

2013-04-22

The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

Daub, Peggy; Gomis, Melissa; Hallman, Phil

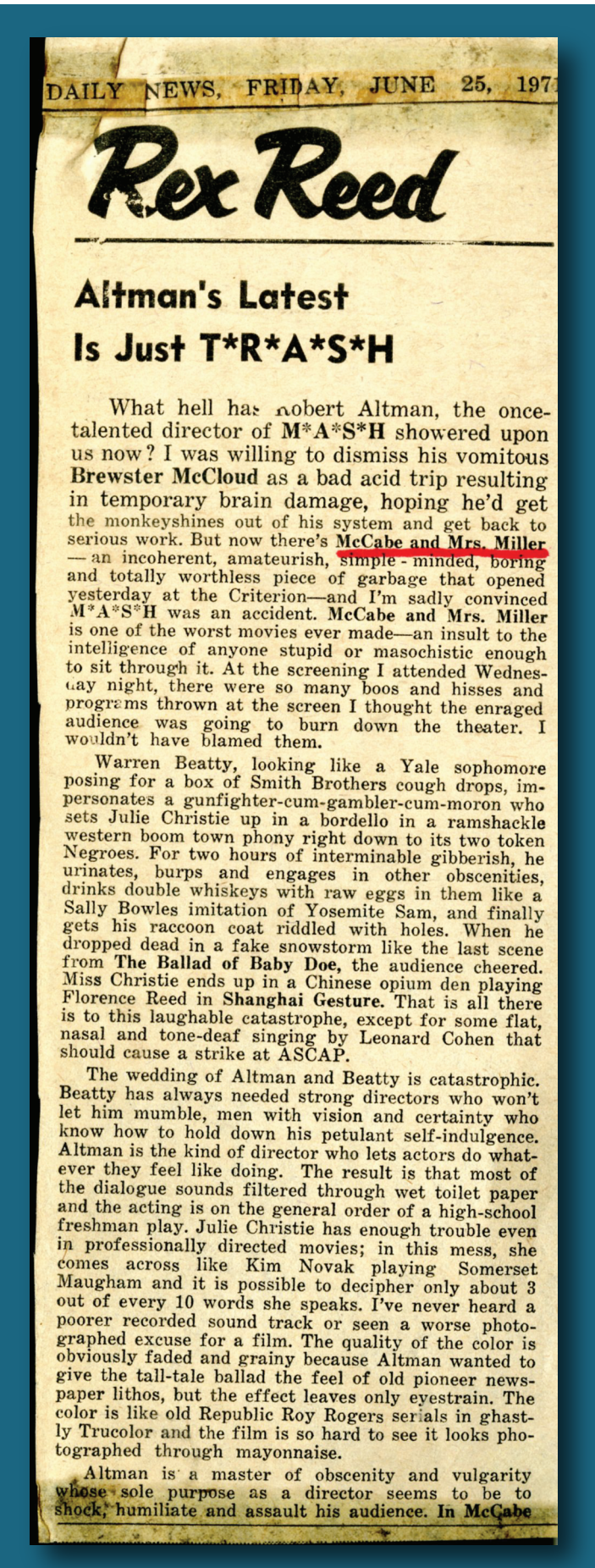
<https://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/110220>

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Downloaded from Deep Blue, University of Michigan's institutional repository

McCabe & Mrs. Miller [1971]

Though *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* is one of Altman’s most popular films and is now respected as a “classic,” it received mixed reviews upon release. There are many laudatory film reviews and fan letters in the archive, but also some detractors, including influential critic Rex Reed, who called it “an incoherent, amateurish, simple-minded, boring and totally worthless piece of garbage....”

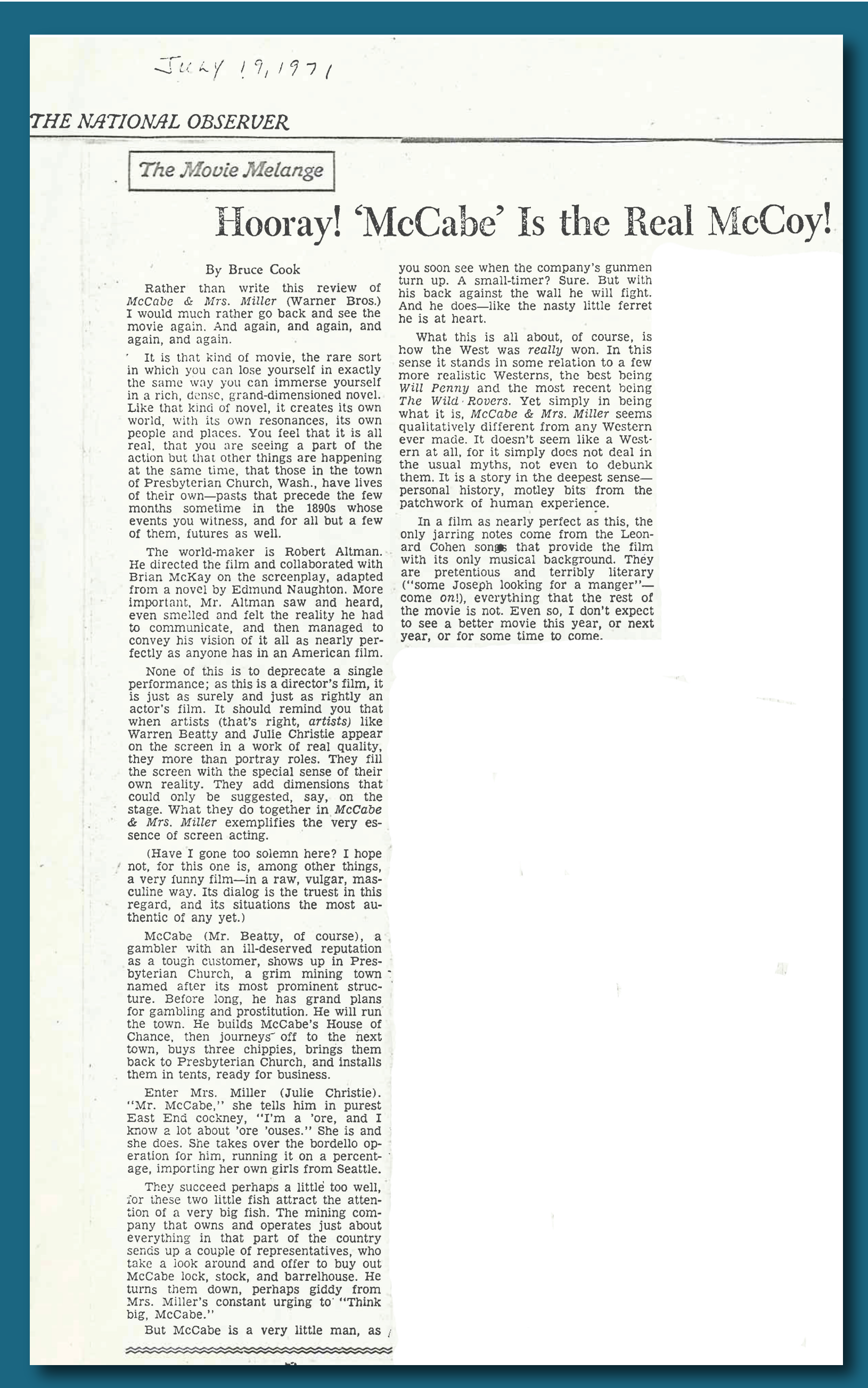
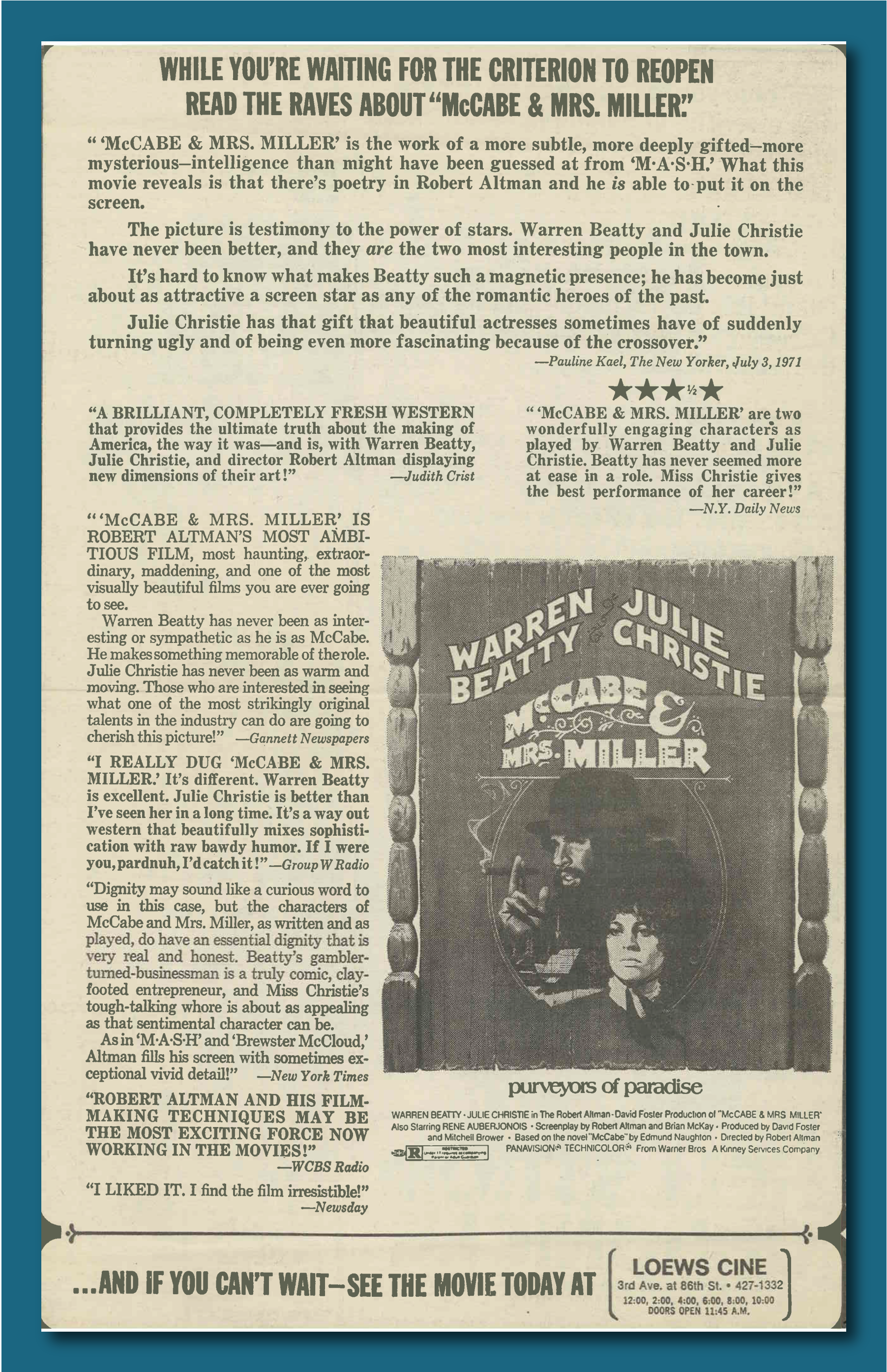
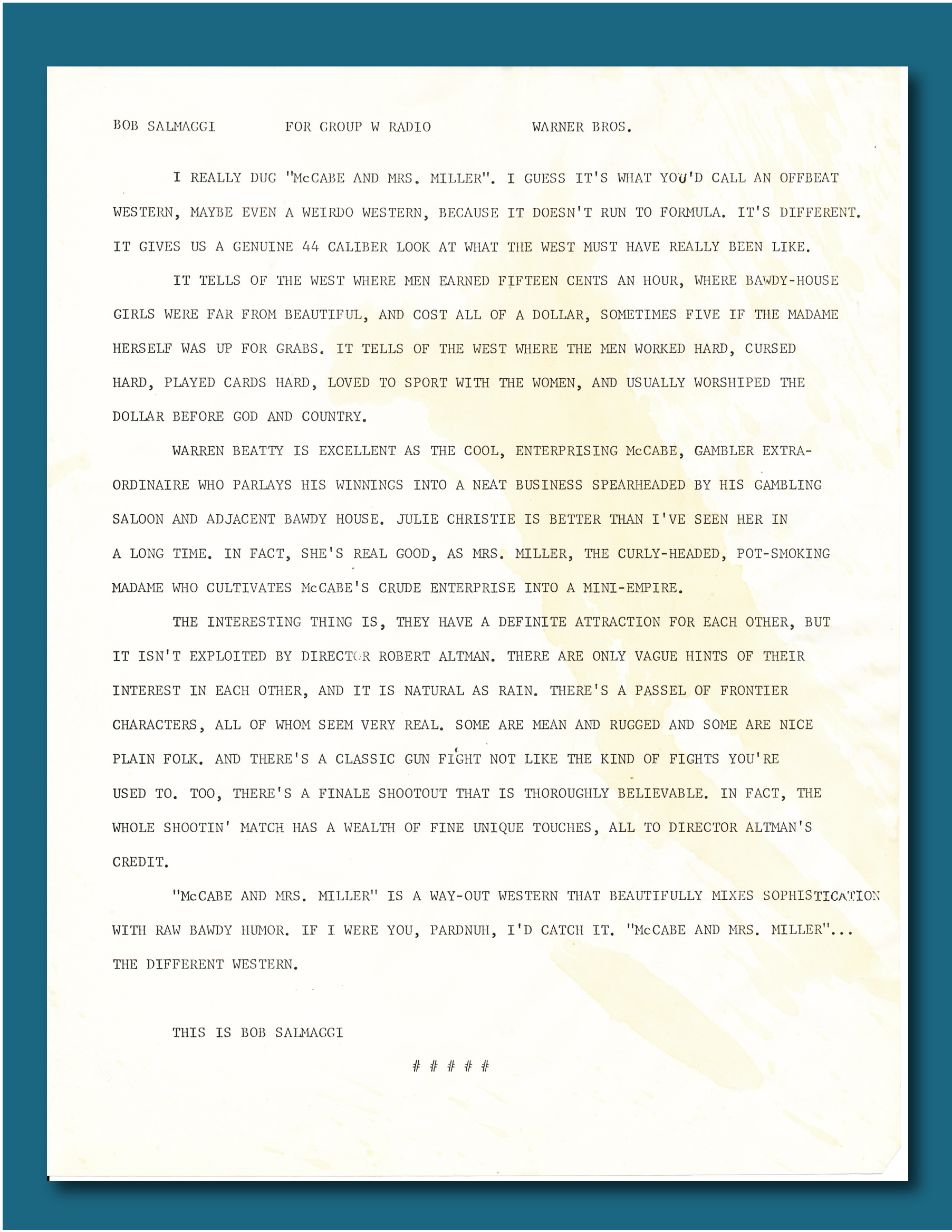


“Altman is the kind of director who lets actors do whatever they feel like doing.”
- Rex Reed



“McCABE & MRS. MILLER”: That’s the unlikely couple that tamed the Northwest frontier—Warren Beatty, as a gambling man named John McCabe, and Julie Christie, as a bordello madame named Constance Miller—in Robert Altman’s new motion picture for Warner Bros. Altman directed the Technicolor-Panavision film on location in British Columbia, with David Foster and Mitchell Brower producing. (Drawing by Al Hirschfeld).

Al Hirschfeld, “McCabe & Mrs. Miller,” caricature of the two leading characters in the film, probably done for the *New York Times*, and used in graphics for various reviews.



Bob Salmaggi, review of *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* for Group W Radio, photocopy of typescript. Had there not been a copy in the Altman Archive, this little gem of a broadcast review for Group W [Westinghouse] Radio might have been lost forever.

Advertisement, “While You’re Waiting for the Criterion to Reopen Read the Raves About ‘McCabe & Mrs. Miller’” *New York Daily News*, June 30, 1971. Because Bob Salmaggi’s radio review had been shared with them, staff in the Altman office were able to use it, among quotations from printed sources, in advertising the movie.

Bruce Cook, “Hooray! ‘McCabe’ Is the Real McCoy!” *The National Observer*, July 19, 1971.

“Rather than write this review of *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, I would much rather go back and see the movie again. And again, and again, and again, and again.”
- Bruce Cook