

# South won't like new Poitier film

NEW YORK—Dixie film censors who red line any film that depicts racial integration are sure to give "Edge Of The City," which stars Sidney Poitier, the "it can't be shown here" treatment.

That is the opinion of audiences who've seen it here at preview showings.

Described as the frankest and most powerful argument for racial integration ever seen on the screen, the former TV play "A Man Is Ten Feet Tall" is built around the everyday friendship of Poitier and white John Cassavetes who first meet on the docks of New York where they work, and scene of most of the film's action.

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**BUT WHAT** will be the sore spot with southern censors is the climax of the 90-minute thriller when Sidney dies after defending his buddy against a prejudiced white foreman and Cassavetes visits his wife.

The sight of tearful Ruby Dee being comforted by Cassavetes, who has his arms around her, is sure to be one of the reasons for keeping it off the screen in the 17 southern states.

Devoid of any social messages, the picture was produced by David Susskind and will be distributed nationally by MGM. It was a bold stroke for the independent producer to violate past Hollywood traditions of keeping hands off where integration on the screen is concerned.

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**FILM EXPERTS** will also watch closely this "drastic" picture because they realize that Susskind's film is 20 years ahead of its time in showing colored and white persons fraternizing in homes, on the job and in public places. Even in liberal cities like New York, Detroit and San Francisco, where it's due to open the last week

in January in first run theatres, the type of reception it receives will be observed.

The reaction of a select private screening audience can be summed up in the words of Chicago White Sox baseball star Larry Doby, who commented, "It's a homerun for American democracy in any league."