

'Greetings' on 34th Street Screen:

Issues of Day Treated in Comic-Strip Style

THE idea of a kind of comic-strip movie romp satirically thrusting at cer-tain aspects of the American scene somehow seems apt during the holiday season. But "Greetings," a free-wheeling exercise put to-gether by a group of chaps in their 20's, is way off tar-get. This modest but blandly assured little picture, nimbly photographed in good color, opened yesterday at the 34th Street East Theater. What we have here is a trio of hippie-talking pals adventurously prowling the streets of New York and New Jersey, linking up with a succession of enigmatic

The Cast

.Richaro Megan M .Betti

girls and aiming some splin-tery, incoherent monologues at each other and, occasion-ally, the camera. Some of it ally, the camera. Some of it is amusing, as when one of the lads is coached in the technique of draft-dodging. Most of it is strained and unfunny, with some generous nudity for nudity's sake and a hip sprinkling of four-letter words. One subject of mockery is President Johnson, who is shown in a newsreel clip

defending his position on Vietnam. And a smirking actor named Gerritt Graham prances through the picture trying to disprove the findings of the Warren Commission. A typical disgusting scene shows him using a nude girl to tape-measure a simulated bullet trajectory.

Of his pals, Robert De Niro and Jonathan Warden, Niro and Jonathan Warden, the latter gives at least some evidence of a little talent. There's no doubt that young Brian De Palma, who di-rected, and Charles Hirsch, his producer, are determined and camera-minded. Next time they might try for something that matters in-stead of the tired, tawdry and tattered. HowARD THOMPSON.

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