

Movies

By Carole Kass

'The Christine Jorgenson Story'

(Loew's)

THE CAST

George-Christine Jorgenson	John Hansen
Aunt Thora	Joan Tompkins
Dr. Dahlman	Oscar Beregi
Tom Crawford	Quinn Redeker
Mr. Jorgensen	John W. Himes
Mrs. Jorgensen	Ellen Clark

When George Jorgenson became Christine Jorgenson back during the early 1950's, it was a sensation. An essentially private and personal act became fodder for headlines and comedians' jokes.

"The Christine Jorgenson Story," which opened yesterday at Loew's, was based on the autobiographical book the title character wrote. As a result, it is a sad, sincere and at times sentimental story.

One can't help wondering if the director, Irving Rapper, was trying for an exploitation film about a sensational subject. His film is melodramatic in the old-fashioned style, often unintentionally funny to modern filmgoers.

John Hansen, a young, blonde actor, plays Jorgensen

as both male and female. He is convincing as a young man plagued by feminine feelings, torn by a need for an identity. After a childhood of taunts from young boys, a refusal to face facts by his father, young George finally finds a place for himself as a fashion photographer. However, his gender problems finally force him to attempt suicide and, when foiled, to give up a promising career.

Through a doctor, he discovers that he has a hormone imbalance and is "a woman trapped in a man's body." And so to Denmark, where he becomes the first person to volunteer for a sex change. Explicitly, a viewer is told what the operation entails, the changes that chemistry further makes.

Hansen then becomes Christine, wearing skirts and high heels, but he is obviously a man wearing women's clothes. The film then relates how a passport clerk sells, for \$200 the information that George Jorgensen has applied for a passport as Christine Jorgensen, and the press takes over.

Acting is Awful

The acting throughout most of the film is simply awful. Technical details are sometimes skimped over — as a professional photographer, George uses a cheap camera, for instance — and the color of the motion picture seems to be the cheap variety.

While the film often seems merely to be an overblown home movie, made more so by the saccharine narration drawn from Miss Jorgensen's own words, there is a simple sincerity resulting from its almost amateurish approach.

The picture will probably satisfy the curiosity of many, but it provides few thrills for the voyeur.

'Jenny'

(Capitol)

CAST

Jenny	Marlo Thomas
Delano	Alan Alda
Kay	Marian Hailey
Mrs. Marsh	Elizabeth Wilson
Mr. Marsh	Vincent Gardenia

If it wasn't for the charm and the talent of Marlo Thomas and Alan Alda, "Jenny" would be a gooey, sticky and sudsy romance reminiscent of the days when "women's pictures" brought the ladies with their crying towels into movie houses by the droves.

But these two hardly-known actors, together with director George Bloomfield who has given his picture a good pace with a quiet slice-of-life quality to it, have caused the film to rise above itself, with an appeal which should include most of the younger generation (though it's not for children) as well as the sentimental.

Usual Ramifications

Jenny is unmarried and pregnant. Delano faces the draft just as his career is taking shape. He suggests a marriage of convenience into which they enter, with the usual ramifications.

But Miss Thomas (a far cry from the shallow young thing she portrays as "That Girl" on television) and Alda, much more credible than he was a George Plimpton in "The Paper Lion," have made living, breathing people out of the screenplay's characters. Miss Thomas' face, when solemn, reflects deep feelings, and her smile is like a light in the darkness. She speaks quietly, moves with economy and her

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