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## FILM REVIEWS, BY F.A.J.

THE TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON

(M.G.M.)G Cert.

ACCORDING to the author of the very first Teahouse-for it was a novel before it was either a play or a film—it was meant to make you think if you wish to think, and to forget if you wish to forget. I don't think anyone will quarrel with an intention as good as that; and while, in the event, most people—and, I should think, great numbers of people—will be mainly entertained by Teahouse in CinemaScope (director Daniel Mann), there is, as Teahouse in CinemaScope

### BAROMETER

FAIR TO FINE: "The Teahouse of the August Moon." FAIR: "Jubal." OVERCAST: "Gentlemen Marry ERCAST: "Gentlemen Marry Brunettes,"

they say, food for thought in it if that is what you want. Whatever way you look at it, this is a delightful film.

The setting, as you may know better than I did, is Okinawa, where an American occupation force is setting about teaching democracy to the conqueredor is it the liberated?—even, as Colonel Wainwright Purdy III puts it, if they have to shoot everyone in doing it. Well, don't take fright—there's no shooting. Instead, Captain Fisby (Glenn Ford), who has set off to get a schoolhouse built in the village of Tobiki, finds himself won over to the Japanese way of life, or at any rate its more agreeable aspects. Going native, he has a tea-

Although Glenn Ford is the central character in Teahouse, and displays a quite agreeable comic talent, it is dominated, if that is the word, by Marlon

Brando, Mr Brando adds immensely to what we already knew of his range as .. and Take Your Choice an actor with a performance of great intelligence, good humour and charm, as Sakini, an interpreter attached to Fisby. I didn't see him in Guys and Dolls, but those who know only his earlier films will be pleasantly surprised by this one. Machiko Kyo, who has been seen in this country only in Gate of Hell, makes a memorable debut (incidentally, she can't speak English) as Lotus Blossom, the geisha girl who, with Sakini's help, makes Fishy see the light; and among others Paul Ford and Eddie Albert are delightfully amusing -Paul Ford as the Colonel, and Eddie Albert as the psychiatrist sent to examine Fisby, who is soon in deep water himself.

> Besides its charm and humour, Teahouse is notable as an American film that in a mild, agreeable way makes fun of the American way of life and of the efforts of Americans to persuade Orientals to adopt it. I imagine a few solemn people with one-track minds may be just a little upset that in doing so it shows the Japanese way of life as in some respects more civilised, and certainly more graceful, than our own. But I don't think that will keep many people away from a film they can be sure they will enjoy so much.

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### Clues Across

- 1. Acted like a younger son (5).
- 4. Specimens of plenty on board ship?
- 8. The Prince Consort comes to a finish in Canada (7).
- 9. Put to death by means of nails (5).
- 10. It's nice, Pat! (anag.) bacteria about) (10).
- 13. He sounds the reof frivolous verse
- 15. Tore me apart? Far apart, in fact (6).
- 17. Here we find Erica drift into the crime of Cain (10).
- 21. An artist in the money provides a retinue (5).
- 22. Solomon. for instance (7).
- 23. Foreshadow a backdrop about ten (7).
- "Our revels now are \_\_\_\_" ("The Tempest," Act 4, Scene 1) (5).

### Clues Down .

- 1. Would they be suggested by a hard case? (8).
- 2. Such arguing could make a big dent (8).
- 3. They might cause tears if found among the wheat (5). Overwhelms (6).
- 5. I've followed the young lady with a letter (7).
- 6. Real change for a Shakespearian monarch (4).
- 7. "I can suck melancholy out of a — as a weasel sucks eggs" ("As You Like It," Act 2, Scens 5) (4).
- 11. Reported if on diet? (8).
- 12. Disliked intensely (8).14. Garnets in a peculiar setting (7).
- 16. This is just silly! A little saint followed by a headless boy with a bow! (6).
- Not quite insane, but senseless nevertheless (5).
- 19. If it's a full one, it's a point! (4).
- 20. Just beautiful? (4).

No. 868 (Constructed by R.W.H.)

