



Morgan Who?

ONE OF THE LEADERS of the British rebellion against establishment film-making has been Karel Reisz who effectively caught the "anger" of a young working man in *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, and then turned from directing to producing for *This Sporting Life*. Now he is back as a director with *Morgan!*, an odd jumble of irreverence, high jinks, black humor, fantasy, and compassion—the latter on behalf of a young, disturbed artist seeking, on the one hand, some sort of truth by which to live, and, on the other, a rapprochement with his pretty, rich wife, who has divorced him. The film, however, tends less to enthrall than to irritate, and one reason for this may be that British anger, ordinarily so dependable a theme for dozens of novels, plays, and films, is beginning to wear thin. Perhaps we are supposed to comprehend automatically Morgan Delt's dissatisfactions with himself, others, and his environment, but the only solid explanation for his unendingly self-indulgent behavior comes at the very end of the film, when we find him in a sanitarium, the victim, presumably, of a nervous breakdown. What has happened before then, all at once, becomes symptomatic, and if we had begun at the end, instead of the rather incomprehensible beginning, things might have been clearer.

Yet, I very much doubt that it was Mr. Reisz's purpose to give us a case-history of sorts, for he continually shies away from the obvious as though it were something loathesomely indelicate. We meet Morgan first when he enters the home of the wife who has shed him, and then watch him gleefully, remorselessly arranging a series of pranks designed to drive her to distraction and, with pecu-

liar logic, to bring her back to his arms. Why he wants the marriage is difficult to understand, too, since he's obviously incapable of any consistent relationship, and the wife's response to him, momentarily, makes one assume that she is equally daffy. The assault on conventionality is so continually extreme and aggressive that, after a time, one longs for peace and quiet. Mr. Reisz and the screenwriter, David Mercer, appear to find Morgan, his jokes, hysteria, and loneliness, both funny and sad. He explodes a blast of gunpowder under the bed on which his mother-in-law is sitting, wires his wife's house with electronic gadgetry in order to unsettle her when she makes love with her new fiancé, and eventually breaks up her wedding party by invading it in gorilla costume.

Morgan, you see, has animal fantasies. He sees himself as a breast-beating gorilla, imagines himself in old Tarzan jungle pictures. He also seems hip on memories of Marxism, to the extent of shaving a hammer and sickle on his wife's prized rug. His mother, in her dotage, still hews to the Marxist line of her youth, rapidly mouthing the old clichés in a dreamy, lost way. The world has changed, and in the new world Morgan seems to be looking for his virility and freedom. The acting, it should be said, is first-rate. Morgan is played by David Warner of the Royal Shakespeare Company, his wife by Vanessa Redgrave, of the royal Redgrave lineage, and Morgan's mother by that fine comedienne, Irene Handl. Mr. Reisz, a clever editor, cuts from reality to fantasy and back again with adroitness. Nevertheless, the animal fantasies become tiresome, their symbolic value far too vague, until one suspects that pictorial effect is being sought rather than meaning. Morgan may be a sad case indeed, but Mr. Reisz's way of presenting him is arbitrary, and, no matter how brilliantly cinematic, never really lets us in on what is bugging his hero. At the end we discover that his former wife, now married to a respectable art dealer, is pregnant, but somehow she knows the father is Morgan. The final joke, but what kind of joke? Ambiguity being fashionable, naturally Mr. Reisz doesn't want to tell us.

—HORACE ALPERT.



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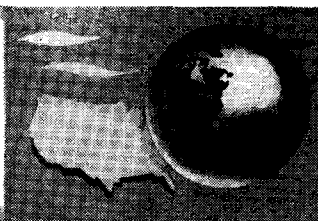
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As Others See Us



TORONTO:

Challenging the Assumptions

ONE OF THE THINGS for which Canada can envy the United States is the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. At a time when the United States is more and more deeply involved in a shooting war in Vietnam, with the pressure mounting for all Americans to be patriotic and "close ranks," this remarkable committee has dared to examine critically the whole American policy in Vietnam. . . .

The committee hearings have not so far changed the national course. Congress has supported the President's policy of limited war. But these hearings have been a real education for the American people. Millions have followed them in the press or on television. It is the first opportunity many, if not most, Americans have had to hear the U.S. intervention in Vietnam criticized as well as defended.

What is even more important, they have been shown what the possible alternatives to the present policy are. This is a most valuable contribution to the creation of an informed public opinion.

This week the Foreign Relations Committee has turned its attention to an even more prickly question than Vietnam—U.S. relations with China. American policy in the Far East for the last seventeen years has been based on the assumption that Communist China is an aggressive, menacing power bent on world conquest that must be contained by the United States; otherwise it will overrun Asia.

This assumption has been challenged, over the years, by a few Far Eastern experts, but they have had only a limited audience. Now the committee is giving some of these men a chance to place their views before the nation.

—*The Daily Star.*

MANCHESTER:

A Fresh Look at China

UNOFFICIAL PRESSURE on the Administration to adopt a more flexible policy toward China is steadily mounting. It is still too soon to say what effect, if any, it will have.

However, for the first time since the Korean war and Senator Joe McCarthy, the American people now have the

opportunity to consider the publicly expressed views of a small but authoritative body of opinion which does not believe that the isolation of Peking as an international pariah is necessarily the wisest policy.

This has been the view of the experts on China called before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is also the view expressed in a document published over the signature of 198 academic experts on China. This document suggests that the U.S. Government should:

1) Cease to use its influence to prevent the seating of Peking in the United Nations, which should take place without conditions from either Washington or Peking.

2) Announce its readiness to enter into negotiations with Peking, while maintaining relations with Formosa, on the establishment of full and formal diplomatic relations.

3) Propose to Peking the opening of a new phase of bilateral negotiations to discuss the change of diplomatic representatives, renunciation of force as an instrument of policy, and arms control, including nuclear weapons.

4) End its total embargo of China and permit nonstrategic trade.

The signatories also suggest that it should be made clear that if, as is probable, the government on Formosa remains for some time a member of the international community, it should be

recognized only as the government of Formosa, and not as a potential government of China. They say that there is increasing danger for the U.S. and the world in the continuing isolation of China.

—*Richard Scott in the Manchester Guardian Weekly.*

PEKING:

Down the Drain?

LYNDON JOHNSON declared on March 1 that he was seeking the day when he could be as generous in peace as he must be determined in battle. He added: "We are ready, when that day comes, to join in a massive effort of reconstruction and development open to all—including North Vietnam."

Aware that escalation of the war of aggression against Vietnam has dragged the U.S. aggressor troops deeper into the pit, Johnson sees fit to embark on "a war for the hearts" of the Vietnamese people.

The so-called massive effort of reconstruction and development, or whatever name it takes, is only an old trick that has been played and replayed by the U.S. imperialists over the past eleven years. . . .

It is said that everything in the Johnson strategy seems to be done in twos. He may have other cards up his sleeve but, short of complete withdrawal of U.S. aggressor troops from South Vietnam, his new program is headed straight down the drain.

—*Peking Review.*

BUDAPEST:

Accent on Differences

SOME U.S. IDEOLOGISTS represent the principle of national sameness. In their opinion, the existence of small nations is irrational, both from the economic and historical points of view. They claim that small units have to be fused into big units. This standpoint, which has developed on the basis of economic and technical empiricism, is erroneous and grotesque, because it denies the principle of individualism. Persons familiar with the land and life of the U.S. know that this country consists of clearly demarcated units. . . .

The resulting differences fill the nation with the tension and power of life. These differences exist, for example, between the East and the West of the U.S., between New England and Arizona, between Michigan and California, yet at the same time they constitute one of the chief resources of the country. If anything reduces or eliminates these differences, the whole ensemble becomes poorer and shallower. If there is something that the traveler perceives as un-



—*Krokodil, Moscow.*

Soviet view of Latin America: "Going out of tune."