

Movie Review

"Cuba"-a lesson for today

By Shirley Stevens

"Cuba" is an interesting movie which does not assume that the viewer has a degree in history. In fact, the movie is not so much concerned with historical perspective as it is with the lives of those people during the early fifties in Cuba experiencing a revolution.

Alejandro Pulido (Brooke Adams) is a woman of thirty who has married into and become an important figure in one of Cuba's wealthiest families. Her husband, Juan Pulido (Chris Sarandon), is the handsome heir to the Pulido fortune. Their backgrounds are quite different and their behavior is partly a function of their upbringing. Juan Pulido has acquired a distaste for his father's lifestyle. Inwardly, if not outwardly, he prefers the streets to the villas, the love of a

working class woman to that of his aristocratic wife.

Alejandro, on the other hand, was an exotic looking gypsy somewhere in Africa, at fifteen in love with a professional soldier, Robert Davis (Sean Connery). The intervening years lead her to seek her fortune in Cuba where an affair with Senor Pulido leads to an arranged marriage to his son and the management of the tobacco

The settings throughout the film provide continuous comment on conditions leading to the revolution. The relatively few rich and the vast number of poor have developed a peaceful coexistence. Exploitation goes unchallenged under military rule. Nevertheless, conditions are very volatile due to the armed demonstrations of the rebels. It is the poor rather than the rich who fear revolution. The rich view revolu-

tionaries as pests and revolutions as cyclical and inevitable. The poor view themselves as pawns in the power struggle.

Juan and Alejandro, exponents of the upper class, and Julio and his sister, exponents of the poor working class, are microcosms of the Cuban population. Each views the circumstances surrounding them from his own reference point. Juan has a waning interest in the transient affairs of state, knowing that corruption breeds corruption anyhow. Julio has come close to death upon his arrest for terrorist activities and narrowly escapes only to resume his subterfuge. Julio's revolutionary spirit is energized by the possibility that his captured father may have been killed by the military. Alejandro adamantly turns the wheels of the tobacco fortune. Her only involvement with any revolu-

tion is her immediate concern for keeping the workers from striking. Juan's mistress (Julio's sister) is concerned for her father's safety, but she has no qualms about loving a member of the oppressive class. It is someone else's war.

Amidst a profoundly turbulent transition, it is largely business as usual. Corruption has spread down through the ranks from government to society to the dismay of American opportunists trying to pick over Cuban industry before the government collapses.

When the government realizes that it cannot quash the rebel forces on its own, it hires the services of a private soldier, Alejandro's former lover Robert Davis. Robert and Alejandro's encounter in Cuba leads to a continuation of their romance, and Robert wrongfully concludes that Alejandro will follow him out

of a crumbling Cuba. Alejandro, however, has apparently strong ties to Juan, to her work and to Cuba, and she reluctantly watches him board the evacuation aircraft alone. During his departure, Julio's bullet finds its way into Juan Pulido's chest.

The usefulness of a movie which recreates an historical event seems especially apparent during an ongoing crisis like the one in Iran. We are reminded not only of the necessity of early assessment and intervention in an insurgency, but also of the necessity for understanding the oppression and frustration that are the bases for such insurgencies.

Sean Connery displays everlasting British subtlety and style. The film easily rests on a sound script, topical subject matter and interesting characters.

Ghost hunters to "psyche" C.C.



The supernatural and the occult hold fascination for many people. Ed and Lorraine Warren have been entranced by the strange world of the supernatural since childhood. The Warrens will appear as guest lecturers on Monday, March 17, 1980, at 8:00 p.m. on the Penn State/ Capitol Campus.

Ed Warren first turned his mind to the study of the supernatural at age five when he lived in a house that he claimed was haunted by a former tenant. He is now one of the leading demonologists in the United States and is currently head consultant for the Psychic Research Institute, Hamden, Connecticut. He deals in paranormalology and demonology.

Both Ed Warren and his wife, Lorraine, have taught courses in demonology at Connecticut state colleges and Lee High School. The Psychical Research Foundation, Durham, North Carolina, also consults the Warrens.

The Warrens are known nationally and internationally for their "ghost hunting." The cases covered by the Warrens have been discussed in syndicated columns and on television shows. They have worked with psychiatrists, physicians, clergymen, and police in over 2000 fully-documented cases.

The Warrens' case histories stretch from the shores of New England to the sands of the West Coast. Their cases include the investigation of the West Point hauntings and research on the house in Amityville on which the book and movie, *The Amityville Horror*, were based.

Everyone is invited to attend the lecture. There will be a \$1 admission fee to the general public.

