorphosis, infinite split-second images of all creatures known to eternity. Dinosaur lovers will go crazy over these magical new forms who tread from primeval swamp to sterile cities, pursued and punished by a crazy ape.

This is the high spot of the film compared to which all the other sequences suffer from the cutes, clever though they are. Debussy's "Prelude to Afternoon of a Fawn" finds an aged little beast, who resembles a scratchy figure from the New Yorker, pursuing an assortment of herbal essence maidens, with no success. "Slavic Dance No. 7" by Dvorak is the sort of bouncy, quirky moral tale loved by all



"Allegro Non Troppo" actually pays homage to Disney's legendary "Fantasia."

animators, but "Valse Triste" by Sibelius conjures up genuine sorrow at the passage of time as a deserted cat dreams of better days in the ruins of his home.

"Concerto in C-Minor" by Vivaldi has fun with the birds and the bees and Stravinsky's "The Firebird" finds the serpent biting into the forbidden fruit to discover the tummy-ache nightmare of civilization. These animated sequences are strung together with live action black and white, subtitled, comedy about an old maid's orchestra conducted by a fat boor. The humor is like spamoni, nutty but overstuffed.

Distributed by Specialty Films, Inc. "Allegro Non Troppo," which played at FILMEX with great success is now at the Laemple's Music Hall Theater, Beverly Hills. The minimum Italian dialogue is English subtitled. Co-billed is "Mindscape" by Canadian Jacques Drouin.