

On the Hollywood Star System, 1 p, July, 2023

I decided to take a look at the movie "Picnic," which I knew was well received back in the '50s and found it to be, indeed, a well-crafted film, William Inge, Joshua Logan, and all. But per usual, and with increasing intensity as time has gone along, the Hollywood star system brought me up short. For me, that wasn't Hal, it was William Holden and a decade too old for the part to boot. And that wasn't Madge, it was Kim Novak with different color hair. And it wasn't Rosemary, it was over-acting Rosalind Russell. And Howard was character actor Arthur O'Connell playing character actor Arthur O'Connell. When I finished the film, I streamed a preview of the big new Robert Oppenheimer movie coming out and there was Matt Damon and his little surgical nose dressed up like an army officer. It's all well and good I guess, just my problem to deal with. Sorry to ramble, but the casting I especially like from the same year "Picnic" came out, 1956, was Paul Newman as the boxer Rocky Graziano in "Somebody Up There Likes Me."